**CHAT TRANSCRIPTS for WEBINAR SERIES: Empowering Temporary Foreign Workers during COVID-19**

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**February 26, 2021**

01:02:39 Connie Sorio (she/her) KAIROS/Toronto: Hi everyone, I'm just going to turn off my camera as well as I'm having unstable internet connection.

01:03:57 Leah Watkiss (She/Her): Leah (she/her) in Tkaronto. Dish with one spoon territory.

01:04:22 Ed Bianchi, KAIROS: Hello everyone. I'm Ed. Bianchi, Program Manager at KAIROS, and I'm zooming in from unceded Algonquin Territory, in Ottawa.

01:04:28 Nick K (OMAFRA): Good afternoon! Nick Kinkel, agriculture and rural economic development advisor with OMAFRA

01:04:45 Selvi: Hi everyone, I'm Selvi Roy from ACIC, PEI. I respectfully acknowledge that I am a guest living in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People.

01:06:09 tewm: Hi everyone. I'm Michelle Tew, Occupational Health Nurse with the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers in Ontario.

01:07:49 tewm: Lori. That is a lot of time on Zoom. I've coined a term for that "BOOZ". Burnout due to Overuse Of Zoom.

01:13:22 Felena Pereira: I'm felena pereira a migrant farm worker in simcoe

01:14:59 Connie Sorio (she/her) KAIROS/Toronto: Hi Felena, welcome! it's great that you are able to join us!

01:16:04 Donna Brown: Hello Everyone. Donna Brown, Chairperson Caribbean Workers Outreach Project Niagara and Migrant Worker Outreach coordinator Gateway Community Church NOTL.

01:16:34 Sandy: Hello, I’m Sandy from Unknown Neighbours in Simcoe County. I am happy to be here.

01:20:03 Sylvia Swiatoschik: Hello Pastor Sylvia Swiatoschik here from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Leamington.

01:21:06 Donna Brown: same for the Jamaican consulate

01:21:12 Gabriel Ramirez: Hi, I am Gabriel. I am a Mexican journalist based in Toronto. I have a website called The Bridge, we published news in Spanish and a lot of workers follow us.

01:22:54 Gabriel Ramirez: We can support you if you want to let workers something. Our email is info.thebridgecanada@gmail.com Please feel free to reach us

01:28:02 Tara Shushtarian: Hi Tara from coast salish territories , an advocate and activist for environmental and social justice. Hear to listen and learn.

01:33:21 Jon: Share with us what you come up with for recreation and fun activities. :)

01:40:51 Marisa (she/her): Hello, I'm Marisa Kaczmarczyk from the New Canadians Centre in Peterborough. Is there a way to find out which farms employ migrant farmworkers? besides word-of-mouth and farming networks - is there a specific contact at the Embassies or through other networks or institutions? We understand there are some privacy issues. Thank you for organizing this forum.

01:42:37 Jamal: Freedom of Information Request - I have worked with one organization who was able to get the complete list in QC. I am starting with another org. in BC who just submitted the request and expects it within the month.

01:43:18 Selvi: Here in PEI, we are working towards ensuring all migrant workers have access to health care and get a health card. There are also efforts for safe housing. What are your experience and thoughts around these essential services for health care and housing? Thanks!

01:43:30 Peter Ciallella: https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/02/21/more-must-be-done-to-bring-equity-and-fairness-to-migrant-workers.html

01:43:56 Peter Ciallella: OpEd about need to do more for migrant workers

01:44:23 Richard Tunstall, Ella Haley: Do any of you work with chicken catchers?

01:49:20 Sylvia Swiatoschik: Are you working with, or in contact with, any groups in Leamington that I can get in touch with?

01:49:40 Donna Brown: Will or can Kairos share Consulate contact info with community partners?

01:49:41 tewm: We have worked with chicken catchers in the past further up the Bruce Peninsula.

01:51:06 Betti Sheldrick: Could Eliseo share the contact information of his organization please.

01:52:04 Connie Sorio (she/her) KAIROS/Toronto: The St. Michael's Parish is going to start working with us on this.

01:52:05 tewm: Fanny, do you know what language the workers from India speak?

01:52:29 Peter Ciallella: Eliseo's contac tgroup... grandriver.chc.ca

01:52:59 Connie Sorio (she/her) KAIROS/Toronto: Sorry, forgot to mention that St. Michael's Parish in Leamington

01:53:16 Betti Sheldrick: Thank you

01:53:17 Jane Andres (she/her: Connie mentioned the federal government is providing lists of farms to participating organizations. Do these lists include farm worker names or just the number of workers employed on the farm? Thank you!

01:54:04 Eliseo: I am involved the Kairos project in the area of Lynden, Ontario, but I also work with Grand River Community Health Centre providing health services to the workers and collaborating with the Kairos initiative. My email address: emartell@grchc.ca

01:55:04 Gabriel Ramirez: What can you tell us about the mental health of the farm workers one year after the pandemic started?

01:55:15 Gabriel Ramirez: DO you know if the negative test that Canada is asking before they take a plane or the hotel quarantine restrictions are affecting the arrival of more far workers?

01:55:46 Rosemary Addison: Rosemary Addison from Beamsville, in Niagara. TrinityUnited Church is providing 200 Welcome Bags to migrant workers that are coming at the end of March. We are involving several other churches, stores to provide products for the bags. We also have considerable cash donations for anything needed. are

01:56:17 Kuya Roland: https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/90fed587-1364-4f33-a9ee-208181dc0b97#comment-11116

01:56:56 Connie Sorio (she/her) KAIROS/Toronto: Donna, I will get the consent first - but I don't think there will be any problem sharing that information..

01:57:01 Richard Tunstall, Ella Haley: thanks Roland

01:58:10 Rosemary Addison: Aside from Welcome Bags and social activities we are committed to walking in solidarity with migrant workers to gain status and rights. They are indeed essential workers, AND, they are our neighbours and friends.

01:58:50 Tara Shushtarian: Does the government impose any regulations and standards on the farms employing migrant workers and are they sufficient? Could there be many legislation that could help you?

02:00:10 Jane Andres (she/her: migrantrights.ca/vaccinesforall

02:01:43 David Ivany (he/him): Thank you for your questions and thanks for your patience as I include them in the discussion

02:09:08 Francine Burke - DRMWM/DRMAWN - Project Coordinator: here's the article: https://www.thestar.com/news/investigations/2021/02/12/confidential-after-months-of-calls-for-a-public-inquest-into-the-covid-19-deaths-of-migrant-farm-workers-ontario-coroners-office-has-launched-a-secretive-review.html

02:19:42 tewm: Thanks for this information Connie. Can you identify which specific government department(s) you are in consultation with?

02:20:23 tewm: Thank you

02:21:18 Gabriel Ramirez: Connie can you share the information about the measures for migrant workers that will be in effect on March 14, 2021?

02:22:15 Connie Sorio (she/her) KAIROS/Toronto: Will do. can you give me your email address please?

02:22:37 Gabriel Ramirez: info.thebridgecanada@gmail.com

02:23:29 Rosemary Addison: Connie, I would like that info too at ryaddison@bell.net

02:25:35 Francine Burke - DRMWM/DRMAWN - Project Coordinator: francine@migrantworkerdurham.com

02:26:58 Eduardo Huesca (OHCOW): Thank you for all the great information. I just shared a slide deck we were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Labour on their inspection initiative, that includes information about the inspections they are conducting on farms/ agricultural workplaces, and what those include.

02:28:31 Betti Sheldrick: This is really an excellent discussion with a lot of knowledgeable and dedicated folks. Thank you so much.

02:28:58 Gabriel Ramirez: what about the language barrier? to communicate with the workers?

02:31:07 Peter Ciallella: pciallella@hamiltondiocese.com

02:31:35 Tara Shushtarian: Thank you very much for this webinar as a novice in this area have learnt so much and feel so happy that we have kind, dedicated people on this job.

02:32:36 Suzanne Svadjian: I would echo what Tara above has just posted.

02:32:38 Francine Burke - DRMWM/DRMAWN - Project Coordinator: Durham Region Migrant Worker Ministry / Durham Region Migrant Agricultural Network www.migrantworkerdurham.com Languages, English, Spanish, French, Caribbean dialects

02:32:43 Gabriel Ramirez: Please feel free to follow us and send us all the information that could be useful to the farm workers. We will translate it to Spanish.

02:32:51 Gabriel Ramirez: this is our website https://thebridgecanada.com/

02:33:24 Jane Andres (she/her: niagaraworkerswelcome@gmail.com

02:33:29 Gabriel Ramirez: We are on Facebook as well, we have more thant 20,000 followers

02:33:33 Gabriel Ramirez: https://www.facebook.com/TheBridgeCanada

02:33:39 Cheryl McNamara she/her Dish With One Spoon: Thank you Gabriel!

02:33:51 Jane Andres (she/her: www.workerswelcomeniagara.com

02:34:31 geneviève Dubois-Flynn: Thanks so much for a rich discussion. What will the next webinars focus on?

02:34:44 tewm: Hello again. The person who identified Caribbean workers were not being required to be tested before leaving … was going to post the communication she had received on that. Is it possible to connect with her? Thank you

02:35:06 ADDPD: https://arhw-addpd.org/

02:35:22 Felena Pereira: Very very informative and I look forward to hearing more

02:35:52 Richard Tunstall, Ella Haley: https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/article/view/810

02:36:01 Francine Burke - DRMWM/DRMAWN - Project Coordinator: @tewm that's me francine@migrantworkerdurham.com Once I find the post I will share it. Please feel more than welcome to send me an email as well. Francine

02:36:01 Shannon Neufeldt, KAIROS: https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/migrant-justice/etfw

02:36:33 Selvi: Thank you very much for a very important webinar. It's been wonderful meeting everyone virtually and learning of the great work being done. I'm a part of the Provincial Operation Isolation and Migration Worker and Temporary Foreign Workers Program here in PEI. And look forward to staying connected. selvi@acic-caci.org

02:36:34 Stefan Larrass: Thank you for a great session and the passion and hard work from everyone! Look forward to hearing more

02:37:15 David Ivany (he/him): Genevieve, our next webinar is still in development but the next few are focusing on Mental Health of Migrant Workers and sorting out the process of arriving in Canada, utilizing ArriveCan and the quarantine period.

02:37:25 Richard Tunstall, Ella Haley: Lynden Friends of Migrant Farm Workers/Langford Conservancy Richard Tunstall and Ella Haley ehaley1@gmail.com/rtunstall54@gmail.com

02:38:27 tewm: Very great session. Thank you for organizing this and for all of the work, care and kindness of everyone on the call.

02:39:14 Thuong Truong: Thank you very much! excellent session.

02:39:48 Marisa (she/her): Thank you for taking the time to share your experiences. Amazing folks around this table. thank you!

02:40:14 Maria E.J (she/her): Thank you very much for the webinar, have a great weekend.

02:40:24 Gabriel Ramirez: Have great weekend!