

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

April 6, 2021

- 00:29:58 Sandy - Unknown Neighbours: Hello everyone, my name is Sandy. I work with Unknown Neighbours in Simcoe County. I'm happy to be here!
- 00:30:29 Shannon Neufeldt: Welcome Sandy!
- 00:32:22 Susan James: Susan James/Dish with one spoon wampum belt territory
- 00:32:42 janeandres: Greetings from Niagara on the Lake! This is Jane Andres, Niagara Workers Welcome
- 00:33:03 Katharine Anderson: Katharine Anderson
- 00:33:28 Katharine Anderson: Beamsville
- 00:33:38 Mallory- Five Oaks: Mallory from Five Oaks in Paris Ontario!
- 00:34:05 Shannon Neufeldt: Shannon here, part of the KAIROS team, on the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Territory (Toronto).
- 00:34:06 Betti Sheldrick: Betti from Hamilton, the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas.
- 00:35:57 Carolann Barr: Carolann, from TNO - The Neighbourhood Organization in Toronto. Hello all!
- 00:36:31 Alfredo Barahona: Alfredo KAIROS team - Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Territory
- 00:36:55 Antonio Illas: Padre Antonio, Migrant Farmworkers Project - Niagara Region
- 01:06:30 Stephanie Mayell: Government of Canada Tip Line 1- 866-602-9448
- 01:14:17 Sandy - Unknown Neighbours: Hotels in Simcoe County (barrie specifically) are booked. It makes it very difficult to find accommodations for quarantining in an emergency
- 01:26:11 cwatson: I have to leave now. Thank you for the opportunity to talk about the open work permit for vulnerable workers.
- 01:26:38 David Ivany (he/him): Thank you, Carolyn!
- 01:26:45 Connie Sorio: Thanks Carolyn!!!
- 01:31:44 Ana Yansie Options C.S.: Can you provided the organization before this one
- 01:32:01 Shannon Neufeldt: Migrant Rights Network: <https://migrantrights.ca/>
- 01:33:18 mac mostly he: <https://migrantworkersalliance.org/farmworkers/>
- 01:33:47 mac mostly he: <https://www.caregiversactioncentre.org/>

01:36:52 Carolann Barr: Royal Society of Canada (RSC) released a national Policy Briefing 'Supporting Canada's COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Through Robust Immigration Policy and Programs', in March 2021 <https://rsc-src.ca/en/research-and-reports/covid-19-policy-briefing/supporting-canada%E2%80%99s-covid-19-resilience-and-recovery> also recommends pathways to Permanent Residency for Migrant Workers. RSC will also be releasing a policy briefing specifically on Migrant Workers in the near future.

01:39:48 Ashley Ouellette (she/her): Have there been any moves towards permanent residency upon arrival? Is this a solution with significant political support behind it?

01:41:18 mac mostly he: MRN is getting larger and larger

01:45:58 Stephanie Mayell: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-migrant-farm-workers-call-for-safety-from-reprisals-for-speaking-out/>

01:54:39 janeandres: The National Farmers Union supports permanent residency. Jennifer Pfenning is a farmer who is very vocal about her support.

01:55:48 Susan James: NDP has this as a policy resolution in the upcoming federal convention.

01:58:16 David Ivany (he/him): <https://secure.kairoscanada.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=218>

02:00:34 Shannon Neufeldt: April 20 KAIROS webinar registration (advocacy and everyday actions): <https://secure.kairoscanada.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=218>

02:06:20 Sharon Graham: Would KAIROS consider providing a sample letter for supporters to use when writing to MPs and other parliamentarians? Often people are unsure of how to craft advocacy letters so don't act upon their concerns.

02:07:48 Connie Sorio: Yes, we do have that. If it's not posted on our website, we should be able to send you one. Are you referring to the permanent residency call?

02:09:08 mac mostly he: also MRN has an open letter which KAIROS signed on to about status for all

02:09:10 mac mostly he: <https://migranrights.ca/status-for-all/>

02:09:27 mac mostly he: CELPIP is fine, great

02:14:10 Sharon Graham: Yes Connie, the permanent residency call. The open letter was excellent but MPs tell us the more letters/calls they receive the better support the issue will receive.

02:29:52 Carolann Barr: Thanks Connie, David, Jennifer and all the presenters.

02:30:21 David Ivany (he/him): April 20 KAIROS webinar registration (advocacy and everyday actions): <https://secure.kairoscanada.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=218>

02:30:25 mac mostly he: thank you Kairos keep up the great work

02:30:32 Connie Sorio: Thank you everyone! hope to see you all on April 28th

02:30:34 Sharon Graham: Many thanks - a great webinar!

02:30:36 elizabeth scriven: how do we access this

02:30:37 Stephanie Mayell: Thank you!

02:30:43 Susan James: Thank you!!

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: migranrights.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-secrective-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 than 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!