

# No White Picket Fences

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**Policy Research**

**Statistical Research**

**Field Research**

**Online Survey Research**



# Precarious status and family

## Migrant farm workers call for permanent residency, ability to bring families to Canada

*The declining loonie is affecting one worker's ability to support his teenage kids. Their mom passed away and they depend on me for their total support," he says*



From the National Post,  
January 26, 2016

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Vancouver

### Migrant workers celebrate Father's Day far from home and their children

By [Cherise Seucharan](#) StarMetro Vancouver  
Sat., June 16, 2018

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VANCOUVER—This Sunday, migrant farm workers will gather in Surrey for a celebration of fatherhood — despite their children being hundreds of miles away.

Gil Iguilar, a member of the Migrant Workers Dignity Association, which helps to provide services to migrants, said they have been holding Father's Day events since 2010, after many of the workers who were fathers brought up how important the day was to them.

From The Star  
Vancouver, June 16,  
2018

# Key Questions



- How do different personal relationships shape migrant workers' desires to stay in Canada?
- How does policy affect these connections?

# The project

How and why are migrant workers moving inter-provincially on arrival to Canada?

- Semi-structured interviews (in person and virtual):
  - 32 people employed in Canada as TFWs in a variety of low wage jobs in various sectors from various countries

One key finding:

- Moving to keep their new families together



# Establishing new families

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*“When I met him, I can't explain! I didn't expect that he's gonna be my boyfriend!”*

*- Thalia*

# Struggling to stay together

*“I don’t have anything any more in the Philippines. I have a broken family already and I don’t have any reason to go back. I have my baby here and I am used to living here in Canada.”*

*- Jessica*

# Take away points

- Post-migration relationships are powerful influences shaping workers' mobility decisions and desires to stay in Canada
- Canadian immigration policy currently does not recognize the importance post-migration family formation



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