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June 23, 2023

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2 ; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Confederation Building, Suite 110 House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6; sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca;

RE: Response to Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on the Safe Third Country Agreement

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

Greetings to you from The United Church of Canada. We write, with concern, regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling on the Safe Third Country Agreement.

Commenting on the June 16th unanimous ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada on the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States, the Honourable Simon Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, [issued the following statement](#):

"We remain actively engaged on migration, asylum and refugee issues, at a time when global displacement is at record levels. We will continue to work with like-minded partners globally to promote safe and regular pathways, and to support other countries in establishing their domestic frameworks to offer protection to refugees and asylum claimants."

The United Church of Canada had been a [signatory of a joint letter](#) to Minister Fraser signed by the leaders of the Canadian Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian national churches. That letter expressed The United Church's position related to granting permanent residence to all undocumented migrants. We continue to share the same concerns and acknowledge the distrust that refugee and migrant communities have exhibited toward the ruling on the Safe Third Country Agreement by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Especially in the light of the closing of the House of Commons rising for the summer and ending the spring House sitting on Jun 21st, The United Church of Canada urges your government to implement the [mandate](#) named for this file. We encourage you to maintain the promises made

by creating a regularization program granting permanent residence to all undocumented migrants upon the return of House on September 18th.

To this end, The United Church of Canada is committed to continue our collaborative work of advocating for migrant justice and refugee rights with our ecumenical and civil society networks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.K. Talbot". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patti Talbot

Acting Executive Minister – Church in Mission Unit

The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada