

AWARE and Migrante Alberta Present
Connect-ED Migrant Education Series

Precarious Workers & Precarious Housing

dialogue and stories of housing struggles
in the migrant worker community

Presentation for Pathways 2 Prosperity Conference

Ethel (York University), Marco (Migrante-Alberta), Lynne (Migrante-Alberta)



Purpose of Study & Methods

How are migrant workers affected by precarious housing situations? What supports are taken up and available to them?

- Use of Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Research training of migrant workers
- 22 interviews with migrant workers, 5 interviews with settlement service and faith organizations



Contextualization

- Immigrants switch between different immigration statuses as they try to find a way to gain more security in Canada.
- Example, coming in a TFW then transitioning to an international student.
- Role of 'luck' (Goldring and & Landolt 2013) in defining their circumstances.

Themes

Theme	Theme One: Long-standing stigma against migrants makes it hard for migrants to find places to rent. The houses that they find are oftentimes sub-standard.
Theme	Theme Two: Migrants are finding it difficult to pay rent because they are not being paid enough.
Theme	Theme three: Migrants have difficulty finding affordable housing due to their precarious immigration status, which is then linked to experiences of job loss and/or to employment difficulties.



Themes

Theme Four: Migrant workers who live with their employers face increased surveillance.

Theme Five: Migrant workers who have become homeless have very limited access to formal housing supports.

Theme Six: Applying a gender lens to our analysis reveals that female migrants face housing problems due to experiences of gender-based violence.

Themes

Theme Seven: Migrants who have precarious immigration status and face housing problems suffer from health problems.

Theme Eight: There is a big difference between a 'house' and a 'home.' Migrant workers facing precarious situations find that they are living in a 'house' that is not their home.

Housing and Precariousness during COVID

Theme One: Changes in work leading to changes in housing

Theme Two: Worries about status tied to worries about livelihood



Future research and advocacy agendas?

1. Track the effects of COVID-19 on migrant workers' access to housing, immigration programs, and support services.
2. To what extent are new COVID-19 related immigration opportunities actually accessible to migrant workers who are in Canada?