

Christ Church Anglican, Meaford  
34 Boucher St East.  
Meaford N4L 1B9

July 15, 2019.

Dear Mayors and Councilors of The Municipality of Meaford and The Town of Blue Mountains

As you likely know, temporary foreign workers are vital to our local economy. These guest workers arrive mostly from the Caribbean and Mexico. They provide an essential service: without them, we could not harvest our produce. They work very hard while they are here. Unfortunately, they have little opportunity for interaction with the permanent residents of Meaford and the Town of Blue Mountains. They live and work apart from us. Too often, they return home without recognition or thanks.

For a number of years, Christ Church Anglican in Meaford has sponsored a 'Caribbean dinner' to offer thanks to the many hundreds of workers who spend part of their lives with us and to acknowledge the role they play in our community. This recognition is heartfelt but we have become aware that there may be better ways to show our gratitude that would reach more Harvesters and be more meaningful.

We are requesting that the second Saturday of September be designated an annual official day to recognize our Harvesters. Harvesters' Day would be marked by celebrations in both the Municipality of Meaford and the Town of Blue Mountains, with the larger focal event happening in alternating years in each place. Our aim is to involve the Harvesters in the event and to invite the general public to participate. We want to raise awareness and to demonstrate to our guest workers that they are part of our community.

We are writing to ask your support in officially recognizing Harvesters' Day, beginning this year on September 14.

Sincerely,

The Harvesters' Celebration Committee

Fayard Johnson- Meaford  
Therese Samuel- Blue Mountains  
Jim Moore Blue Mountains  
Cathy Miller - Meaford