

**IMPACT OF SEASONAL  
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PROGAM  
ON FAMILY COHESION**

**JOSEPHINE ERIC, ANDRE LYN, JANET  
MCLAUGHLIN, DON WELLS**

# RESEARCH GOALS & RATIONALE

- SAWP AND TRANSBORDER FAMILIES AND PARENTING
- FAMILY FOCUS AS BASIS OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR POLICY IMPROVEMENTS
- RESEARCH METHODS

# PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- MEXICAN INTERVIEWEES: BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES: SCHOOLING, CLOTHING, FOOD, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE
- COSTS FOR FAMILIES:
- ESTRANGEMENT (“LIKE SANTA CLAUS”)
- NOT BEING “GOOD FATHERS”
- CHILDREN “RUN IN THE STREETS”
- CHILDREN LOSE RESPECT FOR FATHERS
- WORK STRESS IS TAKEN BACK TO MEXICO

# COSTS TO FAMILIES

- SPOUSE IS “GOING WITH OTHERS”
- JAMAICAN INTERVIEWEES:
- INADEQUATE REMITTANCES LEAD FAMILIES TO BLAME WORKERS
- MORE VARIED FAMILY STRUCTURES ARE MORE FRAGILE?
- NEW FAMILIES IN CANADA

# POTENTIAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- COMPASSIONATE LEAVE
- RIGHT TO VISIT FAMILY DURING CONTRACT
- RIGHTS TO ACCESS INTERNET AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS WITH FAMILIES
- ACCESS TO FAMILY BENEFIT ENTITLEMENTS
- PRIORITY HIRING OF FAMILY MEMBERS

# POTENTIAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

- REDUCED PRECARITY OF WAGES
- IMPROVED HEALTH CARE ACCESS, INCLUDING FOR STRESS PROBLEMS
- CHOICE OF CONTRACT DURATIONS
- INADEQUATE ADVOCACY BY GOV'T & CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN CONTEXT OF GROWING COMPETITION FOR JOBS; NEED FOR UNION REPRESENTATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
- OPEN, FLEXIBLE WORK PERMITS, JOB SECURITY, AND MOBILITY RIGHTS
- PATHWAYS TO IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP FOR WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES