Migrant farmworkers die in Canada, and Mexico wants answers. Officials have stressed that the migrant workers did not bring the coronavirus to Canada but acquired it after a mandatory quarantine. (Christinne Muschi/Bloomberg News).

By Muñoz Santos did not travel to Canada as part of the Temporary Foreign Worker program. He came to Canada on a tourist visa in February, family members told the Mexican newspaper La Jornada, and then responded to an online ad from a farm in Ontario seeking workers. AD McLaughlin, the Laurier professor, said their deaths represent “the tip of an iceberg of multiple levels of failure.” Gómez Camacho said they were “very representative of what Mexican workers are in Canada.”

A migrant worker is a person who either migrates within their home country or outside it to pursue work. Migrant workers usually do not have the intention to stay permanently in the country or region in which they work. Migrant workers who work outside their home country are also called foreign workers. They may also be called expatriates or guest workers, especially when they have been sent for or invited to work in the host country before leaving the home country. The farms work with Jamaican liaisons when deciding who can come back. Barrett says that leaves workers powerless.

This article analyzes the ideology and practice of multi-unit competition that pervades neoliberal subjectivities and produces the “ideal” flexible worker within contemporary global capitalism. It demonstrates how state and capitalist interests converge to influence the selection of the ideal transnational migrant worker, how prospective migrants adapt to these expectations, and the consequences of such enactments, particularly for migrants, but also for the societies in which they live and work. Multiple levels of actors—employers, state bureaucrats, and migrants themselves—collude in producing the flexible, subaltern citizen, which includes constructions and relations of class, race, gender, and nationality/citizenship. The case study focuses on Mexican and Jamaican participants in Canada’s Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, a managed migration program that legally employs circular migrant farmworkers from Mexico and several English-speaking Caribbean countries in Canadian agriculture.
Sheldon McKenzie’s daughters Neishmarr, 14, and Keisha, 17, lost their father and the family’s only source of income. He says migrant workers are denied basic human rights and are seen as disposable and temporary. (Mark Bochsler/CBC). For years, Chris Ramsaroop, an organizer with Justicia for Migrant Workers has been trying to get the government to make changes to the program’s rules to give workers more rights. Migrant workers live and work under a different set of legal rights and obligations than we do. We [Canadians] are not denied basic human rights, we are not denied health care. They are seen as disposable and temporary,” Ramsaroop says.

Despite many General farm workers migrating to Canada over the past few years, General farm workers are still in high demand across Canada from both a National and Provincial basis. Migrate to Canada as a Farm worker with Emigrate Canada. We love to chat all things Canadian Migration and our friendly expert Farm worker specialists are uniquely positioned to assist with your emigration to Canada. Let us design your bespoke Migration, Recruitment & Resettlement pathway today, with no obligation. Immigrate to Canada as a Farm worker. Every occupation on the Canadian NOC List is assigned a code. It’s work most Canadians don’t want. There are more than 50,000 foreign farm workers in this country. They often make minimum wage, but they’re happy with their earnings as it’s far more lucrative than work they’d find back home. Jesus Molina from Mexico described it as being like a “dream.” The extreme poverty in these countries rights fighter Fay Faraday calls an imbalanced and exploitive relationship. “Who is winning? The farmers who are receiving a very cheap and what’s called reliable workforce. This entire program depends on there being massive economic inequality between Canada and the countries of origin that inequality, workers wouldn’t come,” she says.