Global Class October 5 2017

“Migrant Workers in Durham Region & Abroad”

Class Notes

* Seasonal agriculture workers
  + Canadian farmers out reaching to migrant workers to fulfill agricultural needs
  + Currently a need to assist workers in daily needs (doctors, dentists, or other health care specialists) while working in Canada
  + Lack of access/availability for medical attention
* Seasonal agricultural workers program in Canada
  + Very diverse rural communities (Jamaica, Mexico, etc)
  + Often health hazards are neglected
  + Only access medical attention when health issue is acute
  + Barriers include transportation, work hours, language
  + Do not have access to supplementary health care (eyes, teeth, medication)
  + Woman workers often neglect reproductive health issues and face other difficulties in receiving care
* Often migrant workers have left families at home
  + Become isolated
  + Many spend more time in Canada than in home countries (10-30+ years)
  + Many worry to show weakness/illness (can be deported)
* How can we reach out?—Going to them/ make it more accessible
  + Workers often come in good health but the barriers they face can create problems
  + Many have access to care in home countries
  + Important to understand the culture which they come from and to value everyone’s health as the same
  + Often simple health solutions (for Canadians) become very complex and difficult for migrant workers (ie. Filling prescriptions)
  + Offering after hour clinics or mobile offices can be helpful solutions
    - There can be a fear to seek out care
    - Don’t want to be seen as ill in order to avoid being sent home or being unable to work
  + Meet the workers where they are (evenings, on the farms/work)
  + Can be beneficial to develop good relationships with farm owners
  + Many health care professionals have unnecessary protocols that are not needed and can be cut back to simplify services for workers (ie. Collecting information for business/inventory purposes)
    - Literacy barriers can be helped by doing this