



CCESO NEWSLETTER

June 2023 Edition

CCESO

ABOUT US

Caregiver Connections, Education and Support Organization (CCESO) is a group of dedicated and caring volunteers serving caregivers, newcomers, and migrant workers in Toronto since 2007.

CCESO is a completely volunteer-run organization.

We do not have a full service office yet, but we do our best to provide caregivers and newcomers with accessible services.

Vision

Empowerment of care workers and justice for all migrants.

Care Workers' Campaign for Permanent Residence Status Lasts Over Four Decades



Participants at the 2023 Careworker Retreat, Vancouver

From May 19 to 21, 2023, the Toronto-based group, Caregiver Connections Education and Support Organization (CCESO) and the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) gathered in Vancouver, B.C. for a retreat “to strengthen and sustain their commitment to fight for the rights of care workers.”

Care workers shared their personal stories and the many challenges they face not having Permanent Residence (PR) status. These challenges include: the long separation from their families, social isolation, the constant fear of deportation when their work permit expires and they become undocumented, being so vulnerable to abuse and exploitation when tied down to one employer, and how all these experiences affect their mental health. Collectively, the participants discussed these challenges, and the skills they need to develop, in order to feel empowered to take action and advocate for themselves.

While the care workers recognized some of the small “wins” of the campaigns for “Status for All” over four decades, they are determined to continue to fight for the rights they deserve.

Mission

- To provide a range of programs and social activities to support, inform and advocate for care workers and migrants impacted by unjust policies, exploitation and abuse;
- CCESO offers free, confidential, culturally-safe support, information, education, outreach and human rights and leadership training and ;
- Collaborates with other like minded organizations to conduct appropriate research to ensure up-to-date knowledge of the policies and conditions that affect the lives of migrants.

Government Policies Rooted in Systemic Discrimination Against Migrant Care Workers

The systemic racism that care workers experience in Canada today is rooted in government policies that date back to the 1600s-1800s, when slavery was practiced and enslaved Indigenous and African people were referred to as “domestiques” or servants. Very early in 1900, European women were recruited as nannies and were automatically granted PR status.

In later years, the Caribbean Domestic Scheme followed when women were recruited to temporarily work as caregivers and then deported when their services were no longer needed. In 1973, the government introduced the Temporary Employment Authorization Scheme that considered caregiving as “low-skilled” work and issued domestic workers conditional temporary work permits. The Foreign Domestic Movement (FDM) followed this policy in 1981 when those with temporary work permit could apply for permanent residency, once they completed two years of live-in work.



In 1992, the Live-In Caregiver Program (LCP) was introduced where caregivers could apply for permanent residence after 2 years working in Canada, must live with their employers, which made them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. In 2014, the Conservative government eliminated the live-in requirement and introduced two new pathways with very limited number to receive permanent residency each year.

In 2019, the Liberal government issued a New Pilot Caregiver Program with very few changes from the PC government’s program but with similar requirements to apply for PR. The English language and educational requirements have no relevance to the workers skills and in performing their duties.

Today, Prime Minister Trudeau still has not fulfilled the promises he made in December 2021, to grant PR status for all undocumented people, migrant workers, and students.

Values and Principles

- Care worker and migrant- centred – We place the voices, experiences and needs of care workers and migrants at the centre of our work.
- Compassionate & Caring: We believe in the power of compassion, empathy, respect and care to help care workers and migrants deal with the impacts of exploitation, abuse and improve their lives.
- Empowerment: We work to support, educate and empower care workers and migrants with the information, supports, resources they need to build on their strengths and make their own decisions.
- We practice an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, feminist framework. We aim to break down systemic barriers to allow migrants a voice for political, social action and systemic change.

Good Enough to Work Good Enough to Stay

The care workers fight for “Landed Status Now” – if “we’re good enough to work, we’re good enough to stay” – began over 40 years ago. But instead of granting them permanent residence status (PR), the Canadian government keeps giving care workers so-called “pathways” to PR. However, Julie Diesta, a long-time care worker advocate says, “these programs and pilots widen inequalities and exploitation, and give them nothing but more miseries and heartaches, and even deaths in those challenging times of COVID-19”.

Anna Lissa, a care worker said, “the challenges of care workers pre, during and post pandemic were mostly the same – long working hours, no overtime pay, poor working conditions, family separation, mental health issues, social isolation and others. But the pandemic multiplied our hardships many times more.” The “Behind Closed Doors” report compiles hundreds of surveys completed by migrant care workers during COVID-19. It provides comprehensive documentation of these experiences, and clear recommendations on how to resolve these problems caused by these systemically oppressive policies.

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Post – Pandemic Organizing and Campaigns

Aside from joining and participating actively with the Migrants Right Network's (MRN) “Regularization and Status for All” campaigns, CCESO and CDWCR have developed a collective plan of action and will launch a campaign to demand for the elimination of the English and educational requirements for care workers to apply for permanent residency. This year-long campaign will last until in June 2024, when the two government programs – the Home Child Care Provider (HCCP) Pilot Program and the Home Support Worker (HSW) Pilot Program – are set to expire.

Care workers have made themselves clear – they are not victims – and with the support of many allies, they feel empowered in raising their own voices for the equal rights and full immigration status that they deserve.

Status For All Now!

Please join us for CCESO's Summer Picnic



CCESO's Summer Picnic
Saturday June 24, 2023

12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Parc Downsview Park, 70 Canuck Ave, North York.
Keele Street side (enter at Downsview Park Boulevard, near the lake)

To register, please email:
caregiverconnections@gmail.com



Annual Picnic



Annual Picnic @ Downsview park – August 13, 2022

FREE ENTRY
FREE GAMES
FREE LUNCH

CCESO 2023 Activity Plan

- July
 - Cherry Picking Trip and Picnic in Niagara Falls
 - CCESO Board Retreat
 - Formation of Steering Committee
- August
 - Family Day and camping at Sibbald Point
- September
 - Leadership and HR Training starts (TBC)
- October
 - Halloween Dance – Fundraising
- November
 - Leadership and HR Training ends (TBC)

Updates from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

From: [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#)

News release

May 26, 2023 - Vancouver

Families are meant to be together, especially during life's big moments like moving to a new country. That is why Canada is working to help families reunite more quickly and easily, and support themselves once in Canada.

Today, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, joined by the Honourable Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre, announced new measures to strengthen family reunification, including:

- faster temporary resident visa (TRV) processing times for spousal applicants
- new and dedicated processing tools for spousal TRV applicants
- a new open work permit for spousal and family class applicants
- open work permit extensions for open work permit holders expiring between August 1 and the end of 2023

Minister Fraser announced faster temporary resident visa (TRV) processing and more considerate application measures so that families can be together sooner while they wait for their permanent residence to be finalized. Going forward, most of these applications will be processed within 30 days, and applicants will benefit from processing measures specific to their circumstances as spouses and dependants. Many applications have already been processed using these new tools. Within this cohort of applicants, we have seen an approval rate of 93%.

Once in Canada, newcomers often seek jobs to support themselves and their families. That is why Canada has also made open work permits available for spousal applicants and their dependent children who reside with their sponsor in Canada and have temporary resident status. Spouses, partners and dependants are now able to apply for and receive an open work permit as soon as they submit a complete permanent residence application under the spouse or common-law partner in Canada class (SPCLC) or other family class programs.

Finally, Minister Fraser announced that spousal applicants, along with other open work permit holders, whose open work permits expire between August 1 and the end of 2023, will be able to extend their work permits for an additional 18 months. A similar option was recently offered to many with expiring post-graduation work permits.

Immigration will continue to play a vital role in addressing Canada's labour shortages, and together, these initiatives deliver on the Minister's mandate letter commitment to strengthen family reunification by facilitating temporary resident status to spouses, partners and dependent children waiting for permanent residence.

Updates from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Quick facts

- Canada has taken action to improve client service and process applications faster. In 2022, we finalized more than 5.2 million applications across our multiple lines of business, resulting in millions of people getting decisions on their cases.
- Since July 2022, new spousal sponsorship applicants can expect their applications to be processed within the service standard of 12 months (for 80% of cases, for non-Quebec applications).
- Open work permits are available to foreign nationals in a number of different situations, but not all will be eligible for an extension through this facilitated processing measure. It will only be offered to:
 - permanent residence applicants awaiting a decision on their permanent residence application and their spouses
 - family class-sponsored spouses with valid temporary resident status and their dependent children
 - spouses and common-law partners of most work permit holders and their dependent children
 - spouses and common-law partners of study permit holders
- Canada issued more than 1,075,000 work permits and work permit extensions in 2022.



CCESO Activities



International Women's Day!!!



International Women's Day - March 4, 2023

CCESO Activities



Formation of Support Group



Care worker's Retreat – Day 1



Care worker's Retreat – Day 2

CCESO Activities



Unity Quilt Launch – February 25, 2023

Become a Member

CCESO Membership Form

Membership fee: \$5.00

First Name: _____ Last Name _____ Initials: ____

Address _____

Phone number(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Please Mail to: Caregiver Connections Education and Support Organization
57 Mancroft Cresnet, Etobicoke, ON, M9W 3G1

Or Email: caregiverconnections@gmail.com

For more info, visit our website: www.cceso.org



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