



Caregiver Connections

Education and Support Organization (CCESO)

CAREGIVER PROGRAM

NEW RULES: WHO WILL BENEFIT? CAREGIVERS? EMPLOYERS? CANADA?

Improvement to Canada's Caregiver Program *(extracted from Canada Immigration Newsletter)*

These improvements will mean:

- Faster processing
- Faster family reunification
- Better career opportunities
- Better protection against potential workplace vulnerability and abuse

These reforms aim to address key concerns by:

- bringing down the backlog and processing times for permanent residence applications,
- ending the live-in requirement for caregivers who wish to apply to two new pathways to permanent residence, and improving the long-term outcomes of caregivers in the Canadian labour market.

Reducing the backlog

CIC plans to admit 30,000 permanent resident caregivers and their family members in 2015, an all-time high.

Ending the live-in requirement

- Dropping the live-in requirement for caregivers who wish to apply to two new pathways to permanent residence will reduce workplace vulnerability and result in greater opportunities and higher wages for caregivers. If employers and caregivers wish to agree to live-in arrangements, they can continue to do so.
- Caregivers currently in the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) may choose to live out and later apply for permanent residence under one of the new pathways. To do so, they would need to apply for a regular work permit to replace their LCP-specific work permit.

Please see [Employment and Social Develop-](#)

[ment Canada's website](#) for more information about the Caregiver Program and the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) application for employers.

Improved pathways to permanent residence

On November 30, the Government launched two new pathways for caregivers that will:

- accept up to 5,500 applicants for permanent residence per year (2,750 applicants per pathway) plus family members,
- process these permanent residence applications with a six-month service standard, and accept applications from those already in the LCP queue who prefer one of the improved pathways.

Caring for Children Pathway:

A pathway to permanent residence for caregivers who have provided child care in a home, either living in the home or not.

Eligibility would be based on:

1. **Work experience:** Minimum of two years of Canadian work experience as a home child-care provider, with a work permit.
2. **Human capital criteria:** A one-year completed Canadian post-secondary credential, or equivalent foreign credential, and language level of at least *initial intermediate*

Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway:

A pathway to permanent residence for caregivers who have provided care for the elderly or those with disabilities or chronic disease at higher skill levels in health facilities or in a home

Eligibility would be based on:

1. **Work experience:** Minimum of two years of Canadian work experience as a registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, licensed practical nurse, nurse aide, orderly, patient service associate, home support worker or other similar occupation, with a work permit.
2. **Human capital criteria:** A one-year completed Canadian post-secondary credential, or equivalent foreign credential, and an appropriate level of language proficiency to practice their occupation, ranging from *initial intermediate* to *adequate intermediate*.

ON THE RADAR...

Changes will make it harder to become a Canadian citizen

(Extracted from Community Legal Aid Clinic Newsletter)

The federal government is bringing in new rules that will make it harder to get and keep Canadian citizenship.

November month's On the Radar talks about why permanent residents may want to apply for citizenship now.

When will the rules change?

The government has not officially given a date for all of the changes. But most people expect them to happen by June 2015.

Will the changes affect everyone who applies?

Yes. But the changes will have the greatest impact on people:

- 55 to 64 years old
- 14 to 17 years old

Why become a Canadian citizen?

Canadian citizens have rights that permanent residents do not have. For example, citizens have better protection against losing their status and being forced to leave Canada.

Permanent residents can be deported no matter how long they have lived here.

Who can apply for citizenship?

Under the current rules, a permanent resident who has lived in Canada for at least 3 years may be able to apply. They must also meet [other requirements](#).

What will change under the new rules?

Below are some of the important changes, with a look at what is happening **now** and what will happen **after** the rules change.

Knowledge of English or French and of Canada

Now: Only applicants 18 to 54 years old have to show that they have what the government calls "[adequate knowledge](#)" of English or French and of Canada.

After: Applicants 14 to 64 years old will have to meet these requirements.

Time living in Canada

Now: A permanent resident can apply after living in Canada for 3 out of the last 4 years. They may be able to include time that they lived here before becoming a permanent resident.

And time someone spent outside Canada may also count if Canada is their permanent home.

After: To apply, someone must have lived in Canada as a permanent resident for:

- at least 4 out of the last 6 years, and at least 183 days each year for at least 4 out of the last 6 years.

And only time in Canada will count as living in Canada.

Intention to live in Canada

Now: Someone applying for citizenship does not

Changes will make it harder, cont...

have to plan to live in Canada. And if they become a Canadian citizen before the rules change, they cannot lose their citizenship only because they live somewhere else in the future.

After: An applicant must intend to continue living in Canada. If they leave Canada and live somewhere else, the government may be able to take away their Canadian citizenship.

How should someone decide whether to apply now?

It can be important to get legal advice before applying for citizenship.

People should get legal advice about:

- what the rules are to qualify for Canadian citizenship
- what documents they need to apply
- when to apply what risks they might face if they apply

Why would applying for citizenship put someone at risk?

Citizenship and Immigration Canada looks at applications to see if there might be a reason to take someone's permanent resident status away.

For example, applying for citizenship can put a **refugee's status in Canada** at risk if they have:

- travelled to their country of nationality, which is the country they were a citizen of when they fled applied for or renewed a passport issued by that country

Getting legal help

For legal advice about becoming a Canadian citizen, people can contact a community legal clinic or a lawyer.

Community legal clinics give free legal advice to people with low incomes, but not all clinics deal with immigration issues.

To find the clinic nearest you, visit the Legal Aid Ontario [website](#).

Getting Ready to Launch Express Entry *(extracted from Canada Immigration Newsletter)*

In-demand immigrants' applications will be processed in six months or less

December 1, 2014 — Ottawa — Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander confirmed today it's one month and counting until Express Entry launches a new phase of active immigration recruitment to meet economic and labour market needs. Potential candidates can create their profile on January 1st, 2015, with the first Invitations to Apply issued within weeks.

Express Entry will help select skilled immigrants based on their skills and experience. Those with valid job offers or provincial/territorial nominations will be picked first. [Details](#) published today in the Canada Gazette explain how candidates will be ranked and selected, based on these factors that research shows are linked to success in the Cana-

dian economy. Research shows these criteria will help ensure newcomers participate more fully in the Canada's economy and integrate more quickly into Canadian society.

Minister Alexander also highlighted that additional information was published on the CIC website to help potential immigrants and employers understand the new system, and to [promote Canada](#) as a destination of choice based on a strong economy, low taxes and job opportunities.

Express Entry will result in faster processing and will allow the Government of Canada to be more flexible and respond better to Canada's changing labour market needs.

