



Caregiver Connections Education and Support Organization (CCESO)

July 2019

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

A GATHERING OF CARE WORKERS

The following is a brief summary of the changes in the Care Worker Program, and the campaigns and demands developed in collaboration with a coalition of migrant worker organizations.

Over the Labour Day weekend (Aug 31-Sept 1, 2019) there will be a gathering in Toronto of migrant Care Workers and allies, from Vancouver and Toronto. Participants will celebrate the partial victory, as a result of their recent campaigns; and they will develop new and creative strategies to advance their long overdue demand for Landed Status.

Landed Status Now, No More Pilot Programs

There have been some gains made from the recently announced changes that finally allow Care Workers to bring their families to Canada, and to work without work permits tied to employers. These changes respond, in part, to what Care Workers have been demanding for years, but this victory falls short of the Permanent Resident status on arrival that is needed for migrant Care Workers to be treated the same respect as others who come through Canada's immigration system.

The new pilot program requires Care Workers to demonstrate one year of post-secondary education, Canada Language Benchmark Level 5, and a job offer from Canada to apply. They along with their spouses and children need to be vetted in advance of arrival to Canada. Upon arrival, the Care Worker will receive an occupation specific work permit, spouses will receive an open work permit, and children will receive study permits. The Labour Market Impact Assessment has been eliminated. Care Workers and their family must complete 24 months of service (within a 36-month period) before being allowed to apply for Permanent Resident status.

Care Workers Respond to the New Program and Reiterate Demand for Permanent Residency upon Arrival with Their Families

CCESO and CDWCR along with other migrant groups in the Migrant Rights Network, were quick to respond after the announcement of the new pilot program, with the following demands:

- English language requirements should be kept at CLB Level 3;

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- Educational requirements should be kept at high school;
- Care Workers already in Canada should be granted Occupational-specific work permits immediately, instead of Employer-specific work permits. The government now has clear evidence that Employer-specific work permits create conditions of abuse, and there is no reason for them to be continued for workers already in Canada;
- Migrant care workers must be able to come to Canada with Permanent Resident status upon arrival, and with their families, because migrant care work is permanent work, and it requires a permanent solution, not another pilot program;
- The definition of the family unit must be inclusive, and children must be able to access work permits and pay domestic tuition fees;
- There should be no mandatory second medical examination;
- The Landed Status Now campaign demands the creation of a Federal Care Worker Program that provides landed status upon entry for Care Workers and their families; Care Workers should be able to seek employment in Canada through the National Job Bank. And employers seeking Care Workers can use the job bank to find employees. This would take away the need for third-party recruiters / job agencies and the thousands of dollars they charge care workers to get a job



Unite Against Racism and Common Demands

This year, CCESO and CDWCR have actively participated in two nationally coordinated events and an upcoming national day of action on Labour Day (Sept 2, 2019) under the theme of "Unite Against Racism". In Canada, hate crimes perpetrated by white supremacists and neo-Nazi groups against immigrants are on the rise in alarming numbers. Unfortunately, the mainstream media and some politicians are validating these group's false claim that immigrants and refugees are a threat to our security. These groups want to stoke fear and hatred in the public. With the upcoming Federal elections only a couple of months away, this is the time to educate our politicians on the real life experiences of migrants, their families, and communities, in order to help them develop policies and meaningful solutions to address these serious concerns.



These are the following demands:

- Permanent Landed Status for Everyone;
- Decent Work and Fair Wages; Full labour rights
- Access for All; Universal quality public services
- Just Society: Indigenous self-determination, gender justice end to racism and Islamophobia
- No Displacement; end to practices that force people to migrate



Populism, Racism, Corruption and HR Violations, People Fight Back

Filipinos leave the Philippines and risk their lives to work in many places around the world, in order to escape poverty, the extrajudicial killings of President Duterte's "drug war", the illegal arrests of those opposing the regime, the mounting Philippine debt, the militarization and abusive practices of the police and military, the continued imposition of Martial Law in many Indigenous communities, excessive corruption, climate change, corporate greed, and many more reasons. Recently, the UN Human Rights Council issued a resolution to carry out an investigation of the extrajudicial killings carried out by the Philippine police forces, however Duterte is defiantly refusing to acknowledge the resolution.

The Philippines is just one of the many countries in the world with a populist leader taking advantage of the vulnerability of the masses' desperate need for change. There is an erosion of democratic institutions, the normalization of false information, and the use of social media to spread fake news. As a result, families are separated, communities are destroyed, migrants are no longer accepted by other countries, and are scapegoated as taking away jobs from locals, and are falsely accused as "threats" to national security.

It's very alarming when immigrants hear a powerful leader make a racially-charged statement to women and people of colour, who are citizens of the country, to "go back to their infested country" and praises supporters who mimic such racist overtones as patriotic. Such practices and behaviours are offensive and people are fighting back by uniting against racism, doing their part to confront injustice and exploitation, demanding gender equality, supporting Indigenous struggle for self-determination, and ending displacements.

This Gathering will provide opportunities for Care Workers and allies to have an open discussion about their concerns and collectively develop realistic strategies, as they continue to demand for landed status as a permanent solution instead of pilot programs. It will also provide space for participants to network and learn new leadership skills. This Gathering will support marginalized communities to continue the fight for respect and dignity for all migrant Care Workers.



AN OVERVIEW OF THE TWO NEW CAREGIVE PILOTS

“Canada is caring for our caregivers. We made a commitment to improve the lives of caregivers and their families who come from around the world to care for our loved ones and with these new pilots, we are doing exactly that.” -**Ahmed Hussein, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**

On June 18, 2019, the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), officially ended the expiring new pathways for caregivers (*The Caring for Children Program and Caring for People with High Medical Needs Program*) that provides opportunity for permanent residence. Later this year, these pathways will be replaced with the two new 5-year caregiver immigration pilots, namely Home Child Care Provider and the Home Support Worker. These new pilot programs offer qualified caregivers to come and work in Canada together with their immediate family members, wherein a direct pathway to permanent residence is guaranteed.

The said programs are also believed to address Canada’s commitment to family reunification and eradication of backlogs. In connection to this, a foreign national caregiver must submit a work permit application along with their permanent residence application prior to entering Canada. An open-work permit application for the spouse or common-law partner and study permits application for the dependent children must also be submitted along with the caregiver’s application, if the latter decided to

bring her/his family with her/him in Canada.

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) echoed that the new pilots will pledge a clear transition from temporary status to finalized permanent status after completing the two-year Canadian work experience within 36 months. Note that per year, there will be a maximum of 2,750 principal applicants for the Home Child Care Providers and 2,750 for the Home Support Workers, for a total of 5,500 principal applicants (*Spouses/common-law partners and dependent children are not included on the limit count*).

Under these new pilots, an in-home caregiver will be given an **occupation-specific work permit** (*job description and duties should be within the specified occupation*) **valid for 3 years**, using the National Occupational Classification 4411, excluding foster parents (for Home Child Care Pilot), or 4412, excluding housekeepers (for Home Support Worker Pilot). The processing time to obtain this work permit is 12 months. The work permit offers advantage and flexibility to find a new employer right away when needed and continue working legally in Canada.

One of the major changes with the new pilots states that an employer is no longer required to apply for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) to hire eligible candidate, overseas or in Canada (*except Quebec- an employer must apply for a LMIA and hire a caregiver through Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the caregiver must plan to live outside the province of Quebec once become a permanent resident.*)

Rather, a **Job Offer** stating that position is full-time or at least 30 hours of paid work weekly, must be filled in and signed by the employer and candidate caregiver. Employer should use the Offer of Employment IMM 5983 Form found in the website of IRCC, (<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/documents/pdf/english/kits/forms/imm5983e.pdf>). A copy must be provided to the caregiver and required to enclose to the application.

For foreign national caregivers who will process their application outside Canada, in order to obtain a work permit prior to begin working, they must meet the eligibility and admissibility of the permanent residence criteria. These includes:

1. A **Canadian post-secondary diploma** or certificate of at least 1 year, or an **Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)** report, that demonstrates equivalence of their education to a Canadian post-secondary education credential of at least 1 year. See below list for the approved organizations:
 - Comparative Education Service – University of
 - Toronto School of Continuing Studies
 - International Credential Assessment Service of Canada
 - World Education Services
 - International Qualifications Assessment Service
 - International Credential Evaluation Service
2. **Language test** results that meet the minimum score of **Canadian Language Benchmark/CLB 5 for English and Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadien/NCL C 5 for French** in all 4 abilities such as speaking, listening, reading and writing to prove proficiency in communicating using English or French.

See below list for recognized language tests:

- CELPIP: Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program-General
- IELTS: International English Language Testing System-General
- TEF Canada: Test d'évaluation de français
- TCF Canada : Test de connaissance du français (French only)

Caregivers who are already in Canada, can also apply permanent residence status under the new pilots through two options. One, complete the minimum 24 months of qualifying Canadian work experience using the current work permit and meet the mentioned eligibility and admissibility requirements for permanent residence. If you don't meet the criteria for either pilot, you may be eligible to extend your work permit after your employer complete the necessary steps.

Two, obtain a job offer, CLB 5/ NCLC 5 language level, 1 year of Canadian post-secondary education/foreign equivalent and admissibility, then get an occupation-specific work permit and if you choose to, you can also apply for an open-work permit for spouse or common-law partner, and study permits for dependent children, and complete the rest of the required work experience to finalize the permanent status.

As a caregiver, regardless of what pilot programs you belong, you are given an opportunity to come and stay in Canada. You could choose options to work temporarily



or maximize your goals and become a permanent resident and beyond. Persevere and choose wisely.

References:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2019/02/caregivers-will-now-have-access-to-new-pathways-to-permanent-residence.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/caregivers.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/caregivers/child-care-home-support-worker/no-experience-about.html>



List of 2019 Activities

Let us see what was keeping CCESO Members and Friends busy in the 1st half of year 2019!!!

January 13, 2019:
CCESO Celebrated 9th Annual General Membership Meeting

February 2019: was celebrated with each others love ones!!!

Decent Work and Full Immigration

How much long do we have to wait for our family to have their papers approved????!!!



March 2019:
Was celebrated at the International Women's Parade & Storytelling—Re-Imagining Stories of Care Work with Myseum And Free Tax Clinic—courtesy of AFCA

April 2019:
Bonding Time Board and Advisory Committee Lunch at Kabalen Restaurant

May 18, 19 & 20, 2019: Another Successful 3 Day Trip to Ottawa, Montreal & Quebec. Thanks to all our friends and supporters who joined the trip!!! See you all next time!



June 15, 2019:
- HABI Workshop Community Art Build with Migrant Care Workers—
In collaboration with Kwentong Bayan



June 16, 2019:
CCESO participated in the nationally coordinated event in Toronto on "Unite Against Racism", carrying the hand made banner made by CCESO Board and Advisory Members!



July 13, 2019:
CCESO Families and Friends posed for a picture after their Cherry Picking and Trip to Niagara Falls on their way to the Outlet Mall...

August 10, 2019: Picnic at Wilket Creek Park

August 31 & Sep 1, 2019: A Gathering of Care Workers

September 2, 2019 - Labour Day Parade

October to November 2019: Human Rights and Leadership Training

December 2019: 10th AGM



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

	NAME	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE #s	EMAIL/Media
1	911 - Emergency Number		911	
2	211 - Central: Serving Toronto, Durham, Peel and York Region	https://www.211toronto.ca/	211	
3	311 - Toronto: Easy access to non-emergency Toronto Services	https://www.toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/	311	
4	Assaulted Women's Helpline (AWHL):	http://www.awhl.org/contact-us	416.863.0511 or Toll Free: 1.866.863.0511	#SAFE (#7233) On your Bell, Rogers, Fido or Telus mobile phone
5	Toronto Rape Crisis Centre / Multicultural Women Against Rape (TRCC)	https://trccmwar.ca/	416-597-8808 (24 hour crisis support)	crisis@trccmwar.ca
6	Durham Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC)	https://drcc.ca/	905-668-9200 (24 hour crisis support)	
7	Across Boundaries: An Ethnoracial Mental Health Centre (AB)	https://www.acrossboundaries.ca	416-787-3007	
8	Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html	-	
9	Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html	-	
10	Caregiver Connections Education and Support Org. (CCESO)	https://www.cceso.org/	416-656-5778	caregiverconnections@gmail.com
11	Migrants Workers Alliance for Change	https://migrantworkersalliance.org/	1-855-567-4722	info@migrantworkersalliance.org

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Membership Form:

Membership Fee: \$10.00

Name: _____ / _____ / _____
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Address: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
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