



DECENT WORK & FULL IMMIGRATION RIGHTS!

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Thousands of racialized Care Workers are in limbo. We need your support.

The current Caregiver Program is scheduled to end in November 2019. If it's not replaced, thousands of racialized migrant women from around the world who come to Canada to take care of children, people with disabilities, sick and the elderly will no longer be able to apply to live here permanently. We came because we were promised the ability to stay and bring our families after 24 months of difficult and low-paid work. Keeping this promise is essential to building integrity within the Canadian immigration system. Thousands of women workers are living in limbo and uncertainty awaiting real change that will ensure decent work and permanent status for us and our families. But we are not acting out of fear.

We are organizing out of hope. We are calling on you to courageously join us for a better future not just for us, but for everyone.

Without Care Work, the economy doesn't work.

For over a hundred years, women workers have come to Canada to provide care for families, people with disabilities and the elderly. In the last 60 years, that work has been through temporary work programs. The current Caregiver Program was a 5-year pilot program created in 2014 by the previous Conservative government without consultation with Care Workers, and is incredibly flawed. We face long hours, unpaid overtime, low wages, stress and family separation as a result. That's not fair. We are simply asking for the most fundamental human rights everyone deserves.

Migrant Care Workers and our families should be able to come to Canada with permanent residency from day one. No more family separation, no more exclusions. We also need changes for workers already here.

Care Work in the home is the backbone of Canada's labour market and social support systems. **Canada must create a national care strategy to ensure quality care for children, the elderly and people with disabilities.** Doing so is essential to building a healthy society. Decent work and permanent landed status on entry for the workers providing that care must be the foundation of this Care Strategy.

What needs to happen: Federal Caregiver Program

The solution now is not to kick the ball down the road and renew the program, instead it is time for fundamental reform. The government should create a new **Federal Workers Program for Care Workers** that provides landed status upon entry for caregivers and our families. Care Workers should be able to seek employment in Canada through the national job bank. Employers seeking caregivers can use the job bank to find caregiver employees. This would take away the need for third-party recruiters and the thousands of dollars they charge us to get a job.

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We also need interim solutions: No one left behind!

Care Workers - like us - who are already in Canada and those workers that will continue to arrive until the new Federal Care Worker Program is established also need changes:

- Care Workers currently under the program should be able to apply for Permanent Residency (PR) after 1 year of work (or 1,950 hours): Currently we have to work 2 years while 1 year is the standard for most other permanent immigration programs in Canada;
- All Care Workers must get open work permits, and be able to renew work permits without Labour Market Impact Assessment: Care Workers currently can only work for the employer listed on our permits, which makes it extremely difficult to leave bad bosses or, when employers pass away;
- The new educational requirements should be removed: Care Workers are required to have completed 1-year of Canadian post-secondary equivalent education to apply for PR but we are not allowed to or able to study while working;
- The English language test prior to PR should be removed: New English language requirements were introduced in the pilot program but no free English classes exist;
- The new caps that allow only 2,750 PR applications each year in each stream should be removed: There are over 5,500 Care Workers coming to Canada in the childcare stream each year, the discretionary caps on PR applications means that at least half of us will not be able to apply even after completing all the requirements;
- Clear the permanent residency backlog: Thousands of Care Workers have been waiting for up to 10 years to reunite with their families because no one's looking at their application - that's not fair;
- Spouses and children should be allowed to join us with open work and study permits of their own: This is the norm for many other temporary immigration programs and it results in improved health and stronger families rather than years of forced separation;
- Remove the second medical that is required when applying for permanent residency. This change was sneaked in the pilot project and adds unnecessary financial barriers and delays; and
- Section 38(1)(c) of the IRPA ("Medical Inadmissibility" rules) should be repealed because it denies PR to an entire family if even one member of the family has a disability.

Care Workers are the experts! We are organizing together!

Migrant Care Workers across Canada have come together to join our voices and get stronger. We are the Landed Status Now: Caregivers Organize! Campaign. We meet together as Care Workers; educate others like us; and meet with the government and the media to explain what we need. We do the work, we know the problems, we are the experts, we have the solutions. We need others to join us.

Landed Status Now: Caregivers Organize! (email info@migrantrights.ca to join):

Caregivers Action Centre (Toronto)
Caregivers Connection (Toronto)
Alberta Careworkers Association
(Edmonton)
Migrante Alberta
Migrante Ontario
Migrante Canada
Migrante Ottawa
PINAY Quebec
Immigrant Workers Centre (Montreal)

Association for the Rights of Household
Workers (Montreal)
Migrant Workers Alliance for Change
(Canada)
Vancouver Committee for Domestic
Workers and Caregiver Rights
(Vancouver)



Sign the petition: www.LandedStatusNow.ca