



# DECENT WORK & FULL IMMIGRATION RIGHTS!

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## Caregiver Program is ending, we must act now!

The current Caregiver Program is coming to an end in November 2019. If it's not replaced, thousands of racialized low-wage migrant women from around the world like us who come to Canada to take care of children, sick and the elderly will no longer be able to apply to live here permanently. The federal government has promised to make changes but no details have been announced.

November 2019 is very soon, and promises aren't enough! **We are living in fear and uncertainty. But we have hope, and courage.** We can tell the government: **We need a new program that brings migrant Care Workers and our families to Canada with permanent residency from day one. No more family separation, no more exclusions. We need changes for workers already here.**

## A Federal Care Worker Program is needed!

To replace the Caregiver "pilot project", the government should create a new **Federal Workers Program for Care Workers** that provides **landed status upon entry for Care Workers and our families.**

We should be able to seek employment as Care Workers in Canada through the national job bank. Employers can also 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.

## But what about migrant Care Workers already in Canada?

Caregivers - like us - who are already in Canada and those workers that will continue to arrive until the new Care Workers Program is in place need justice too. We want the government to change the rules so that:

- We are able to apply for Permanent Residency (PR) after 1 year of work (or 1,950 hours): 1 year is the standard for most other permanent immigration programs in Canada;
- We must get open work permits, and be able to renew work permits without LMIA: Employer specific work permits makes it extremely difficult to leave bad bosses;
- The new educational requirements should be removed: We have to get 1-year of Canadian post-secondary equivalent education to apply for PR - but can't study while working;
- The English language test prior to permanent residency 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 caps on PR applications means that half of us will not be able to apply even after completing all requirements;
- The permanent residency backlog should be resolved: Thousands of Care Workers have been waiting for up to 10 years to reunite with our families because no one's looking at our application;
- Spouses and children are allowed to join us with open work and study permits of their own: This would mean improved health and stronger families rather than years of enforced separation;
- The second medical when applying for permanent residency is removed: 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.

## Our work is important! We deserve our rights.

Care Work is permanent work. For over a hundred years, women workers like us have come to Canada to provide care for families, people with disabilities and the elderly. Over the past 40 years, it's been through a "two-step" program where we are required to complete years of service of employment before being allowed to apply for permanent residency. This has led to well-known problems of exploitation. We face long hours, unpaid wages and isolation in households across the country. We fall sick and our families fall apart after many years of separation.

Care work is the backbone of Canada's labour market and social support systems. **Without care work, our economy and society doesn't work.** Canada must create a national care strategy to ensure quality care for children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Decent work and permanent landed status on entry for the workers providing that care labour must be its foundation.

## Care Workers are the experts! We are organizing together!

We have come together to join our voices and get stronger. We are the Landed Status Now: Care Workers Organize! Campaign. We support and educate each other; 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 deserve dignity, we want to live in a world without exploitation. Join us.

These changes are possible and necessary. For over one hundred years migrant domestic workers have organized and won changes that seemed difficult. We can too!

**Get in touch, let's get organized!:**

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[www.facebook.com/MigrantRightsCA](https://www.facebook.com/MigrantRightsCA)

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