

Domestics' Info

Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights



CDWCR seeks to improve the lives and working conditions of caregivers and domestic workers through information, counseling, organizing, support networks, educational and training programs, referrals for legal advice and temporary accommodation.

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2015 Care-Net Immigration Workshop: Changes to the Caregiver Program

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) 2015 Caregivers Network (Care-Net) Project held its Immigration Workshop on February 15, 2015. About 50 participants attended the workshop.

Theresa Etmanski, Legal Advocate – West Coast Domestic Workers' Association and Timothy Bailey, Canadian immigration lawyer from Elgin, Cannon & Associates served as the resource speakers of the workshop. The resource speakers discussed the changes to the Caregiver Program and how these will affect the caregivers.

On November 30, 2014, the Government launched significant reforms to the Caregiver Program, replacing the Live-in Caregiver Program. Changes to the program include ending the live-in requirement, and providing eligible caregivers with two pathways that will lead to permanent residence "within six months".



Timothy Bailey (speaker) and participants during the Immigration Workshop

It has now been almost five months since the changes to the Caregiver Program has been announced, yet, very limited information has been released on how the new program will be implemented.

(cont'd on page 3)

CDWCR – AGM: All members are invited!

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) will hold its Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2015 (Sunday). All members are invited to attend this AGM.

The AGM will be at South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave. (and Kerr Street), Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm. Lunch will be provided from 12pm to 1pm.

The AGM will also include a workshop on Mental Health and the Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry. Please take this opportunity to get updated with CDWCR's activities and get in touch with old and new members.

For more information, please contact (604) 874-0649.



The Caregivers Assistance, Resource and Education Centre (C.A.R.E. Centre) invites you to attend the Forum on Educational Credential Evaluation

Resource Speakers: International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES)

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Caregivers Assistance, Resource and Education Centre (C.A.R.E. Centre), 6688 Granville St. (and West 49th Ave.), Vancouver

Seating is limited. Light snacks will be provided from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Please call to register @ [604-210-1206](tel:604-210-1206)

Q&A on Domestic Workers' Issues

Q. I am a caregiver who just arrived in Canada. How will I know which program I am in, LCP or the new Caregiver Program?

A. If your initial work permit is based on an approved Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) that had been submitted by the employer to Employment and Social Development Canada on or before November 30, 2014, then you are in LCP. If the LMIA's application was received by Service Canada after November 30, 2014, then you will be under the new caregiver program.

Q. I am already working as a live-in caregiver, will I be able to apply for permanent residence when I complete the work requirement?

A. Yes. You may continue working as a live-in caregiver and apply for permanent residence when you meet the eligibility requirement. If you choose to remain in the Live-in Caregiver Program pathway, your eligibility for permanent residence will still be based on the requirements of that program. **This includes the requirement to live in the home of your employer.** If you choose to apply under the Caring for Children Pathway or the Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway, your eligibility for permanent residence will be based on the requirements of those pathways.

Q. I am a caregiver under the LCP, can I continue working towards permanent residence through the Live-in Caregiver Program if I change my employer after November 30, 2014?

A. Yes. To continue to work towards permanent residence through the Live-in Caregiver Program, you must seek an employer who wishes to hire you on a live-in basis. You must also continue to meet the other requirements of the Live-in Caregiver Program.

Q. I left my job as a live-in caregiver and started working for a new employer on a live-out basis. I would now like to return to the Live-in Caregiver Program. Can I?

A. Yes. If it has been less than four years since your arrival in Canada and you still have enough time to meet the work requirement to apply for permanent residence through the Live-in Caregiver Program, you may apply for a new Live-in Caregiver Program work permit. Your employer must obtain a new Labour Market Impact Assessment and you must obtain a new work permit before you can start working for the employer in a live-in arrangement.

Some of these questions and answers are extracted from the CIC website Help Centre. For other answers to commonly asked questions and for more information, please visit the CIC website: www.cic.gc.ca. You can also call CDWCR at (604.874.0649) or West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (604.669.4482).

CDWCR 2015 Care-Net Project Updates

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) Caregivers Network (Care-Net) Project completed its two workshops for 2015:

Caregiver Program & Immigration Workshop - February 15, 2015
(see article in page 1)

Income Tax Preparation - March 15, 2015

The workshop was facilitated by CDWCR member, Lorina Serafico. Lorina is also a Financial Advisor at Soctiabank. The workshop was attended by 26 participants. Other members of CDWCR – Judith Diesta, Lotis Caluza, Nora Lagunzad and Cenen Bagon, assisted participants during the income tax calculation. Some of the topics discussed during the workshop included the overview of the Canadian Tax System, Income Tax implication on live-in caregivers' application for Permanent Residence, and common non-refundable and refundable tax credit claims applicable to LCP participants. The workshop's main goal was to assist participants in preparing and filing their 2014 Income Tax Return.

Both workshops were held at the South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave. (and Kerr Street), Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm. The Care-Net project is made possible through the funding assistance of BCGEU (British Columbia Government & Service Employees Union).



The 2015 Care-Net Project follows the same objectives and format of the Care-Net Project launched in 2007. The main goal was to reach out to newly arrived caregivers under the Live-In Caregiver Program and proactively assist them in adjusting to life in Canada.

There will be more workshops scheduled in 2015. Refer to Announcement in page 4 for the complete schedule.

Below summarizes the differences between the LCP and the new Caregiver Program

| | Live In Caregiver Program | New Caregiver Program |
|--|---|--|
| Pathways for Permanent Residence | Can apply for PR after: 24 months of authorized full-time live-in employment, or 3,900 hours of authorized full-time employment. You can complete these hours within a minimum of 22 months. When calculating your hours, you can also include up to 390 hours of overtime; and the work experience must be acquired within four years of your date of arrival. | Must meet the requirements under the two new Pathways: Caring for Children Pathway: caregivers who have provided child care in a home, either living in the home or not. Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway: 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. |
| Who are eligible | All current LCP applicants and anyone who apply for an LCP work permit based on a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) submitted before November 30 th 2014 will be assessed under the current LCP criteria, if they wish. | If your employer's LMIA application was received by Service Canada after November 30, 2014. |
| Type of work permit | Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) work permit | Regular work permit under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) |
| Renewing work permit | If you need to renew work permit under the same employer and would like to continue working under the LCP, your employer does not need to apply for new LMIA. | Your employer will need a new LMIA when you renew your work permit even with the same employer |
| Live-in requirement | Need to live in employer's home | Optional |
| Wage | At least with the prevailing minimum wage – as per contract | Employers must offer workers who come to Canada through TFWP a wage that is equal or above the median prevailing wage for the job according to the National Occupation Classification (NOC) |
| Yearly cap | No cap | 2750 per pathway per year (5500 total) |
| Assessment of Qualification | Qualifications are assessed prior to issuing work permit, therefore only caregivers meeting the requirement can come to Canada through the program. | Requirements are assessed at the time of application for Permanent Residency. |
| Work Experience counted towards PR requirements | All live-in care-giving work experience whether child care, elderly care or caring for persons with disabilities will be counted. | Only care-giving experience related to the pathway being applied for will be counted. For instance, if you initially took care of an elderly for one year, then you changed employer to take care of a child, if you choose to apply under the Caring for Children Pathway, the one year experience in elderly care will not be counted. |

(cont'd on page 4)

Singing Nannies in Action

The Singing Nannies' Christmas concert entitled "Pasko Na Naman 2" was held at Victoria Drive Community Hall in Vancouver last December 20, 2014. The community enjoyed a night of Filipino Christmas carols, dinner and dance.

The event raised funds to support the work of CDWCR. CDWCR would like to acknowledge all the donors, community friends, supporters and volunteers, who shared their ideas, contributed their talents, energies and hardwork to make this undertaking a success. CDWCR would also like to thank all those at the concert who generously shared among each other their warm spirit of Christmas.

The Singing Nannies is under the talented musical direction of Kimwell del Rosario.



If you would like to invite the "Singing Nannies" to perform in your upcoming events, please call Julie Diesta at (604) 874-0649. Singing Nannies helps fund raise for CDWCR.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Upcoming 2015 CDWCR Care-Net Project Workshops

Apr 19 - Child care
Jun 21 - Employment Standards
Sep 20 - Financial Basics
Oct 4 - Elderly Care (Senior
Safety & Life Line)
Oct 18 - Preparing for PR
(Live-in Caregivers Program)
Nov 15 - Life After LCP

All workshops are to be held at :
**South Vancouver Adult Day
Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave.
(and Kerr Street), Vancouver
from 1pm to 4pm**
Free Lunch: 12 noon to 1pm.
To register phone:
(604) 874-0649

Other Activities

May 10 (Sunday) - CDWCR
Annual General Meeting
July 1 (Wednesday)- CANADA
DAY Picnic
Aug 15 (Saturday) - Out of
Town Picnic
Oct 24 (Saturday)- Halloween
Fundraising Dance
Nov 28 (Saturday) - Pasko Na
Naman 3
Dec 12 (Saturday) - CDWCR
Anniversary and Christmas
Party

Details to be announced.

For updates and more
information visit our
website:
<http://www.cdwcr.org>

Immigration.. cont'd from page 3

Some of the issues discussed during the
workshop that may affect the caregivers are:

- 1) New program can result to difficulty in
getting LMIA. Employer must prove that
no Canadian qualifies for the position.
Employers must offer workers who come
to Canada through TFWP a wage that is
equal or above the median prevailing wage
for the job.
- 2) LCP offers a direct pathway to PR, which
is more guaranteed after meeting the
required work experience. However, the
new Caregiver Program will make it harder
for caregiver to qualify for PR. Since the
caregiver's requirements (education and
language) to apply for PR will be assessed
at the time of PR application, it is possible
that many caregivers may fail to meet the
requirements even after completing the
work experience.
- 3) The cap will limit the number of caregivers
that will get the PR per year. Although,
caregivers can still apply the following
year, the cap can make them susceptible to
exceeding the four year limit for TFW's.

Following are some of the advise that the
resource speakers provided the participants to
address the issues that may arise from the new
program:

- 1) Determine the best long term option to
apply for PR. If you are still under the
LCP, and would like to transfer to the
new program, assess first whether you
can meet all the requirements before
deciding to do so.
- 2) If you are under the new program, you
are encouraged to take the test to
determine your language benchmark.
Seek assistance also in evaluating your
education credentials to ensure that you
meet the minimum requirements.
- 3) When applying for PR, make sure that
you apply using the correct package.

Aside from the new program, Theresa from
WCDWA also discussed some of the common
issues LCP participants encountered such as
unauthorized work, misrepresentation,
problems with documentation, and
inadmissibility due to medical or criminal
issues. Theresa indicated that the best way to
deal with these issues is to address them as
soon as possible.

We requested Citizenship and Immigration
Canada (CIC) to send a resource speaker, but
they were unable to send a representative.
They could have provided answers to
questions related to the implementation of the
new program. However, thanks to the
expertise of our resource speakers - Theresa
and Timothy, and to the lively discussion of
workshop participants, we were able to
achieve a better understanding of the new
Caregiver program.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

*Due to increasing printing and mailing
cost, CDWCR will be sending out copy
of Newsletter to its members through e-
mail. If you want to receive your copy
through email, please send your email
address and updated contact
information to cdwcr.org@gmail.com.
Print out can be availed by attending
CDWCR workshops. Thank you for your
understanding.*

We wish to thank:

- BCGEU (British Columbia Government & Service Employees Union)
- HEU (Hospital Employees Union)
- COPE 378 (Canadian Office and Profession Employees Union Local 378)
- HSA (Health Sciences Association of BC)
- WCDWA (West Coast Domestic Workers Association)
- Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)

We also want to acknowledge everyone's effort in putting our newsletter together. Thank you very much for all your contributions.

Membership Form

Mail to: CDWCR PO Box 37033, Vancouver, BC V5P 3X0 For inquiries: (604) 874-0649

Yes, I want to help the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR)

Sign me up! I want to become a CDWCR member (membership is \$5/year)

Date of Membership: _____

I would like to make a donation to CDWCR 's work. (Sorry, we are not registered for tax deductible donations.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email address: _____

Telephone Number : Home: _____ Cell: _____