

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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CMWRC Calls for Landed Status Now!

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) supports the recommendation made by the Coalition for Migrant Worker Rights Canada (CMWRC) to the on-going federal government's review of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to grant workers permanent residency status upon arrival. After immigration changed the Live-in Caregiver Program in November 2014, new foreign caregivers coming in to Canada as temporary workers (and who are not under the LCP) are now processed under the TFWP.

The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) held meetings and gathered input as part of its review of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. HUMA's report was tabled in the federal parliament on September 19, 2016.

Media covered CMWRC's press release on their recommendation to the TFWP review (see **Media Excerpt on Landed Status Now** at page 4).

Since CDWCR's inception as an organization, it has been advocating for permanent residency status for foreign domestic workers and caregivers upon their arrival in Canada.



Participants of the CDWCR Caregivers Walk for Landed Status

CDWCR organized its first Caregivers' Walk for Landed Status Now last July 1, 2016 at the Central Park, Burnaby BC. It was attended by members, supporters and representatives from other community organizations.

Take action: Sign the Petition! End discrimination against migrant workers.
<http://migrantrights.ca/en/take-action/#email>

CDWCR Hold its Annual General Meeting

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) held its Annual General Meeting last August 28, 2016 at South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave., Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm.

Julie Diesta presented the Coordinator's report covering CDWCR's Activities in 2015, while Lorina Serafico presented the organization's financial report.

The newly elected Board members (also called the Steering Committee members) for 2016 are: Lotis Caluza, Judith Diesta, Julie Diesta, Ludy Inting, Leonora Lagunzad, Angie Lisao, Bing Nabor Orense, Lorina Serafico, Maribel Aloria, and Cenen Bagon.

CDWCR is in the process of reviewing its strategies to ensure the organization continuously address and support the changing needs of caregivers and domestic workers. CDWCR however will remain to uphold its mandate to improve the lives and working conditions of caregivers and domestic workers

Q&A on Domestic's Issues

Q: I am a caregiver who recently arrived in Canada through a work permit as an “In Home Caregiver Nanny”. My work permit has the following remarks/observations: “Applicant is not part of the LCP, nor they are eligible to apply for under this program”. The work permit also indicates that I must leave Canada by 2018/04/30. Does this mean that I am not eligible to apply for permanent residence?

A: As per your work permit, you are not under the LCP or the Live-In Caregiver Program, and therefore will not be eligible to apply for permanent residence under this program. However, under the new Caregiver Program, there are two pathways for caregivers to apply for permanent residence: Caring for Children Pathway and Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway. Since your work permit is for “In Home Caregiver Nanny, which would entail caring for children, then it will be very likely that you may eventually apply for permanent residence under the Caring for Children Pathway, provided that you meet all the requirements of the program in terms of work experience, language ability and education. Below is the list of the requirements (more info at New Caregiver Pathways <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?st=28.2>):

Work experience: You must meet all of these requirements to be eligible for the Caring for Children Pathway.

- You must have at least **24 months** of full-time work experience in Canada as a home child care provider in the four years (48 months) before you apply
 - Full-time work means at least 30 hours of paid work per week
 - Breaks in employment are allowed (for example, periods of unemployment, long periods of sickness, parental leave)
 - Any work experience you had while you were a full-time student will not count towards the work experience requirement
- Your work experience as a home child care provider must meet the definition in the Canadian National Occupational Classification (NOC) Group 4411.
 - Foster parents are not eligible
 - You must show that you performed the duties listed in the NOC 4411 job description, including most of the main duties and ALL of the essential duties
 - Duties that begin with “may” are not usually considered to be essential duties
- You must have cared for children under the age of 18, whether in your own home or in your employer’s home
 - You do not need to have lived in your employer’s home to qualify

Your application will be refused if you do not show that your work experience meets the NOC job description.

Language ability: You must:

- prove your ability in English or French for speaking, reading, listening and writing
 - take a language test from an agency approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC),
 - meet the minimum language levels of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 5 (use your test results to find your CLB level), and
- include the **original** language test results when you apply
 - Your language test results must be less than two years old on the day CIC gets your application

Your application will **not** be processed if you do not provide **original** language test results that show you meet the minimum language levels when you apply. Your application will be sent back to you.

Education: You must have:

- a completed Canadian post-secondary education credential of at least one year, **OR**
- a completed foreign education credential, and an **original** Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) by an organization approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to show it is equal to a completed Canadian post-secondary education credential of at least one year.

Your application will **not** be processed if you do not provide proof that you meet the minimum education requirement when you apply. Your application will be sent back to you.

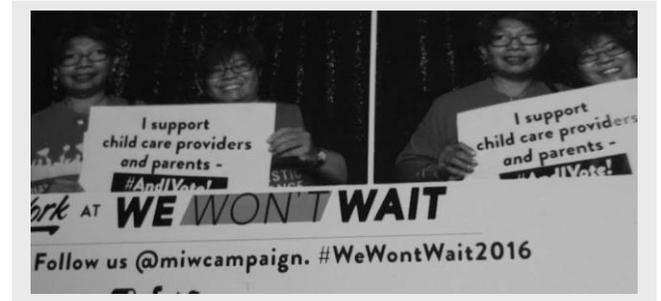
Some of these questions and answers are extracted from the CIC website Help Centre. For other answers to commonly asked questions and for more information, please visit the CIC website: www.cic.gc.ca. You can also call CDWCR at (604.874.0649) or West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (604.669.4482).

CDWCR Attends the National Domestic Workers Alliance 2016 National Assembly

Julie Diesta and Lorina Serafico from the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) attended the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) 2016 National Assembly held in Washington, DC on September 17 to 18, 2016. The assembly was attended by 525 diverse individuals from 25 states and around the world.

The assembly's theme for the year was "Dignity, Unity and Power". The National Assembly aimed to foster community, build power and align strategies in the domestic workers movement. Throughout the assembly, the different sessions and discussions focussed on the need for economic equality and justice including the humane immigration policies that would protect women and their families.

The National Assembly was followed by National Summit "We Won't Wait" held on September 19 to 20, 2016. Julie and Lorina attended this Summit as well. The #WeWontWait2016 Summit brought together over 1,000 community leaders and organizers from around the country to elevate the voices and stories of women of color and low-income women and call for comprehensive women's economic agenda that will advance the lives of working women and families across the country.



Pictures above were taken during the "We Won't Wait Summit"

Picture on the left - Julie had an opportunity to watch and meet Omilani during the National Assembly. Omilani is a grammy nominated afrolatina-filipina- singer and songwriter.

Julie and Lorina described the experience as an extraordinary opportunity to be with other domestic workers from different background and ages. The assembly was free from discrimination, valued each others and offered a friendly and safe environment for everybody. They find the stories shared very inspirational and empowering.

They noted that domestic workers around the world are facing the same issues: health care, minimum wage, long hours of work and human rights violation. Although Canada particularly British Columbia may have made some success in the inclusion of domestic workers in the BC Employment Standards, we should not let our guard down and ensure that these efforts would not be reversed. A lot of work is still needed in Canada to achieve equality for domestic workers and caregivers. This includes immigration policy reforms that will allow caregivers and domestic workers to come to Canada as permanent residents.

Julie and Lorina expressed gratitude to NDWA and CDWCR for the opportunity to take part on these undertakings.



CDWCR's Annual Halloween Fundraising Dance is

"The night of Royals"

Saturday, October 29, 2016

7:00 pm – 12:00 am

VICTORIA DRIVE COMMUNITY HALL
2026 East 43rd Ave. (& Victoria Dr.), Vancouver

Music by: Star Mobile DJ

For Info. Call: 604.874.0649

Tickets: \$12.00

***Feel free to dress up like royals.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Other Activities

Oct 29 (Saturday)- The Night of Royals - Halloween Fundraising Dance

Dec 17 (Saturday) - CDWCR Anniversary and Christmas Party

Details to be announced.

For updates and more information visit our website:

<http://www.cdwcr.org>

Landed Status Now .. cont'd from page 1

Migrant Workers call for permanent status and labour and human rights in wake of Temporary Foreign Worker Review

Canada, September 19, 2016 – The Federal government's acknowledgement of the need for reforms of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program today is a result of years of migrant workers advocating for themselves and fighting against denial of their human and labour rights. Migrant workers members of Coalition for Migrant Worker Rights Canada (CMWRC), the representative body for migrant workers in Canada, are calling on Minister McCallum and Minister Mihychuk to now swiftly introduce legislation for permanent immigration status for Seasonal Agricultural Workers, Caregivers and Temporary Foreign Workers in low-waged categories. As an interim measure, CMWRC is calling for open work permits, the licensing of recruiters, and an end to Harper era restrictions, including the 4 and 4 rule.

All the migrant workers that participated in this review are members of organizations that make up the CMWRC. Migrant workers identified the need for permanent status on landing, open work permits, recruiter regulation, proactive labour investigations, and an end to the cumulative work permit, which are recommended in HUMA's report today. Migrant workers also called for review of medical inadmissibility of Caregivers and repatriation of migrant workers for health concerns, which have not been addressed. CMWRC hopes that all its recommendations are swiftly implemented.

The HUMA committee has recommended a path to permanent residency for Temporary Foreign Workers, but migrant workers insist that a 'path' is not enough.

"Our job is never temporary, the work we do is permanent. Caregivers have a so-called path to permanent residency, but it's not a path, it's a minefield and it's exposing us to exploitation, all of us migrant workers deserve permanent residence on arrival not long-term temporariness," says Caregiver Teta Bayan from the Caregivers Action Centre who was forced to miss her turn to speak to the review. "We also need an end to the current Caregiver program introduced by the previous government which took away our right to permanent residency."

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the increasing printing and mailing cost, CDWCR will be sending out the Newsletter to its members though 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)
- MoveUP (Movement of United Professionals)
- HSA (Health Sciences Association of BC)
- WCDWA (West Coast Domestic Workers Association)
- ISS (Immigrant Services Society of BC)

Thank you to all CDWCR members and volunteers for your commitment to the work that we all do and to 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: _____