



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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CDWCR Joins Coalition Work to Address Proposed Changes to LCP

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) has joined forces with West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (WCDWA) and Migrante-BC in anticipation of the changes being proposed by the Federal government to overhaul the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP). The Live-In Caregiver Program (LCP) had been under review in the months following the controversies revolving around the Temporary Foreign Workers' Program (TFWCP).



Picture taken during the LCP Forum. The LCP Forum was organized to gather consolidated voice from caregivers and domestic workers relating to the changes to LCP.

On November 2, 2014, following the announcement of major changes to the LCP, the coalition held an LCP Forum at South Vancouver Adult Day Care Centre in Vancouver, BC. *(cont'd on page 3)*

CIC Replaces LCP with New Caregiver Program

On November 30, 2014, the Federal Government introduced the new Caregiver Program, replacing the Live-in Caregiver Program. The new Caregiver Program eliminates the live-in requirement of the LCP and provides eligible caregivers with two pathways to permanent residency status.

The new program, according to the Government of Canada's Improvements to Canada's Caregiver Program updated on November 19, 2014, will accept up to 5,500 applicants for permanent residence per year (2,750 applicants per pathway) plus family members, process these permanent residence applications with a six-month service standard, and accept applications from those already in the LCP queue who prefer one of the improved pathways. **All current LCP applicants, and any who apply for an LCP work permit based on a Labour Market Impact Assessment submitted before November 30th, will be assessed under the current LCP criteria, if they wish.** Here are the quick overview of the two pathways:

	Caring for Children Pathway:	Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway:
Overview	A pathway to permanent residence for caregivers who have provided child care in a home, either living in the home or not	A pathway to permanent residence 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
Basis of Eligibility	<p><i>Work experience:</i> Minimum of two years of Canadian work experience as a home childcare provider, with a work permit.</p> <p><i>Human capital criteria:</i> A one-year completed Canadian post-secondary credential, or equivalent foreign credential, and language level of at least <i>initial intermediate</i></p>	<p><i>Work experience:</i> Minimum of two years of Canadian work experience as a registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, licensed practical nurse, nurse aide, orderly, patient service associate, home support worker or other similar occupation, with a work permit.</p> <p><i>Human capital criteria:</i> A one-year completed Canadian post-secondary credential, or equivalent foreign credential, and an appropriate level of language proficiency to practice their occupation, ranging from <i>initial intermediate</i> to <i>adequate intermediate</i></p>

For more information relating to the changes to the Caregiver program, please visit www.cic.gc.ca

Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/caregiver/improvements.asp>

Q&A on Domestic's Issues

Q: I am in the process of applying for my permanent residence application after completing the requirements of the Live-In Caregiver Program. I have two kids, who are still very young. I know that I will have difficulty finding child care for them when they come to Canada, so I decided to let them stay in the Philippines, but I still want them to come later when they are bit older. Do I need to include them in my application?

A: You must include all your family members in your application for permanent resident status, even if they do not want to come to Canada with you. Family members who are not listed in your application **cannot** be sponsored by you at a later date.

Q. What are the circumstances that can affect my application for permanent residence now that I already completed the LCP?

A. According to CIC, your application can be affected if:

- you, your spouse or common-law partner, or any of your family members have a criminal record or a serious medical problem.
- you did not provide truthful information about education, training or experience to the visa officer when you first applied under the Live-In Caregiver Program, your application can be cancelled.

If you are facing any of these circumstances you should consult and seek assistance to organizations like CDWCR or West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (WCDWA). WCDWA provides legal assistance and services to caregivers.

For more information, please visit the CIC website: www.cic.gc.ca, or call CDWCR at (604.874.0649) or West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (604.669.4482).

2014 Care-Net Project Concludes

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) 2014 Caregivers Network (Care-Net) Project was concluded on November 2014. All workshops were held at the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC. The Care-Net project is made possible through the funding assistance of BCGEU. (British Columbia Government & Service Employees Union).

The 2014 Care-Net Project followed 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.

Following are the synopsis of the last three workshops held 2014.

Sep 14, 2014 – Financial Basics

This workshop is aimed to provide participants with basic financial skills and knowledge that they can use as they adjust to life in Canada.

Following are the resource speakers and topics they discussed:

- Lorina Serafico – Financial Advisor - Lorina shared some information on how to save and invest in preparation for the immigration fees during permanent residence application, family reunification, education and retirement.
- Loribel Mercado and Alsen David – both affiliated with AJ Insurance. They discussed some options for life and health protection /insurance.
- Sergio Cabal – Lawyer (Cabal Law) . He discussed preparation of Wills. He also discussed the process of getting divorce.
- Catherine Santos, Carecard representative – She discussed how to avail Care Card in the Philippines for medical insurance.

(cont'd on page 4)

“Transit” Movie: CARE Centre Fundraiser

The screening of “Transit” – a film about the deportation of children of Filipino caregivers in Israel – was the inaugural fundraising event for the benefit of C.A.R.E. Centre (Caregivers Assistance, Resource and Education Centre). The C.A.R.E. Centre is a long standing “dream” of the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) to support domestic workers, caregivers and their families in transitioning to permanent residence in Canada.

CDWCR and a group of individuals in the community (among them, Mr. & Mrs. Aprodicio and Eleanor Laquian, Eleanor Guerrero Campbell, Mari La Rosa, Marissa Pena) are working together to make this C.A.R.E. Centre dream a reality. The principal sponsor of the event, Scotiabank, through its Filipino Focus Group, offered to match total funds raised up to \$15,000.00.

CDWCR extends our heartfelt thanks to the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival for including “Transit” in its 26th annual event; as well to the countless donors, sponsors, volunteers and ticket buyers for their assistance and generous support.

Please stay tuned for our next fundraising event.

Coalition Work cont'd from page 1

Following several meetings and discussions among the representatives of the three organizations, the Coalition sent a letter to Citizenship and Immigration Canada on November 29, 2014, summarizing the concerns of the coalition and its position regarding the announced changes to the Caregiver Program.

Following are some of the concerns that the coalition raised to the government relating to the changes to the program:

Caps

The new program will only accept up to 5,500 applicants for permanent residence per year (2,750 applicants per pathway). However, it is not clear whether the cap will be enforced for new applicants entering the program or for applicants already in the program applying for permanent residence. If approvals for permanent residence are capped, caregivers who have completed the work requirements of the program may not be able to have access to permanent residence and may have to join the permanent residence queue in the following year, with no guarantee of whether they will meet the cap in the next year. Caregivers who are unable to apply within the cap within two years of completing the program requirements may be forced to leave Canada due to the four year cumulative work limit, even though they have completed all the requirements of the program. A cap enforced at the back-end of the program will leave many caregivers who have qualified for permanent residence in uncertainty, and insecurity, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

Live-In Requirement

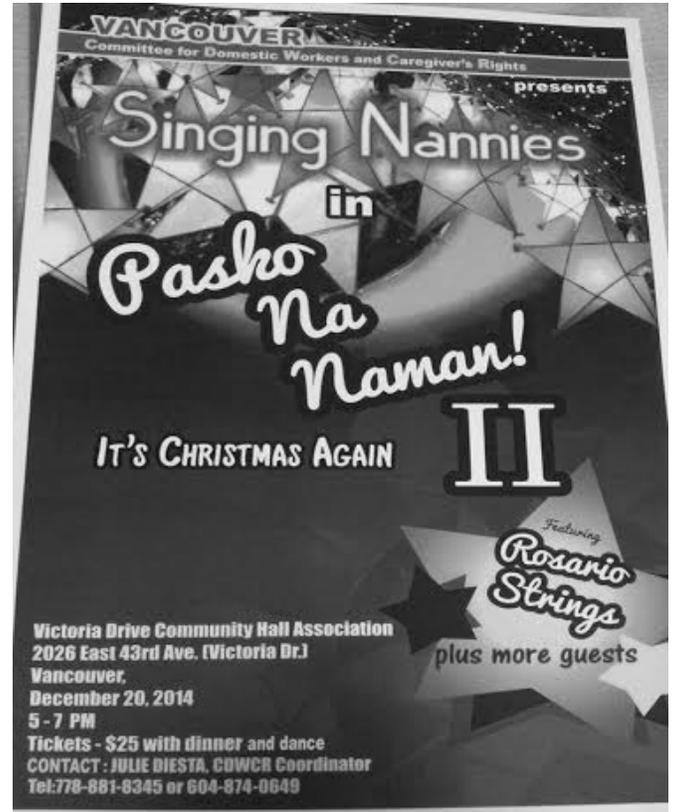
We welcome the elimination of the live-in requirement of the program. We have concerns about how the government plans to implement this change. The announced changes did not clarify whether current live-in caregivers will be able to avail of the new change. It is also unclear whether current live-in caregivers who choose to live independently of their employers will be able to apply for permanent residence under the old program rules.

Current Features of the Program

We hope that all these features of the program will continue even with the new changes:

- Live-in caregivers who wish to extend their work permits with existing employers are exempt from submitting Labour Market Impact Assessments.
- Employers who wish to hire live-in caregivers already present in Canada are exempt from advertising requirements in order to obtain Labour Market Impact Assessments.
- CIC has also established special procedures to expedite new work permits for live-in caregivers who have been abused by their employers.
- Finally, live-in caregivers already in Canada are not required to undergo a second medical examination in order to apply for permanent residence.

You are Invited!



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.

Process for Applicants Coming to Canada

We are concerned about the lack of clarity surrounding the new process to apply to enter the new pathways created by the government. The government has not established with clarity, whether there will be new criteria to enter the new streams and what the process will be. In particular, we have concerns about how the government's Express Entry Program will affect entry into the two new streams.

While all the organizations welcome and support: the recent reforms to the LCP to better protect the rights of caregivers; and the commitments made to shorten the processing time of application for permanent residence; the Coalition still believe that these measures fall short of what the caregivers are asking for – landed status upon their arrival in Canada. The call still continues for the government to take the most effective step to ensure that worker rights are protected by allowing caregivers to enter Canada as landed immigrants.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Upcoming CDWCR 2015 Care-Net Project Workshops

Feb 15 - Caregiver Program & Immigration
Mar 15 - Income tax Preparation
Apr 19 - Child care
Jun 21 - Employment Standards
Sep 20 - Financial Basics
Oct 04 - 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
Care Centre, 3076 East 49th
Ave. (and Kerr Street),
Vancouver**
from 1pm to 4pm
**Free Lunch from 12pm to
1pm.**
To register phone:
(604) 874-0649

Other Activities 2015 CDWCR EVENTS

May 10 (Sunday) - CDWCR
Annual General Meeting
Jul 01 (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>

2014 Care-Net cont'd from page 2

Oct 19, 2014 – Preparing for Permanent Residence

This workshop is aimed to help live-in caregivers understand the step by step process of applying for permanent residence after completing the requirements of the LCP.

The workshop was facilitated by: CDWCR members- Cenen Bagon and Judith Diesta, and Darla Tomeldan, a Legal Advocate with West Coast Domestic Workers Association (DWA). Aside from going through the checklist and the general requirements to apply for permanent residency (PR) and open work permit, the workshop also include discussion of common issues encountered during PR application and how to address them.

Nov 16, 2014 – Life after LCP

The Life after LCP workshop's goal is to provide participants with the necessary resources to assist them and their family in settling in as they transition to permanent residency.

Following are the resource speakers and the topics they covered in the workshop:

Chit Arma- Settlement Worker -Immigrant Services Society (ISS): She discussed some of the services that ISS provides to help new immigrants settle.

Mary Tecson – Coordinator –Employment Solutions Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS of BC). Mary discussed some of the services that the ISS of BC offers to new immigrants including caregivers who already completed the Live-in Caregivers Program.

Rommel Mannikan – Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) of the Vancouver School Board of Education, provided information on services like referrals and how to avail of orientation briefings for new families.

Joy Jhocson – Outreach Settlement Worker – Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PICS). She provided an overview on the services that PICS provides. PICS is a non-profit organization that has been providing services for immigrant women and their young children in Vancouver since 1975.

Before the discussions with the resource speakers, Angie Lisao, a steering committee member of the CDWCR and one of the pioneers of the Care-Net Project, shared her experience adjusting to life in Canada.

Overall, participants of the 2014 Care-Net Project responded with positive learning experience. Thanks to BCGEU's support, the project will continue in 2015 (please see the dates under ANNOUNCEMENT, this page).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the increasing printing and mailing cost, CDWCR will be sending out copies of the 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. Printed copies of the newsletter can be availed of 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: _____