



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.

Highlights:

Caregiver's Perspective	2
Canada Day	2
Roundtable Discussion	3
Care-Net 2017 Updates	3
Singing Nannies	4
Announcements	4

Care-Net Project 2017: Immigration

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) launched the 2017 Care-Net Project on February 26, 2017 during the Immigration Workshop. At least 50 attended this workshop.

Jenny Kwan, Member of the Canadian House of Commons, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East and NDP Critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship served as the resource speaker for the workshop.

Jenny Kwan emphasized that all workers coming to Canada including caregivers who would like to stay must be allowed to come to Canada as permanent residents. This is consistent with CDWCR's stand on landed status upon arrival for all caregivers and foreign workers. She indicated that immigration is the building block of Canada. She recognized some of the issues relating to the old Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) particularly the long processing time resulting delayed family reunification. Discussion also included some of the issues relating to the new Caregiver Program, particularly the difficulty of meeting the requirements of the new pathways. On 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.



with MP Jenny Kwan

On these new pathways, caregivers can apply for permanent residency after completing the required experience but must also meet the required education and language.

Continue page 3.....

CDWCR Hold its Annual General Meeting

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) held its Annual General Meeting last May 7, 2017 at South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave., Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm.

Bing Nabor presented the history of CDWCR, while Judith Diesta, Lotis Caluza and Angie Lisao discussed the functions of CDWCR Steering Committee and the various committees that oversee the planning and implementation of the organization's activities.

Julie Diesta presented the Coordinator's report covering CDWCR's Activities in 2016, while Lorina Serafico presented the organization's financial report. Highlighted on both reports is the importance of volunteer works done by core members to ensure that the organization can continue operating according to its mandates. CDWCR encourages members, especially new members to volunteer during CDWCR activities.

The newly elected Board members (also called the Steering Committee members) for 2017 are: Lotis Caluza, Judith Diesta, Julie Diesta, Ludy Inting, Angie Lisao, Bing Nabor Orense, Lorina Serafico, Maribel Aloria, and Cenen Bagon.

As part of the AGM, CDWCR also conducted an Assertiveness Workshop. The workshop was facilitated by CDWCR Steering Committee members and volunteers: Judith Diesta, Lotis Caluza and Maribel Aloria. The workshop provided attendees information on how to develop assertiveness, differences between passive, aggressive and assertive behavior, and how to ask for raise. At the end of the workshop, attendees learned some tools and new skills that they can utilize in dealing with daily challenges both in their work and personal lives.

GETTING TO KNOW ICES AND BE FINANCIALLY FREE

Last June 11, 2017 in South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, I attended the Financial Basic Workshop. This workshop was part of CDWCR's CARE NET PROJECT.

One of the resource speakers during the workshop was Julia Coquingo from International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES). Considering that one of the requirements to apply for permanent residency under the new Caregiver Program is the Educational Credential Assessment (ECA), this presentation was very important for caregivers. It provided us with thorough understanding of the process as we prepare for our application. ICES report could also be used for employment and upgrading.

For the Financial Basic Workshop, the speaker was Ms. Lorina Serafico. She is one of the core members of CDWCR and a Financial Advisor from Scotia Bank. During the workshop, she provided us with an activity on how to do our monthly income budgeting. This activity helped us to track the expenses that we need and the expenses that we just want. Budgeting is very important because it will help you control your spending and assist you in saving.

“Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg” – Ms. Lorina Serafico

Filipinos are very hard working and the main reason for this is to help their family back home. We dream of giving them a better life and most of the time we forget to take care of ourselves. There are plenty of caregivers who still live paycheck to paycheck every month because they always think about the needs of their family. Caregivers work hard and experience a lot of sacrifices being away from home and their family. It is really important that every cent that they work for will be put into good use without neglecting their needs as a person. Ms. Lorina listed some reminders that will help every working individual on how to start having the control over their finances.

1. Money is a tool not a solution – it is a tool to help others and to help yourself
2. How you spend it is more important than how you invest it
3. Love your job or leave it – you spend more time in your job so at least do thing that you enjoy the most
4. Put first things first – what is the thing that is important to you? Family? Career?
5. Set goals - goals that are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound)
6. Save and know your spending

As part of the Financial Basic Workshop, Ms. Lorina invited another speaker Ms, Marites Dacuyan, She is a former caregiver and now working as an insurance advisor. She followed all the reminders that Ms. Lorina showed us during the workshop and she also shared about the power of vision board and positive thinking. Her story is so inspiring and gives us a lot of hope in the future that really, everything is possible.

CDWCR is conducting a lot of workshops that will help caregivers who are working in Canada. For all the hard work, we are truly grateful.

This article is written by one of the participants of the 2017 Care-Net Project- Ginny Vinas. She is a caregiver who arrived in Canada on May 11, 2016, as an In-home Caregiver under the TFWP. She hopes that by attending the series of workshops under the CDCWR Care-Net Project, the information she learned from the workshop would help her when she applies for PR under the new Caregiver Program and as she settles in Canada.

CDWCR Canada Day Walk

CDWCR celebrated the 150th Canada Day on July 1, 2017 at Central Park, Burnaby by holding its second Annual Caregivers' Walk for Landed Status Now. The walk was followed by small picnic and gathering with caregivers and their supporters, friends and families.

The walk is to remind all Canadians that all workers coming to Canada including caregivers and domestic workers must come to Canada as permanent residents to fully recognize their contribution to the Canadian society.



.... Care-Net Project 2017: Immigration (Round Table Discussion)

(continued from page 1)

been recently removed. Although this is a welcome change, CDWCR is also concerned that caregivers who will not qualify to apply for PR under the new pathways will just continue working as temporary foreign worker for many years without any opportunity to become permanent resident.

At the end of the workshop, CDWCR provided the following recommendations to Jenny Kwan:

- 1) Landed Status upon arrival for caregivers
- 2) As an interim measure, provide open work permit to all foreign caregivers in Canada so they are not tied up to one employer.
- 3) Licensing and regulating recruiters and agencies
- 4) Proactive investigations of labour issues encountered by caregivers.
- 5) Review the medical inadmissibility of caregivers and repatriation of migrant workers due to health concerns.
- 6) Removal of the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)

CDWCR is looking forward to continue working with Jenny Kwan in lobbying with the government to improve the lives of caregivers. Jenny Kwan has been a long time supporter of CDWCR.

Another workshop on Immigration was conducted as part of the Care-Net Project. This is the Caregivers Roundtable Discussion, This new format of workshop focussed on foreign caregivers. The workshop provided an open discussion regarding the new Caregiver Program. It was held on April 7, 2017.

The workshop was attended by different type of caregivers: in-home caregivers caring for children, in-home caregivers caring for elderly, caregivers who are still in LCP and are already in open work permit, and caregivers who are still in LCP waiting to complete the program.

The roundtable discussion provided a safe and confidential venue for participants to share their experiences, issues encountered and needs to ensure that they will meet the requirements to apply for permanent residence.

Following are some of the issues and cases identified during the discussion:

- 1) Some caregivers paid up to \$30,000.00 agency fee to process the work permit. This was usually collected at the country where they applied the work permit.
- 2) There were caregivers who are not being paid with the prevailing rate as defined on their work permit.
- 3) There were caregivers who were still required by employer to live on their home to do some house works on top of caregiving.
- 4) There was a case that the NOC (National Occupational Classification) number on the work permit is for baby sitter, nanny or parents helper (caring for children), while the caregiver was hired and working as caregiver for elderly.
- 5) Some caregivers may not meet the required education of the Caregiver Program pathways. The requirement of the NOC and old LCP, caregivers only require to complete secondary education. However, the new pathways require an equivalent to post-secondary education credential of at least one year.



- 7) The requirements to apply for PR under new Caregiver Program will result to additional financial burden to caregivers. They will need to save for the language testing and educational accreditation.
- 8) For those who were still under the LCP, there were cases where caregivers may not be able to complete the required two years work permit within four years due to the long processing time of obtaining the work permit when they change employer.
- 9) While the LMIA application and contract defines the responsibilities of the employer, it is not clear who is responsible for enforcement to ensure protection of caregivers.

Considering that the Caregiver Program is new, we are still not clear how some of these issues would affect the caregivers' application for PR. CDWCR encouraged participants particularly those who arrived in Canada as in-home caregivers and will apply PR under the new Caregiver Program to review and understand the requirements of the pathways they will be eligible and start for preparing the requirements. CDWCR will provide follow-up workshop to go through the forms and specific requirements as they prepare for the application.

CARE-NET Project 2017 Updates

CDWCR also completed two more workshops under the 2017 Care-Net Project: Income Tax Workshop on March 19, 2017 and Financial Basic Workshop on June 11, 2017.

All the workshops under the Care-Net Project are held at South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave., Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm.

There will be three more workshop scheduled for 2017. Refer to the schedule on page 4 for details.

Free lunch is provided at 12:00. This is also an opportunity to socialize and create new friends or volunteer and help out with the preparation for the workshop.

The Care-Net project is made possible through the funding provided by the BCGEU (British Columbia Government & Service Employees Union)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Care-Net Project

September 10 – Employment Standard Workshop
October 15 – Preparing for PR under the new Caregiver Program
November 26 – Health and Wellness Workshop

South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 East 49th Ave., Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm.
FREE LUNCH at 12:00 noon

Other Activities

Aug. 20, 2017 First Aid Course
November 18, 2017 Pasko Na Naman IV (Singing Nannies Fundraising Concert)
Dec 9 – CDWCR 25th Anniversary and Christmas Party

Details to be announced.

SINGING NANNIES - PASKO Na NAMAN CONCERT Save the Date!



The Singing Nannies Pasko Na Naman concert will be held on November 18, 2017, 7-9pm at Vancouver Alpen Club 4875 Victoria Dr./East 33rd Ave. This concert is being organized by CDWCR as a Fundraising Project. CDWCR welcomes donors, sponsors and volunteer for this project. CDWCR will be providing more details on how you can take part in this project, and how you can avail the ticket to watch this concert.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the 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)
- Movement of Unite Professionals (MoveUP Together)
- HSA (Health Sciences Association of BC)
- WCDWA (West Coast Domestic Workers Association)
- Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)

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: _____