

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.

Highlights:

Caregiver's Perspective	2
Nanjing Massacre	3
Landed Status Now	3
Care-Net 2018	3
Announcements	4

Fight for Landed Status for Care Workers Continues!

The Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR), along with other caregivers and migrant workers organizations across Canada, continues in their efforts to campaign for permanent residence upon arrival for foreign caregivers/care workers. The Canadian Immigration Policy on Caregiver Program is currently under review, and the pilot Caregiver Program is expected to expire on November 2019.

Migrant workers organizations and their supporters in Canada bonded together and presented the following - a unified permanent solution to the problematic temporary Caregiver Program and the permanent labour market need for care workers in Canada:

- 1) The Federal government should create a new Federal Workers Program for Care Workers that provides permanent residence upon entry for caregivers and their families.
- 2) The new program should require the actual skills needed to deliver the care work that migrant care workers are currently providing.
- 3) Care workers should be able to seek employment as care workers in Canada through the national job bank. Employers should be able to seek care workers also from the national job bank.



CDWCR calls for Landed Status now during its Annual Canada Day Walk

This would take away the need for recruitment agencies, third party agencies who charge thousands of dollars from care workers.

- 4) Care workers who are approved under the new Program should be able to come as permanent residents with their family members – which would resolve the long years of separation from each other in the current and in the old programs. *(Continuation page 3.)*

CDWCR Holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM)

CDWCR's AGM was held last May 6, 2018. During the AGM, CDWCR reported its past activities and financial status of the past year. Around 30 members attended. The new Steering Committee members are: Lotis Caluza, Julie Diesta, Judith Diesta, Ludy Inting, Angelina Lisao, Newnelyn Nabor, Sheila Sablan, Lorina Serafico, Maribel Aloria and Cenen Bagon. During the AGM, it was emphasized that the SC members must be fully committed to the organization.

The AGM was followed by a workshop on Social Media and fake news. The objective of the workshop was to provide participants information on the importance of social media and also on the risk of using social media including fake news and internet trolls. Different types of social media were discussed: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Skype, Viber, Facetime, Video call, and Blogg.

The workshop discussed how to distinguish fake news from real news. Fake news are stories or hoaxes created to misinform direct readers. Different kinds of fake news were discussed: Click bait, Propaganda, Satire/parody, Sloppy journalism, Misleading headings and Biased/Slanted news. You can read fake news every where. It is a tool used to misinform people. We need to ensure that we recognize fake news so we can avoid sharing them. To recognize fake news, we need to use our critical thinking in analysing the news we read. We should always check the headline, check the source and check facts. We should also protect our personal information that we share in social media.

Social media is an important tool that allows us to engage and connect, share content and provide more exposure, drive traffic, market products, and extend our public relations reach. If used properly, organizations like CDWCR can use it to reach out with its members and also share information. We just need to make sure that it is used properly.

Joining the CDWCR Steering Committee and my Experience

What is the Steering Committee? That was the question I asked the first time I heard of them. I had been attending workshops organized by CDWCR and had an opportunity to meet some of its core members and became friends with them.

During the CDWCR AGM, my friend nominated me to become one of the Steering Committee members of CDWCR. At first, I wasn't sure about it, but I was really interested to learn what it is about and what would happen if I join the group. Although I am just new, I felt at home with the organization and everyone is very friendly. So even though I was still confused with what my feelings are, I still said YES.

In the past few months since I had been attending the Steering Committee meetings and their workshops, I had proven to myself that this is the right place for new comers in Canada like me. They are the right people to go to with your questions. They will try their best to give you answers and information. During the Steering Committee meetings, your opinion matters. If you share your opinion, they really value and listen to them.

What someone said once " *If I had to think of a key personality trait for a good leader, it would be confidence. If a person is confident they can really gain the respect and trust of their audience*" This is what I see in all SC members.

Thank you so much CDWCR Steering Committee for the wonderful experience.

This article was written by Sheila Sablan. Sheila is a care worker who arrived in Canada as an In-home Caregiver under the TFWP on May 31, 2016. Sheila is a new member of the CDWCR Steering Committee. She helps CDWCR reach out to other foreign temporary care workers. She is an active member of the CDWCR Membership Committee. CDWCR appreciates Sheila's contribution to CDWCR.

CDWCR is open for volunteers to help us organize our different activities including workshops. We also recognize and value the information we gathered from care workers based on their experience. It is important to incorporate the voices of care workers in our work, especially in our lobby and advocacy works.

CDWCR Joins the Campaign to Commemorate the Nanjing Massacre

On July 6, 2018 Jenny Kwan, MP (Member of Parliament) Vancouver East – NDP (New Democratic Party) held a press conference on the campaign to Commemorate the Nanjing Massacre every Dec 13.

Nanjing Massacre was a mass murder and rape committed by Japanese troops against the residence of Nanjing, China back in World War II (1937). Ms. Kwan is advocating to the federal government to recognize its historical significance by commemorating the Nanjing Massacre every year. Remembering this event would help heal the past and move forward.

There were several organizations and individuals that took part on the press conference. Several CDWCR members attended the press conference. Lorina Serafico spoke on behalf of the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR). Satoko Norimatsu served as the spokesperson of the Japanese Canadians Supporting Nanjing Massacre. Satoko is also the founder of Peace Philosophy Centre. Others who attended and spoke during the press conference were: Dr Bong Hwan Kim, representative from Korean Senior Citizens of Greater Vancouver; Augusta Lokhorst, a descendant of Imperial Japanese concentration camp victim in the Dutch East Indies; Perry Sorio from Migrante, BC, Co-chair Canada ALPHA; Thekla Lit and Journalist Paul Johnson.

CDWCR joins the call for Canada to commemorate the Nanjing Massacre every December 13 of every year. We join in affirming this historical fact, the destruction of which was ordered by the commanding general of the Japanese Central China Front Army, Matsui Iwane, and the acts of murder and rape carried out by Tani Hisao, then lieutenant general. Both men were found guilty of war crimes by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East and were executed.

In the era of historical revisionism, it is important that we stand against any efforts to downplay the history. We need to recognize those kinds of abuse in the past. Only in recognizing the history that we learn from it and hope that today's and future generation will not encounter the same.

We encourage everybody to sign the petition. You can sign up at Jenny Kwan's website www.jennykwanndp.ca

Landed Status Now!... cont'd from page 1

For temporary care workers who are already here or are still coming in Canada under the old programs - Live In Caregiver Program (LCP) and Temporary Foreign Worker Program under the Caregiver streams, we are calling on the government to:

1. Allow care workers to apply for Permanent Residence after one year of work (or 1,950 hours).
2. Provide care workers with open work permits.
3. Remove the requirement of one year Canadian post-secondary education.
4. Remove the English language test prior to permanent residency.
5. Remove the caps that only allow 2,750 PR applications each year in each caregiving stream – child care and care with high medical needs.
6. Clear the permanent resident backlog.
7. Allow spouses and children to join care workers with open work permit and study permits of their own.
8. Remove the second medical when applying for PR; and
9. Repeal Section 38(1)(c) of the IRPA (“Medical Admissibility” rules) because it discriminates against people with disabilities.

To date, CDWCR has undertaken the following activities to support the campaign:

- 1) CDWCR works with migrant workers organizations across Canada in the call for the government to come up with an Immigration Program that will allow care workers/caregivers to come to Canada as permanent residents.
 - a. CDWCR has been actively collecting signatures for the petition to call on the government to grant the demands as presented above. For more information or to sign the petition, go to: <http://caregiversactioncentre.org/permanent-status-now/sign-the-petition/>.
 - b. CDWCR has been working with care workers who are still in temporary foreign worker’s status to complete a survey about their experience working in Canada. The objective of the survey is to compile stories and quote directly from caregivers to support the campaign.
 - c. CDWCR has been educating its members and those who are attending CDWCR’s regular workshops regarding the campaign.
- 2) CDWCR participated in the Mother’s Day Flash Mob organized by Migrant Workers Centre in downtown Vancouver as part of the National Day of Action last May 13, 2018
- 3) On June 17, 2018, to celebrate the International Domestic Workers’ Day, CDWCR showed a documentary film about Foreign Domestic Workers’ Fight for “Right to Stay” in Canada., a film that showed how foreign domestic workers in the 1980’s fought and lobbied the government so that they can stay in Canada as permanent residents. During this film showing, CDWCR also explained how the International Domestic Workers’ Day came about; explained the petition campaign for the Canadian government to ratify the International Labour Organization’s Domestic Workers Convention 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers; and invite provincial and territorial governments to harmonize their laws with the International Labour Organization’s Recommendation No. 201, which accompanies this Convention.



CDWCR members during the International Domestic Day Celebration, after the film showing and discussions.

- 4) Annual Canada Day Caregiver’s Walk for Landed Status Now– July 1, 2018 . CDWCR, on its third year now, had been celebrating Canada Day by holding the Caregiver’s Walk for Landed Status Now. This year, CDWCR took the opportunity to explain the campaign and solicited signatures for the petition.

The IRCC Caregivers Program consultations have been completed. The Vancouver consultation was held on April 16, 2018 which CDWCR took part of. However, we have not heard any result from these consultations.

With one voice, care workers ask the Federal government to create a formal, transparent and public process for review of the Caregiver Program. With one voice, care workers say, the time has come to make real, meaningful reforms to Caregiver Program that ensure decent work and security in migrant care work.

CARE-NET Project 2018 Updates

CDWCR Care-Net workshops are continuing this year. Another workshop was completed on June 10, 2018. The workshop was entitled “Retirement – Planning for the Future”. It was facilitated by resource speakers from Vancity. It was attended by 28 participants.

Topics presented included RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan) and TFSA (Tax-free Savings Account). The resource speakers also discussed the different government retirement benefits such as the OAS (Old Age Security Pension), GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplements) and CPP (Canada Pension Plan) and their eligibility requirements.

Participants found the information shared in the workshop very important even to those who are still young and not close to retirement age. The information they learned will allow them to prepare for their retirement in the future.

There will be two more workshops remaining in 2018 under the Care-Net Project. All workshops are held at Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 E. 49th Ave. (and Kerr Street), Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm with Free Lunch from 12pm to 1pm. Please see page 4 –Announcement for details and dates of the upcoming workshops.

ANNOUNCEMENT

2018 Care-Net Project Schedule

Oct 14: Employment Standards Workshop
Nov 4: Career Path Workshop

CDWCR Care-Net Workshops will be held at South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 E. 49th Ave. (and Kerr Street), Vancouver from 1pm to 4pm with Free Lunch from 12pm to 1pm.

2018 CDWCR EVENTS

Nov 24: CDWCR Fundraising Dance (see flyer for details)

Dec 15: CDWCR 26th Anniversary and Christmas Party
Christmas party will be held at South Vancouver Adult Day Centre, 3076 E. 49th Ave. (and Kerr Street), Vancouver. Time and details to



Care-Net Project is funded by BCGEU (British Columbia Government & Service Employees Union)

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the increasing printing and mailing cost, CDWCR will be sending out copy of 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.



Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR)
PO Box 37033 Vancouver, BC V5P 3X0 • Fax/Tel: 604-874-0649 • www.cdwcr.org

Join us in our
Fundraising Dance for A Cause



Saturday, November 24, 2018

7:00 pm - 12:00 am

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

Wear your 70's outfit

Music by: Star Mobile DJ
For Info: Call: 604.874.0649
Tickets: \$12.00

***Proceeds will go to the Philippines typhoon "Ompong" victims



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Care-Net Project 2018

Employment Standards Workshop for Care Workers under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)

Please join us and learn about your rights as workers in BC

We have resource speakers from:

**BC Employment Standards Branch
BC Employment Standards Coalition
Migrant Worker Centre**

Sunday, October 14, 2018

1pm - 4pm

South Vancouver Adult Day Centre
3076 E. 49th Avenue (and Kerr Street)
Vancouver, BC V5S 1K9

Topics to be discussed:

- Employment Standards Act - relating to care workers (caregivers)
- Common issues and problems encountered by temporary foreign care workers and how to address them
- Status of Campaign to change the Employment Standards Act to benefit workers including care workers.

Bring your questions relating to your work conditions
And get advice straight from our resource speakers.

Please call to register @ 604-874-0649
FREE LUNCH @ 12noon-1:00pm

Care-Net Project 2018
Developed and Organized by:
Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR)

Funded by: bcsgeu

We wish to thank:

- BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)
- Hospital Employees' Union (HEU)
- Movement of United Professionals (MoveUp)
- Vancouver and District Labour Council (VDLC)
- BC Employment Standards Coalition
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (VRRWS)
- Migrant Workers Centre (formerly called Westcoast Domestic Workers Association)
- Immigrant Services Society of BC

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: _____