

Migrant Caregivers Action

for Permanent Residence

At Issue

Over the last 60 years, overseas caregivers have had to navigate Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program to apply for permanent residence. This process has led to widespread complaints, well-documented cases of exploitation and abuse of caregivers by employers and recruiters, years of separation from families, and uncertainty about whether or when permanent residence will be granted.

Canada's current Caregiver Pilot Program ends in November 2019. After consulting with stakeholders, including employers, migrant workers and civil society organizations, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is drafting a new program.

This presents a golden opportunity to advocate for improved working conditions and a guaranteed pathway to permanent residence.

Take Action

Please contact the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, urging the government to:

- **Grant Permanent Residence on arrival** for migrant caregivers and their families, as well as other foreign migrant workers.
- **Leave no one behind:** Clear the application backlog, end medical inadmissibility, regularize the status of caregivers and other migrant workers who have become undocumented, and end educational and language requirements.

Email:

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship at Minister@cic.gc.ca.

Copy:

Serge Cormier, IRCC Parliamentary Secretary - Serge.Cormier@parl.gc.ca; Michelle Rempel, IRCC Critic, Conservative Party of Canada - Michelle.Rempel@parl.gc.ca; Jenny Wai Ching Kwan, IRCC Critic, New Democratic Party - Jenny.Kwan@parl.gc.ca; Your Member of Parliament.

"Our children with disabilities are not a burden to us. They are a blessing. They are the reason why we work so hard, why we become stronger people. Yet we are being penalized for having children or other family members with a disability." - Caregiver



Maria's story

"Maria"*, a caregiver from the Philippines, lost her job due to medical issues from an injury suffered at work. She was forced to pay her own medical bills because her employer did not enrol her in an insurance plan, which is a requirement.

It took Maria nine months to find another job because few employers are willing to wait the months it takes to get a new work permit, and to pay the high fees associated with hiring migrant caregivers under the current pilot caregivers program.

Because of these delays, she will not fulfil the 24 month requirement and may not be eligible to apply for permanent residence.

* Actual name withheld to protect her privacy.



Background

For more than a century Canada has brought in migrant women to manage households and care for children and the elderly. This need for migrant caregivers continues. It is never temporary.

The current Caregiver Pilot Program presents significant barriers to permanent residency. Migrants are faced with a mandatory cap, high language and education benchmarks and admissibility based on security and finances.

Currently, migrant caregivers must work for 24 months (or 3900 hours) before they can apply for permanent residence. Caregivers who entered Canada since December 2017 are concerned that the hours or months they work will not transfer to the new program when it comes in effect in November 2019. IRCC officials have not yet addressed this concern.

Furthermore, approximately 20,000 migrant caregivers in Canada who have applied for permanent residence are stuck in an application backlog. Some caregivers have been waiting since 2008. These extended periods of separation and uncertainty have led to family breakdowns and mental health challenges.

Canada's plan to end the Caregiver Pilot Program is an opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of caregivers and all migrant workers who come to our country and contribute to the economy and society.



Who We Are

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a faith-based social justice organization of ten Canadian churches and religious organizations. We focus on Indigenous rights, international human rights, and ecological and gender justice. We deliberate on issues of common concern, advocate for social change and join with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation.

Partners

Caregivers Action Centre, Caregiver Connections, Education and Support Organization, Care 4 Caregivers, GABRIELA Ontario, Migrante Canada and its provincial affiliates, Eto Tayong Caregivers (ETC), The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO), PINAY (Montreal), Philippine Migrant Society in Canada (PMSC, Ottawa) and Migrant Resource Centre Canada.

Contact

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