

# Permanent Residency NOW for Migrant Workers

For decades, Canada's temporary migrant worker programs have made it difficult for overseas caregivers to become permanent residents. This provisional approach has manifested in consistent and widespread complaints, and well-documented cases of exploitation and abuse at the hands of employers and recruiters.

This situation runs counter to Canadian values and must change.



Canada's Caregiver Pilot Program, a subsection of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), will end in the fall of 2019. Most of the work under this "temporary" program, whether it be caregiving, farming or fish processing, is full-time and/or year-long. While some work is seasonal, these are not *temporary* jobs.

Most temporary foreign workers in Canada cannot apply for permanent residency and citizenship, except for caregivers.

However, the current Caregiver Pilot Program presents applicants with significant barriers to permanent residency. While migrant caregivers no longer need to live in their employer's home, as mandated in the former Live-In Program, they still face a mandatory cap, high language and education benchmarks, and health, security and financial requirements. Furthermore, approximately 20,000 migrant caregivers in Canada who have applied for permanent residency are stuck in an application backlog. Some caregivers have been waiting for years. 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 offers an opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of caregivers and all migrant workers who contribute so much to Canadian society.

## As Canada develops a new caregiver program we urge it to:

- **Grant Permanent Residency** on arrival to 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 education and language requirements.

*KAIROS Canada, 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.*