

MIGRATION PATHWAYS

Canada Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP)

Overview

Under the Canada Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP), a Canadian citizen could employ a foreign national as a caregiver if no Canadian citizen or permanent resident was available for the job. The program provided a pathway for permanent residence after two years of work.

Why was it started?

The program was created to provide a legal pathway for in-home caregivers in Canada.

How does it work?

This program fell under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and required a Labor Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). Applicants needed to be able to provide at least 30 hours of full-time care to children under 18, people 65 or older, or people with disabilities. They were required to live and work in a private household and meet specific requirements, depending on the type of care and the individual receiving it.

What impact has it had?

The requirement to live with the family left caregivers vulnerable to labor and personal abuse. Critics argued that the program needed to be reformed to better ensure the safety of caregivers. The program ended in 2014. There was a significant backlog of applications for permanent residence under the LCP, resulting in very long processing times.



Country of Destination
CANADA

Country of Origin
NOT SPECIFIED

Skill
CAREGIVING 

Skill Level
MID-SKILL

Timeline
1992–2014

Beneficiaries
AT LEAST 25,000

Countries all around the world utilize migration pathways to train and bring over workers with needed skills. The CGD Migration Pathways database documents these pathways to promote innovation in this space. To explore the database, visit GSP.cgdev.org.

Further readings

Akrami & Associates. n.d. "Requirements to become a live-in caregiver in Canada." requirements to become a live-in caregiver in Canada. <https://thevisa.ca/live-in-caregiver-program/requirements-to-become-a-live-in-caregiver-in-canada.html>

Canadians for an Inclusive Canada. n.d. "The story of the live-in caregiver program." <http://www.inclusivecan.ca/learn/lcptimeline/>

Canadim. "Canada Live in Caregiver Program 2017: Updated program requirements." Canadian Immigration Law Firm, May 26. <https://www.canadim.com/blog/live-in-caregiver-2017-update/>

Mojtehedzadeh, Sara. "Migrant Caregivers in Canada Are Working More Unpaid Hours during the Pandemic, and Many Are Barred from Leaving the Home, Report Says." thestar.com. Toronto Star, October 28, 2020. <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/10/28/migrant-caregivers-in-canada-are-working-more-unpaid-hours-during-the-pandemic-and-many-are-barred-from-leaving-the-home-report-says.html>

Tungohan, Ethel. 2012. "Debunking notions of migrant 'victimhood': A critical assessment of temporary labour migration programs and Filipina migrant activism in Canada." *In Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility*, edited by Roland Sintos Coloma, Bonnie McElhinny, Ethel Tungohan, John Paul C. Catungal, and Lisa M. Davidson. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.



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