

Snapshot – Live-In- Caregiver Program

- Live-in Caregiver (LIC) program was repealed in Nov. 2016; no new permits since Nov. 2014.
- In 2016, the majority of LIC caregivers were from the Philippines (88% or 6,910). Other countries include India (180), China (135), and Indonesia (40) (IRCC, 2017).¹
- 70% LIC caregivers reach permanent residence (PR) within 5 years; 87% after 10 years².
- In Dec. 2017, 23,000 caregivers had open work permits and were still waiting for their PR applications to be processed (down from 62,000 in 2014) (Keung, 2017).

Snapshot – Caregiver Program

The **Caregiver Program** was created in Nov. 2014 with two streams (set to expire Nov 2019):

Low Skills - Caring for Children Pathway, for childcare (NOC# 4411).³

High Skills - Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway, for care to the elderly and people with disabilities in health facilities (NOC#: 3012, 3233, 3413, and 4412).

CAREGIVER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & CHARACTERISTICS—2015 TO 2017

- Live-in requirement waived (CIC, 2014); though most caregivers continue to “live-in.”
- Employers must complete a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) to hire a caregiver; as of Jan 2018, the \$1,000 LMIA fee applies only to families that earn more than \$150,000.
- Processing for both LMIA and work permit takes an average of **8 months**.
- **In 2017**, 5,415 (95%) of permits were issued for the Caring for Children pathway (NOC#4411) (may including renewed permits); only 30 permits were issued under “High Medical Needs” pathway (NOC# 3012, 3233, 3413).
- Ontario has the most Caregivers, followed by Alberta and British Columbia.

¹ IRCC. (2017b). *Canada - Live-in Caregivers work permit holders by gender, age grouping (15 hierarchy) and year in which permit(s) became effective, 2014 – 2016* [Data table]. Government of Canada. Available at <https://openCanada.ca>

² Prokopenko, E. & Hou, F. (2018). *Study: How temporary were Canada's temporary foreign workers?* Analytic Branch Research Paper. Statistics Canada. No. 11F0019M — No. 402 Available at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

³ CIC (2017). What kind of work experience do I need to apply for the Caregiver Program [webpage] Government of Canada. Available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca>

Access to Permanent Residence for the “New Pathway”

The Caregiver Program’s application requirements for Permanent Residents:

- Work requirements remains at 2-years (3,900 hours) work within a 4-year period.
- New education requirement: One-year post-secondary study in Canada or foreign degree that is equivalent to a 4-year Canadian post-secondary degree.
- New language requirement: Level 5 (Caring for Children) or Level 7 (High Medical Needs) language requirement. Caregiver permits not eligible for LINC classes.
- Average processing time for PR application is 8 months; acceptance rate is unknown.
- In 2017, only 555 Caregivers receive permanent residence out of 2,730 applicants.⁴

Admission of Permanent Residents in the Caregiver Program by Category, 2014 – 2016⁵

| Immigrant Category | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|--------|--------|-------|------|
| Caring for Children Program | 0 | 10 | 200 | 555 |
| Caring for People with High Medical Needs | 0 | 25 | 55 | |
| Live-in Caregiver Program | 11,445 | 10,920 | 6,380 | n/a |

**Does not include dependents.*

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Reduce processing times for permanent residence applications.**
IRCC aims to process remaining applicants from the Live-in-Caregiver Program by the end of 2018. Processing must be expedited to reduce suffering of caregivers and their families.
- 2. Open Work Permits for Caregivers.**
An open work permit is necessary to ensure caregivers can maintain regular employment AND as protection from exploitation and abuse.
- 3. Extend the right to for Migrant Workers to enter Canada with their spouse and children.**
Migrant workers should have the right to enter Canada as immigrants with the right to bring their families when they move to Canada from overseas.

⁴ Keung, N. (2018, February 3). Number of migrant caregivers becoming permanent residents plummets after federal changes. *Toronto Star*. Available at www.thestar.com

⁵ IRCC (2017). Live-In Caregivers Work Permit Holders by Gender, Age Grouping (15 Year Hierarchy) and Year in which Permit(s) became effective, 2014 – 2016 [Data set]. Government of Canada.