INTERIM PATHWAY: INFORMATION FOR CARE WORKERS

Current pathways for permanent residency

As a result of Care Worker organizing, the federal government has created an Interim Pathway for workers already here in Canada, and announced a Caregiver Pilot Program for those that will come in the future.
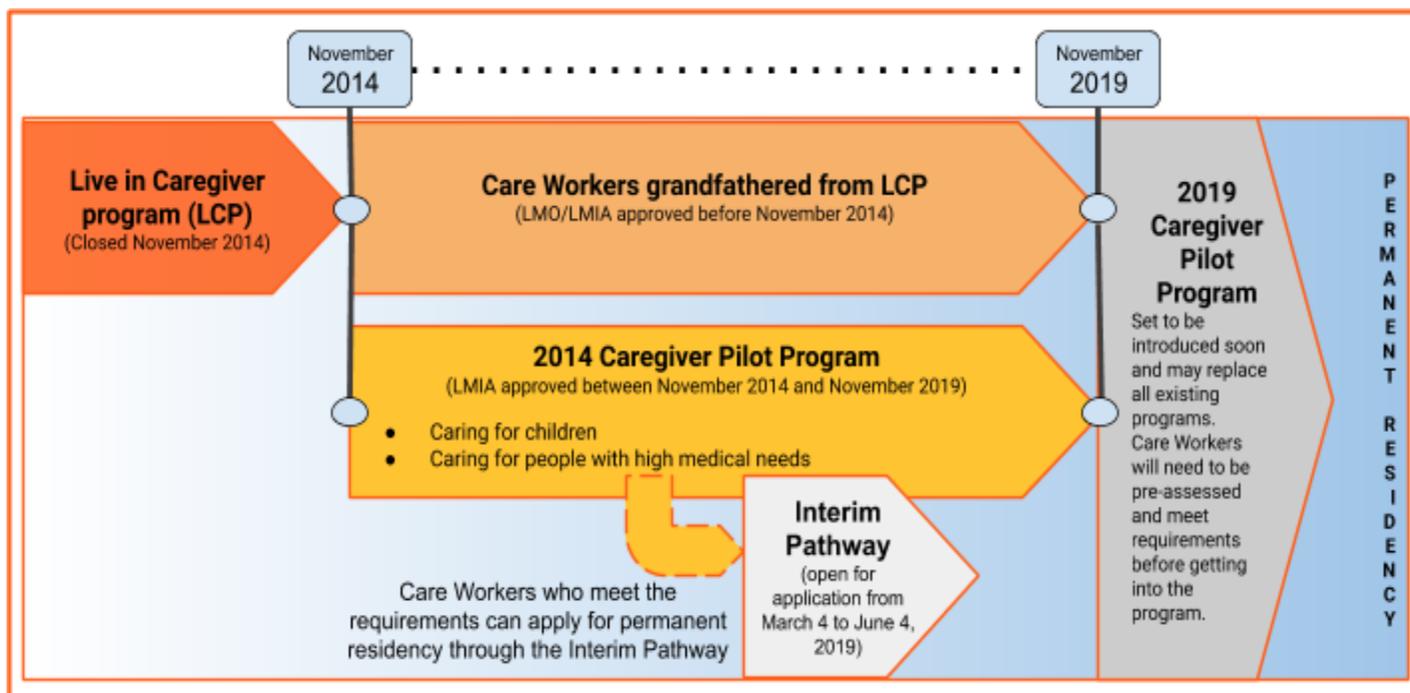
INTERIM PATHWAY

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introduced the Interim Pathway because of the problems Care Workers faced meeting requirements for Permanent Residency under the 2014 Caregiver Program 5-year Pilot Project.

Care Workers are eligible for the interim program if you have the required:

- work experience
- status in Canada
- language levels
- educational credential
- plan to live outside the province of Quebec

Still not sure if you are eligible? See detailed worksheet for eligibility criteria and conditions at www.CaregiversActionCentre.org or contact us at info@caregiversactioncentre.org

Work Experience
You need to have worked in Canada for **at least 12 months of full-time work under the Caregiver Program** with temporary status on a **work permit since November 30, 2014, either as a:**
- NOC code 4411- home child care provider
- NOC code 4412- home support worker
- or a combination of the two

If you moved from the **Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) to the 2014 Caregiver Program**, you may include months worked under the LCP (NOC code 6474 and NOC code 6471). Make sure you are currently part of the 2014 Caregiver Program.

Status in Canada
When you apply, you must:
- have a valid work permit, or
- have applied to extend your work permit and be waiting on a decision, or
- have applied to restore your status as a worker or are eligible for restoration.

Language test

You need to take a language test at an approved language testing agency and get **CLB level 5**. You need to submit:

- Original test results with CLB 5 score:
    - **CELPIP-G score:** CLB level 5 in all 4 skills (writing 5, reading 5, listening 5, and speaking 5), or
    - **IELTS General Training score:** CLB level 5 (writing 5, reading 4, listening 5, and speaking 5).
- If you do not have proof of language test, you can submit proof that you have scheduled the test. Include the date that you'll be taking your test.

Note: Once you get the original test results, the date on your test results must match the date you gave on your application.

Didn't get CLB 5?
For IELTS, you can apply for Enquiry on Results (EOR), to review your final score within 6 weeks of the test date. Check their website to find out how to apply: https://www.ieltscanada.ca/resultsenquiry

For CELPIP, you can apply for re-evaluation within 6 weeks of the test date.
Check their website to find out how to apply: https://www.celpip.ca/faq/feel-test-evaluated-incorrectly/

Educational Credential

The education requirement is for **Canadian High School (or higher) or equivalent education abroad**. You must get an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) from an approved organization. You need to submit:

- Original ECA report, showing credentials are equal to a completed **Canadian high school diploma or higher,** or
- If you do not have proof of education, you can submit proof that you are waiting for the equivalency results for your education. For example, a receipt or written confirmation.

Barriers

This Interim Pathway seeks to provide Care Workers with an opportunity to stay in Canada permanently. However, unless modified, the Interim Pathway will be inaccessible for a significant number of migrant Care Workers in Canada. Care Workers have identified at least 8 barriers after the announcements:

Care Workers have to meet higher education and English language standards for their PR application than were required for entry into the 2014 Caregiver Program.

Delays in LMIA and work permit processing have left many Care Workers with insufficient service requirements and other Care Workers have become undocumented.

Not accessible to Care Workers in Quebec who wish to remain in the province.

The 3-month window (March 4 to June 4, 2019) for applications is simply too short.

Employers often give Care Workers a hard time when they ask for their documents (e.g. ROE, T4, letter of employment) due to fear of losing control over Care Worker.

Expensive application fees range from $1845-$5000 (includes PR application fee, biometric fee, medical exam, police certificate, language test and educational credential assessment fees).

Care Workers with the same qualifications get different results from different Educational Credential Assessment agencies.

Care Workers risk being denied PR due to the required medical exam if they have acquired health conditions or illness while working here, or if one of their family members has a disability or illness.

No one left behind!

Migrant Care Workers across Canada have come together to unite our voices and be part of the Landed Status Now: Care Workers Organize Campaign. Migrant Care Workers make a tremendous contribution to Canadian society. We deserve the right to stay in Canada with rights and access to services, rather than be forced to become undocumented.

We call on the federal government to amend the Interim Pathway wherein:

- All workers who came under the 2014 Pilot Caregiver program can apply for PR under the Pathway (i.e., grandfather all current caregivers in the program under the Interim Pathway), and have the option of being grandfathered into the new 2019 Caregiver Pilot Program;
- The 12-month service requirement allow for care work experience that was unauthorized;
- Workers that have become undocumented are eligible to apply;
- The language requirement is reduced. Care Workers came to Canada with a required language level of CLB Level 3; therefore, the language requirement for permanent residence should remain at Level 3, and not be increased to Level 5. With the extremely limited application window, if workers do not score at Level 5 in the first attempt, they may not be able to retake the test in time;
- The second medical examination is removed; and
- An Interim Pathway for Quebec be created in coordination with Quebec-based Care Worker groups and the Government of Quebec.