

## **IMMIGRATE TO CANADA? YES, BUT HOW?**

### ***Live-in Caregivers – demand for heart***

This category is not only interesting for persons seeking entry to Canada, but for Canadian citizens and permanent residents as well.

Live-in Caregivers **provide child care, senior home support care, or care of the disabled, in a private household in Canada**, in which they must reside. Especially in the German community there are many older people who are in need of Live-in caregiver support and would love to have someone with from Germany. Or a second generation German family with both parents working would like to have for heritage reasons for their children a Live-in nanny with German background.

The first step for these parties is to identify a person interested to come as Live-in caregiver and to obtain a validation for the job offer.

For that reason the potential employer must contact the Human Resources Development Canada, former Canada Employment Center and apply for the validation. The employer has to proof that the job offer is bona fide, and that there is really a need for live-in care. It will be requested that a reasonable search have been conducted to find suitable Canadian citizens or permanent residents already in Canada. The employer must also provide acceptable accommodation and has to prove sufficient income to pay for a Live-in caregiver. After approval of the job validation the employer must obtain a Revenue Canada Taxation number. The validated offer of employment will be employer and job specific.

The approval itself will be forwarded by HRDC to a visa post where the second part of the application process will take place. The Live-in caregiver has to apply for an employment authorization and must meet **three requirements** to become eligible under this program:

1. Successful completion of a course of study equivalent to Canadian secondary education

For his assessment the officer will evaluate the educational institution, the completion of the educational program, and the supporting documents.

2. Six months full-time classroom training **OR** twelve months full-time paid experience related to the job

The training must have been completed as part of formal education taken at an institution accredited by local educational authorities. Correspondence courses do not meet this requirement. The twelve months experience must include at least six months of continuous employment with one employer, within the three years immediately prior the day of application for an employment authorization. The caregiving experience in an institutional setting, such as daycare, hospital, senior

citizen home, will also be considered, but must be relevant to the employment offer.

3. The ability to speak, read and understand English or French at a level sufficient to communicate effectively in an unsupervised setting

Live-in caregiver must be able to respond in emergency situations by contacting a doctor, ambulance, and fire or police department. They also should not depend on the employer to interpret employment standards and should be able to seek outside help in case of personal difficulties. The officer will interview any applicants for language assessment, if there is no evidence of language ability in English or French.

Beside these three requirements applicants have to undergo a mandatory medical examination, and for some countries a security check as well. Police certificates are not mandatory, but could be requested by the officer. After approval the employment authorization will be issued for one year and could be extended twice for one year as well.

A very attractive element of the program is that the Live-in caregiver is allowed to **apply for landing within Canada after two years of full-time employment.**

In an application for landing the officer will determine if the applicant meets the requirements of Live-in caregiver. This means the applicant must have previously submitted an application as a Live-in caregiver to a visa post, must be in possession of a valid and subsisting adequate employment authorization, must reside in the employer's home, and must have completed two years of full-time employment within three years after entry to Canada. It will also be verified that the applicant and his dependents are not subject of an inquiry, appeal or judicial review under the Immigration Act.

New medical examinations are usually not necessary for the applicant himself, but otherwise the applicant and all his dependents in Canada and abroad will be examined concerning admissibility to Canada as the last step to become landed in Canada. In my opinion obviously this category has some merit and is beneficial for many families and seniors from our German community in Canada as well.

I wish all readers of 'Echo Germanica' great summer vacations. Please note that the next Immigration article will appear in August 1999.

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