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## NEWS RELEASE

### Study says end the live-in requirement for the federal caregiver program

**Montreal** – Recent policy changes to the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) have not improved circumstances for immigrant live-in caregivers. A new [IRPP study](#) finds the requirement that caregivers live in their employers' homes before being eligible for permanent residence continues to adversely affect their working and living conditions. It also hinders their ability to earn a decent living wage and engage in mainstream Canadian society after completing the program.

Few studies have addressed the economic and social integration of LCP workers after the program or distinguished between the types of care they perform. Jelena Atanackovic (McMaster University) and Ivy Lynn Bourgeault (University of Ottawa) help fill this gap through their extensive qualitative research, including interviews and focus groups with 58 live-in caregivers.

According to the authors, "Caregivers' temporary status and the live-in requirement often lead to inequitable working conditions – long hours, sometimes with no extra pay for overtime."

Atanackovic and Bourgeault show that caregivers of children more often deal with employers who fail to comply with their contracts, whereas those caring for older adults face more restrictions on their personal movements and are more socially isolated, since they have to attend to their clients all the time.

Their key recommendation is that caregivers be allowed to live outside their employers' homes. "If they had this option, caregivers would be less likely to experience some of the inequitable working conditions they have reported."

The authors also call for the following changes to be considered:

- allow caregivers to apply for permanent residence upon arrival to Canada in order to diminish the disruption their families face;
- better enforce employment and labour standards, including those for which provincial governments are responsible;
- remove the requirement that caregivers obtain a study permit for credit courses longer than six months so they may update or improve their credentials; and
- provide more funding for immigrant organizations to make settlement services more widely available to caregivers in the program and after completing it.

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[Economic and Social Integration of Immigrant Live-in Caregivers in Canada](#), by Jelena Atanackovic and Ivy Lynn Bourgeault, can be downloaded from the Institute's website at [irpp.org](http://irpp.org).

For more details or to schedule an interview, please contact Shirley Cardenas at 514-594-6877 or [scardenas@irpp.org](mailto:scardenas@irpp.org).

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