



## Centre Métropolis du Québec Immigration et métropoles

Septembre 2006

### CAPSULE RECHERCHE

Santé et services sociaux, sécurité publique, justice – Phase II

## ANOTHER LOOK AT TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS IN CANADA: THE LIVE-IN-CAREGIVER PROGRAM

**Keywords:** Health, social services, immigration, justice, human rights

### SUMMARY

Research in Canada has begun to document the gendered and racialised impacts of the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP). Caregiving has traditionally been women's work, and 84 percent of LCP migrants are women. In terms of "ethno-racial" disparity, the LCP imports almost exclusively women of colour from developing countries. The implications of the LCP for health professional accreditation and human trafficking have been explored by researchers, and initial results suggest that the women who come on the LCP face many barriers to full equality in Canada. There remain, however, significant gaps in our understanding of the impact of this "labour import policy" on the women migrating under the LCP.

The importance of re-examining labour import policies has increased in the wake of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the United States. Many countries are revising their immigration policies, and Canada's LCP (with its possibility of applying for permanent residency from within the country) is being explored by other industrial countries as a possible model for importing foreign labour. Before Canada encourages the replication of the LCP, however, it would be useful to have a better understanding of the long-term labour and health impacts of this policy for both the migrants involved and the host country.

### AN ONGOING PROCESS

In 2002, a core group composed of representatives of Montreal-based Filipino community organisations and the researchers established a partnership and committed to the development of a new proposal and the implementation of the research process. The core group was able to begin preliminary research into the information gaps and needs for LCP migrant labourers. In total, five workshops were held with the core group to develop the research goals, the proposal itself and an ongoing process for meaningful collaboration.

At the same time, discussions were held with researchers in other Canadian Metropolis and Health urban centres (both academic and community based in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax) who were interested in participating in this second phase of the project. Following the funding refusal for Phase 2, it was decided not to do a multi-site study. Among the reasons was the existence of an ongoing study started by some PCERIIS researchers in association with community organisations in the Prairies.

During 2003, it was decided with PINAY (Filipino Women's Organisation in Quebec) that it was necessary to proceed with an analysis of the data collected by PINAY in a 1999 survey of 120 domestic workers (LCP) which were never compiled or

analysed. This newly available information was useful in revealing the need to change the orientation of our future work.

This project's lack of results and the evolution of trafficking issues led to a focusing of the research in late 2003 onto a more fruitful operationalisation of the initial objectives. It was decided to concentrate efforts on a follow-up of the initial research on "Trafficking in Human Beings: Summary of Practices and Policy Issues in Canada". This re-orientation enabled the interviewing of seven representatives of the Federal Government, some of whom are currently directly involved in the Interdepartmental Anti-Trafficking Working Group.

## OUTCOMES

In the four years since the beginning of our research on the issue of human trafficking and the policy response of the Canadian government, progress has undoubtedly been made. Canada began by developing and implementing its tools for the prosecution of traffickers and has now satisfied many of the requirements of the UN Protocol. Canada is also engaged in significant international cooperation towards this end. With regards to prevention, different government agencies are coordinating their efforts to implement projects both in source countries and at home. Awareness-raising campaigns, education campaigns and policy development collaborations have been at the forefront of these efforts towards prevention. The

more structural elements of prevention are not adequately addressed through these efforts; wider political reforms on the international stage are argued to be a prerequisite. Finally, Canadian government agencies are currently in the process of improving their frameworks for the treatment and protection of trafficking victims who are intercepted in law enforcement operations or who come forward for help. This is an extremely positive development that would be strengthened even further if migrants' rights were protected by law.

## CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY MAKING

The project was developed in ongoing consultation with the core group of partner organisations, and the results were used by the involved groups in the areas of immigration, labour and health policy issues

The analysis of the data gathered by PINAY has been mostly used by the PINAY members in their involvement in the ongoing Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec (MICC) evaluations of the LCP.

The information gathered was used by the researchers to advocate real changes in the program by policy makers. Metropolis Conferences have been an excellent forum for this purpose.

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#### **Partenaires associés au projet**

- PINAY (Filipino Women's Organisation in Québec)
- United Filipino Homemakers' Association of Québec
- Filipino Workers' Support Group
- Movement of Filipino Migrant Workers
- Filipino Parents' Support Group
- Montréal Coalition of Filipino Students
- Kabataang Montreal (KM)
- Immigrant Workers' Centre

#### **Organisme subventionnaire**

- Centre Métropolis du Québec – Immigration et métropoles

Pour obtenir plus d'informations sur cette étude, veuillez communiquer avec l'équipe de recherche dont les coordonnées apparaissent à la section Domaine 5 du site Web d'Immigration et métropoles.

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