

More women than men admitted to Canada

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More men migrate to Canada as principal applicants but more females than males are admitted to Canada, a Filipino-Canadian immigration lawyer said.

In line with the celebration of the 2018 National Women's Month and pursuant to its gender and development program, the Philippine consulate general in Toronto conducted a talk on the topic "Recent Updates to Canada's Immigration Law and Policy" on March 23.

Lawyer Maria Deanna Santos, tapped as the resource person for the lecture, noted the gendered nature of household domestic work and caregiving.

While more men migrate to Canada as principal applicants, usually through the Federal Economic Class, like federal skilled worker, federal skilled trades and Canadian experience class, under the caregiver stream, there are more females than males admitted to Canada, she said.

Santos also noted that although there have been improvements in the caregiver program, there have been fewer applicants under the new Caregiver Pathways because of the stricter requirements and stringent rules.

She is known in the Filipino-Canadian community as a staunch advocate for the rights and welfare of Filipino live-in caregivers. She is often invited as a resource speaker by various non-profit organizations and settlement agencies that work with newcomers and caregivers.

Santos has been practicing mainly immigration law in Ontario for more than 10 years. She obtained a PhD at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University where she did research on human rights and migrant domestic work and worked as a human rights advisor at the Centre for Human Rights and Equity.