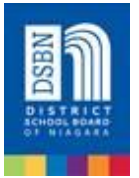


# Personal Support Worker Program Eligibility and Next Steps



## Key Points for Success:

- ✓ Genuine desire to care for others and make a difference!
- ✓ Strong work ethic
- ✓ Willingness to learn
- ✓ Good interpersonal skills
- ✓ Positive attitude – PSW is a both a challenging and rewarding career
- ✓ Attendance: there are mandatory hours for the PSW certificate

## Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Reliable daycare arranged in advance of class
- ✓ Reliable transportation to school and **placements anywhere in the Niagara Region.**  
**Placements may not be accessible by bus.** Clinical placement are at 6am before buses run
- ✓ Pass our **written PSW test** followed by an **in-person interview**
- ✓ Have computer skills
- ✓ If born outside of Canada, proof of Canadian Language Benchmark Level 6 in all 4 areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening
  - <https://ymcaofniagara.org/programs/immigrant-services/coordinated-language-assessment-referral-system-clars/>
- ✓ Post-intake interview with a conditional offer of acceptance:
  - Up-to-date immunizations, including against COVID-19, a clear 2-step TB test
  - Clear / negative Police Vulnerable Sector Check for Employment
- X You do not need an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). We can help you earn one!

## Program Details:

- ❖ **No tuition fees!** We can waive fees for Canadian Citizens, Permanent Residents, and those with confirmed refugee status (post-interview with IRCC)
- ❖ Complete your certificate in 6 to 10 months
- ❖ Placements in a variety of settings - long-term care, homecare, retirement living, adult day programs, schools, and more
- ❖ Clinical placements are **6am-2pm**
- ❖ Community and Consolidated placements are full-time hours; variable shifts
- ❖ Placements will be anywhere in the Niagara Region

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### Next Steps:

- ✓ Pass our written PSW test
- ✓ Candidates who pass the PSW test will be scheduled for an in-person interview – includes a meeting with Transition to Employment
  - Please bring:
    - 2 pieces of government identification
    - Social Insurance Number (for Transition to Employment)
    - 1 letter of reference and a resume, if possible (optional)
- ❖ Post-interview, meet with Transition to Employment (TTE)
  - You will need a Social Insurance Number for TTE
- ❖ If you are successful, you will receive a **Conditional Offer of Acceptance** followed by next steps for a police check and medical paperwork to be completed before class
  - ◇ Please **do not** take any steps for these requirements unless asked to post-interview

### **If accepted and you are not born in Canada:**

- ✓ Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents:
  - We will help you with next steps
- ✓ Refugee Status and Work Permits:
  - Visit the **DSBN Welcome Centre** to get a **Letter of Permission & Verification Form**:
    - 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines
    - [welcomecentre@dsbn.org](mailto:welcomecentre@dsbn.org) / 905-641-1550 ext. 54152
    - follow the steps on the letter – you might need a **Study Permit**
- ✓ You need English language ability equal to Canadian Language Benchmark Level 6
- ✓ If interested in earning credit, get your international education assessed first:
  - <https://www.wes.org/ca/> or
  - <https://www.icascanada.ca/>
  - Then contact Lifetime Learning to meet with guidance: 905-687-7000 or [ace@dsbn.org](mailto:ace@dsbn.org)

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