

# DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

INTERCEDE for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers, and Newcomers

Toll Free 1-877-483-4554

January 2002



## NEWCOMER SURPRISE AT AIRPORT!

What will you do if you arrived at your port of entry in Canada under the Live in Caregiver Program and the Immigration officer at the airport told you that your employer cancelled your job offer? What will you do if he told you to board the next plane going back to the Philippines?

This is what happened to Edna when she arrived at Pearson International Airport on Oct. 2001. A senior Immigration officer told her that her employer informed Citizenship and Immigration Canada that he had withdrawn job offer for her. The Immigration officer told Edna that she would not be allowed to enter Canada, much less given any

status if she insisted on staying in the country. She was asked to take the next flight back to the Philippines since it would be illegal for her to stay.

Stunned and confused from what she had just learned, Edna still managed to stay calm and think what to do. She asked if she could just talk to the people who were supposed to meet her at the airport since they had been in contact with her supposed employer. Fortunately, she was allowed to see her family friends and they told the immigration officer that the employer did not inform them about the cancellation of the job offer, otherwise, they would have advised Edna not to come to Canada anymore.

The Immigration officer realized that it was not Edna's fault and allowed her to enter Canada after taking her passport. She was instructed to find an employer within 15

days and come back to the same immigration officer with a validated job offer so she could be issued her an Employment Authorization. Edna wrote down the name of the Immigration officer before she left the airport.

Fortunately, Edna found an employer who was willing to hire her as live in caregiver. However, Human Resources Development Centre (HRDC) refused to validate the job offer because Edna did not have any travel document nor status. Edna then came to INTERCEDE for assistance. We advised her to go back to Pearson International Airport and look for the Immigration officer whose name she had written down, to tell him the

JOIN AN INTERCEDE FUNDRAISER!  
FORGET YOUR CARES AND LET'S DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

VALENTINE DANCE PARTY

Saturday, February 16, 2002

RAMADA HOTEL

300 Jarvis St. (Take Eastbound Streetcar from College Subway Stn. to Jarvis)

6:00 p.m. - 1 a.m.

DANCE!!!

DANCE!!!

DANCE!!!

DANCE!!!

DANCE!!!

DANCE!!!

◇ ATTIRE: SEMI-FORMAL

◇ LIGHT SNACKS

◇ CASH BAR

◇ Ticket: \$25.00

For more information & reservation call Genie Policarpio before February 10, 2002 at 416-483-4554 ext 21

All Domestic/Caregiver workers,  
Newcomers and those on Temporary  
Work Permit are welcome to attend

**INTERCEDE MEETING**  
Every First Sunday of the  
Month

(if holiday, meeting is on the second Sunday)

Sunday, February 3, 2002 at 3-5 p.m.  
Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.  
(one block south of College cor. Spadina)

**LEARN ABOUT NEW IMMIGRATION RULES**  
Guest Speaker, Mr. Jim Campbell, Regional Manager  
Selection, Integration & Refugee Operations  
Canada Immigration & Citizenship

Apply or renew your membership - \$10.



problem.

The officer wrote a letter to HRDC and explained Edna's situation.

Upon receipt of the letter from the Airport Immigration officer, HRDC validated the job offer. She went back to the Immigration officer at Pearson and presented to them her validated job offer. An Employment authorization was finally issued to her and she is now working as a live in caregiver for an elderly person.

This situation can happen to anyone! If you have friend or relative who is bound for Canada to work as live in caregiver, tell her to ensure and verify that the prospective employer has not withdrawn his offer of employment! And make sure they know to call INTERCEDE for assistance.



### INTERCEDE LOOKS FORWARD TO LIFETIME GIFT

Through "planned giving", members, clients and friends can ensure that INTERCEDE will be able to continue its work on behalf of caregivers and domestic workers. INTERCEDE is hoping that the people who value its work will ensure the organization's stability and survival through a lifetime gift.

Since the 80's, INTERCEDE has assisted at least 5,000 women each year – a conservative estimate. Mostly women of colour have taken advantage of INTERCEDE's information, orientation, education, counselling, referral, training and support services as well as its social events and other activities.

More importantly, INTERCEDE's advocacy efforts have contributed to legal and policy changes which have increased the protection of women's rights or defended these rights against erosion.

"Planned giving" consists of making a lifetime gift to INTERCEDE as a way of expressing appreciation for the value of women's work and the role that INTERCEDE plays in the life of women who work in the home.

By making a bequest to INTERCEDE as part of their will or naming it among the beneficiaries of an insurance policy, stock options or other assets, members and supporters are, in effect, leaving a legacy for women's rights. It is a way to ensure that caregivers and domestic workers can continue to rely on the services and assistance offered by INTERCEDE.

Making a will is important for everyone, and particularly for migrant workers who are working and living alone, distanced from families for several years. They need to have a proper will so that their families will be protected and the distribution of their estate in case something happens to them, will be done according to their intentions and wishes. Through a proper will, they can also leave a lifetime gift for the causes and organizations they value.

A lifetime gift for a chosen cause or charity or group can be arranged in various ways. For example, one can leave a specified amount or a "contingent gift". What is important is to work out these arrangements with a lawyer who specializes in Wills and Estates. INTERCEDE can provide a reference to such lawyers in order to make a proper will and to leave a gift to your favorite cause.

For more information please call any of the counsellors at 416-483-4554 or write or email INTERCEDE.



### FREE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND NEWCOMERS

INTERCEDE is offering free Job Search Workshops specifically designed for domestic workers and caregivers working under the Live-in Caregiver Program. Landed immigrants are also welcome.

In the past three years, INTERCEDE has served over 400 participants and more than 87% have secured full-time or part-time work.

The Job Search Workshop help build self-confidence and participants enjoy networking with other newcomers. Here are what past participants had to say about the workshops:

*"I gained self-esteem, a strong and positive attitude, and learned about making resumes, cover letters and techniques for interviews."*

*"I was able to develop my self-confidence during our practice interviews and learned the do's and don'ts in searching for a job."*

*"I learned what my rights are as a caregiver and now I am more confident when talking to my employers."*

*"It made me aware of the Canadian Labour Market. Now I am preparing my resume and cover letters so I can find another job after I finish my 24 months in the Live-in Caregiver Program."*

These four-day workshops are held on Sundays from 11 a. m. to 5 p.m. Next dates are **January 13, 20, 27 & February 3 and February 24, March 3, 17 & 24**

Space is limited, please call Genie Policarpio at (416) 483-4554 extension 21 to register.

This free program is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada; and sponsored by COSTI and OCASI. Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion.





**Please take time to write**

**EVALUATION OF INTERCEDE**

INTERCEDE is evaluating its services and programs . Your answers to the following will determine changes or improvements at INTERCEDE. You don't have to give your name, only your comments.

1. **How did you find out about INTERCEDE?**
2. **What was the reason for your first contact with INTERCEDE?**
3. **What did you like about our services, programs (meetings and workshops), or policies?**
4. **What did you not like about our services, programs (meetings and whorshops), or policies?**
5. **What can INTERCEDE do to improve its services and assistance to you, and what other service(s) would you like it to offer?**
6. **What do you like or not like in our newsletter?**
7. **Any other comments?**

Thank you for your time. Please return your answers and comments as soon as possible to:

INTERCEDE  
 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205  
 Toronto, Ontario  
 M4P 1K5



**ST. JOHN AMBULANCE**

46 Wellesley St. East

Register now for training in the following:

- Infant/Child CPR**
- Adult CPR**
- Heartsaver**

Specific dates for each training will be announced.

Call Genie for further information and registration at  
 416 -483-4554 x 21

**COCOS CORNER ...**

It's always heartwarming to get expressions of gratitude from clients who used INTERCEDE's services. INTECEDE staff members appreciate receiving flowers, plants, fruits and even snacks, but they are especially inspired by the letters and cards they received. To quote some:

- ... Thank you very much for listening and comforting us in our loneliness away from our family- theresa*
- ... Your cheerful and thoughtful ways brighten up my life and give me hope to succeed, keep up the good work- joy*
- ... More power and continued funding to INTERCEDE – cathy*
- ... It was awesome to have you helping, sharing your time with people who needed help for free – tessie*
- ... Your knowledge on different issues especially on the Live-In caregiver program gave me confidence to make "things happen" – rose*
- ... To INTERCEDE staff, your excellent work is much, appreciated and God Bless You All - melody*
- ... Finally ! I am re-united with my family, thank you for your assistance – beth*
- ... What a relief, my permanent residence approved after waiting for six years because of some complications, without any cost and because of your proven skills – connie*
- ... Retroactive payment of my overtime and termination was a big help for my family. Thank you for your guidance and assistance in filing my claim at ESB- ruth*
- ... As a newcomer in Canada, your orientation gave me direction and broadened my options - marivic*



**INTERCEDE NEEDS**

**VOLUNTEERS**

Call Genie Policarpio at 416-483-4554 ext. 21



# INTERCEDE CAREGIVERS CO-OPERATIVE INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Sunday, February 24, 2002, \* 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. \* Pot Luck  
52 Coach Liteway ( Bathurst/Antibes) North York, Ontario (Bus #7)  
All Co-op members and non-members are welcome.

**Are you an employer who needs a caregiver?**

**Are you a caregiver who needs an employer?**

Live - in or Live out Caregivers,  
Part-time or Full time

Contact the Caregivers Co-op :  
Letty Capistrano  
Tel. No: 416-483-0047  
Mon. - Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
e-mail: lcapistrano@home.com  
P.O. Box # 25033, 421 Jane St.,  
Toronto, On., M6S 3Z0

*We wish to thank: Citizenship and Immigration Canada - ISAP Program and Job Search Program with COSTI-OCASI; the Federal Status of Women & Status of Women Ontario; the Maytree Foundation, and the Municipality of Toronto CSGP, Access & Equity and "Breaking the Cycle of Violence" grant programs, for their financial support.*

**JOIN A CO-OP FUNDRAISER AT  
CASINO NIAGARA  
\$25.00**

Saturday, February 23, 2002  
Assembly: 12:00 noon  
York Mills Subway Station

Call Bing Torres for more information and reservation  
at 416-763-4450

**YOU MIGHT BE MISSING SOMETHING  
IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED YET...**

**INTERCEDE CAREGIVERS CO-OP., INC.**

*Call Letty at 416-483-0047*

### INTERCEDE

Address: 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205  
Toronto Ontario  
M4P 1K5

Regular Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 p.m.  
Telephone: (416) 483-4554  
Fax: (416) 483-9781  
Toll-Free: 1-877-483-4554  
E-mail: info@intercedetoronto.org

**INTERCEDE STAFF:**  
Fely Villasin - Coordinator  
Jo Alcampo - JSW Facilitator  
Columbia Diaz - Settlement Counsellor  
Olive Smith - Settlement Counsellor  
Anita Fortuno - Outreach/Counsellor  
Genie Polcarpio - Intake & Administrative Assistant

**WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER?** If you want a one-year subscription to DOMESTIC'S CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS, please complete the form below and mail it to us with appropriate payment or call (416) 483-4554 ext. 21

Please check:  New Subscription  Renewal  Change of Address  Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**

INTERCEDE Members: FREE    Individuals & Non-Profit Organizations: \$20.00    Others: \$25.00

MAIL TO: INTERCEDE, 234 Eglinton Ave East, Suite 205, Toronto, ON, M4P 1K5

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