

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

monthly newsletter of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers'

July 1991

(INTERCEDE)

\$75 Fee For Student Authorization

The fee to obtain a student authorization is \$75 and not \$50 as stated in the June 1991 newsletter.

Following are Immigration fees that apply to domestic workers in the FDM:

- \$75** ● to renew an employment authorization or
- to obtain an open employment authorization
- \$75** ● to obtain a student authorization for credit courses
- \$350** ● to apply for permanent residence

(Domestic workers who entered Canada under the FDM before April 1, 1989 will still pay the old fee of \$250 for permanent residence application)

On behalf of domestic workers in the FDM, INTERCEDE is appealing to Immigration Minister Bernard Valcourt:

- to retain the old rate of \$50 for employment authorization
- to reduce to \$100 application fee for permanent residence
- and to impose no fee for student authorizations.

You can write in support of this appeal to: Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Employment and Immigration, Ottawa, Ontario K1J 0J9.

Questions & Answers About Immigration Mail-in System

When Renewing An Employment Authorization

Q. How do I get a form to renew my employment authorization?

Answer: Call 973-4444 at least 6 to 8 weeks before your current employment authorization expires and order a form called "Application to Vary or Cancel Terms and Conditions of Admission". Read instructions carefully and include a certified cheque for \$75 and all documentation required plus any letter of explanation you feel is necessary.

Q. What is a "written job offer" that I am supposed to attach to my application?

Answer: If you are renewing your employer-employee agreement with the same employer, a letter from this employer stating that she will continue to employ you constitutes a "written job offer".

If you are leaving your present employer, instead of a "written job offer", you must attach to your application a "Confirmation of Offer of Employment" from your new or prospective employer who gets this from Canada Employment Centre.

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Come to INTERCEDE monthly meeting on Sunday, July 7, 1991, from 3-5 pm at Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.

Women's Health In Women's Hands and Immigrant Women's Health Centre will launch a Mobile Health Unit during INTERCEDE's monthly meetings.

At 4 pm, Catherine Frazee, Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, will be our guest speaker.

There will be CLASP legal clinic. New members may apply from 2 pm; we don't accept application by mail.

Questions & Answers... (cont. from page 1)

Q. What should I write under "present marital status" if I misrepresented my marital status and dependent children?

Answer: Be sure to write your correct marital status and attach a letter of explanation to your application plus documents proving your real civil status, such as marriage certificate and birth certificates of your dependent children. The sooner you correct your misrepresentation, the better, so that your file is corrected and there will be less delay in processing your permanent residence in the future.

Q. Can I start working with my new employer while waiting for my new employment authorization?

Answer: No, because without a valid employment authorization that specifies the name of your new employer, you would be working illegally and, therefore, you would be violating Immigration regulations.

Q. Is it alright to send my application to renew my employment authorization on the day my current permit expires?

Answer: At the latest, your application must be postmarked the day before the expiration of your current employment authorization; or you can put it in the "drop-off box" of the Immigration office nearest you on the day itself of expiry, but no later. However, if you can, it is better for you to mail your application at least two weeks before the expiry of your current employment authorization. It is advisable for you to keep copies of the form and attachments that you send to Immigration.

Q. If I leave my job or if I am terminated before my current employment authorization expires, what do I do?

Answer: For now, you should go to Canada Immigration Centre (CIC) at 4900 Yonge, from 2 pm-3 pm, to obtain a so-called "release" which allows you to look for a new employer. Once you have found a prospective employer, this employer will bring a copy of your "release" to Canada Employment Centre in order to obtain a Confirmation of Offer of Employment. You then send an "Application to Vary or Cancel Terms and Condition of Admission" with this Confirmation of Offer of Employment, a certified cheque for \$75 and all other documentation required to the CIC that covers your new employer's residence.

When Applying For Permanent Residence Status

Q. I will soon be two years in Canada. How do I get the form to apply for permanent residence?

Answer: Call 973-4444 three months before the date of the second year anniversary of your arrival in Canada under the FDM program. You will be sent a "kit" that includes instructions, "Application for Visa Exemption" and FDM pre-screening. Read the instructions carefully, complete all forms and attach all required documentation including a certified cheque for \$350.

It is important not to forget to sign the page entitled "Request for an Exemption Pursuant to Section 114(2) of the Immigration Act" where you check the fourth line and specify "Foreign Domestic Movement Program".

If you arrived in the FDM before April 1, 1989, you pay the old fee of \$250, but make sure to attach on top of your application a letter stating the date of your arrival in the FDM.

Q. Should I wait until I get all my police clearances before sending my application for permanent residence to Immigration?

Answer: If you don't have your police clearances yet, you can mail in your application but be sure to attach a letter saying you will be obtaining these police clearances. It is presumed that you will work on getting the required police clearances in the year while you are waiting to be approved for permanent residence.

Q. To meet the requirement of supplying a Police Clearance, can I send copy of the NBI clearance I obtained when I left the Philippines two years ago?

Answer: This NBI clearance is valid and will be accepted for as long as you have never been back to the Philippines since you left two years ago.

Q. My open employment authorization expired on May 20, 1991 and I have applied to renew it. I was advised that my permanent residence status is approved but can not be issued until I furnish police clearances from Lebanon, Paris and London where I lived with my employers. What should I do now?

Answer: You are required to provide police clearances from countries where you were a

resident in the past ten years. If you are unable to obtain these clearances, you should obtain letters from each of these countries (or their consulates) stating why you can't obtain these clearances. If you still can't obtain these letters, then contact Immigration at 4900 Yonge. Meanwhile, your open employment authorization would be renewed.

Q. My employment authorization will expire on January 8, 1992. Before that, on December 5, 1991, I will be two years in the FDM. When I mail my application for permanent residence, can I request for an open employment authorization instead of getting an extension of my employment authorization to work with the same employer?

Answer: You can only mail your application for permanent residence after the second year anniversary of your entry to the FDM, meaning after December 5, 1991. (If you send your application before the date of your second anniversary, it will be returned to you.) At the same time, you can apply for the extension of your employment authorization (add \$75 to the fee of \$350). If your application for permanent

residence is successfully assessed, you will receive an open employment authorization. This will take from four to six weeks.

Q. Are photocopies of documents acceptable for attaching to my application?

Answer: Yes, send photocopies and keep the original copies of your diplomas, transcripts of records, birth certificates, marriage certificates, adoption papers etc. Remember to keep a copy of the application form too for your records.

Q. I will be two years in the FDM this December 1991 and my children would like to come as tourists to visit me in Canada. Can I request for them to stay longer or can I apply for permanent residence for them?

Answer: You can't sponsor your children until you have become a permanent resident and that you meet the requirements for sponsorship. If your children reside in a country from where a visitor's visa is needed, they should approach the nearest visa office for permission to visit you. Any extension of their original visa must be approved by an Immigration Centre in Canada.

Effective July 1, 1991: HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR PAY

(based on \$5.40/hour, 44-hour week, Code 1 tax exemption)

	<u>Monthly</u> (12/yr)	<u>Biweekly</u> (26/yr)	<u>Weekly</u> (52/yr)
Gross wages	\$1,029.60	\$475.20	\$237.60
Deductions: Room & Board	290.33	134.00	67.00
Income Tax	121.25	57.95	28.05
CPP	17.93	8.28	4.14
UIC	28.83	13.31	6.65
Net Payment	\$571.26	\$261.66	\$131.76

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