

# DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS



July 2001

Toll Free - Canada  
1-877-483-4554

## INTERCEDE FOR THE RIGHTS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS, CAREGIVERS, AND NEWCOMERS

### INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC WORKER CONDITIONS IN CANADA

On May 6, 2001, as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual *Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts*, INTERCEDE launched its first book.

*Caregivers Break The Silence* is a ground-breaking book about the abuse and violence experienced by women in the Live-in Caregiver Program. The research also examines the impact of family separation and makes clear recommendations to the federal and provincial government.

Approximately 200 caregivers and domestic workers participated in focus groups, interviews and filled out questionnaires. INTERCEDE Coordinator, Fely Villasin coordinated the research.

Author, Sedef Arat-Koc, is an associate professor of Women's Studies and Sociology at Trent University. Most of her academic work focuses on immigration policies and their

impact on immigrant women in Canada.

Interim Coordinator, Jo Alcampo organized the book printing, publicity and book launch activities.

Seventy-five people attended our book launch at Cecil Community Centre in downtown Toronto. Speakers included Board President, Leticia Capistrano who introduced INTERCEDE's advocacy work.

While eight community members give solidarity greetings representing: labour organizations, violence against women's groups, women's health groups, the Caribbean Consulate, anti-poverty groups, and our sponsors: Mayworks, the Toronto Women's Bookstore and SAWA.

Caregivers from our *Advocacy Training Program* gave a theatre performance about their experiences of abuse and family separation in the Live-in Caregiver Program.

Sedef Arat-Koc made a presentation on the key research findings. And a

performance by SAWA, a Filipino youth group, incorporated letters to the government and their employers written by participants at the annual Domestic Worker's Conference in September 2000. They also used murals created by INTERCEDE members about family separation and reunification.

*Caregivers Break The Silence* has also attracted increased public attention through the media. INTERCEDE conducted radio interviews at Ryerson University (CKLN), University of Toronto (CIUT), York University (CHRY), and Queens University (CFRC).

A writer from Canadian Press interviewed Sedef and a Citizenship and Immigration representative, and the Globe & Mail, Windsor Star, and the Toronto Star have covered the story.

On Tuesday June 5, 2001, Sedef Arat-Koc was featured on CBC's popular show, *Counterspin* hosted by Avi Lewis.

*continued on page 3*

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)

Next Meeting: Sunday July 8, 2001 Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Topic: **Healthy Eating For Infants & Children**

Speaker: Ana Lina Arayon, Peer Nutrition Program (Toronto Public Health)

*"Feeding children is not always easy. We provide caregivers with education and support to help you provide quick and healthy meals."*

Location: 58 Cecil Street, Cecil Community Centre (1 block south of College, at Spadina Ave)



**Family, Friends & Supporters of INTERCEDE Are Invited To  
GO BACK IN TIME at our 50's, 60's & 70's Dance  
Saturday September 29, 2001**

**at Scadding Court Community Centre**

**707 Dundas St. W. (Bathurst & Dundas - Parking Available)**

**8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. \* Tickets \$15 \* Light snacks provided**

**Come dressed in your best 50's, 60's or 70's attire!  
Reserve your tickets today! Call Anita at (416) 483-4554 ext. 21**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NIAGARA FALLS TRIP - JULY 1

INTERCEDE Caregivers' Cooperative has organized a day trip which includes cherry-picking and a visit to Niagara Falls. For those who signed up, please meet our buses at 10:00 am at the SHELL gas station directly outside the York Mills subway station.

### SPECIAL GATHERING - JULY 15

Raynalda Hadlow was a member who sadly passed away last year. Her husband has organized a BBQ on Sunday July 15th at Earl Bales Park to show his appreciation to INTERCEDE members for their support. For more information, please call Bob at (416) 223-0362

### METRO VOICE MAIL PROJECT

Affordable & Private voice mail. \$10 for 3 months. Call Central Neighbourhood House at (416) 925-4363.



## SUMMER BOAT CRUISE AUGUST 11

INTERCEDE has organized a Boat Cruise of the 30,000 Island Midland/Muskoka Georgian Bay area. The day's activities also includes a trip to Casino Rama (with free lunch buffet). Coach buses leave Toronto at 8:00 a.m. and will return at approximately 9:00 p.m. Cost is only \$25.00 this is a fundraiser for INTERCEDE. Limited seats available. Please call Anita at (416) 483-4554 ext. 21 to reserve.

### FREE WOMEN'S BUSINESS OUTFITS

Need outfits for job interviews or office work? Dress for Success Toronto, a volunteer agency runs a clothing bank with women's business suits, blouses, shoes and accessories. Call (416) 787-7165.

## FREE Job Search Workshop for Caregivers and Newcomers

### NEW DATES

**Saturdays June 16, 30, July 7 & 14  
or Sundays July 22, 29, August 5 & 12**



l to r: Joan McKay, GBC & Sonia Gilzean, JSW Graduate

### You will learn how to:

- identify your interests, skills & career goals
- value your transferable skills
- develop your self-esteem in a supportive environment
- write effective resumes and cover letters
- conduct job interviews with confidence

Classes held at George Brown College, 200 King St. East, Rm. 544-E  
10 AM to 5 PM

**Spaces still available - Call now to register! (416) 483-4554 ext. 21**

Funded by Citizenship & Immigration Canada - Sponsored by COSTI & OCASI

***BOOK LAUNCH cont'd***

*Counterspin* televised a live panel discussion debating the conditions of the LCP. It aired across Canada at 8 pm Eastern Standard Time and was repeated at 11 pm.

INTERCEDE brought ten audience members and participated in the discussion.

It is clear that most Canadians may not be aware of the abuses that occur in this federal immigration program. *Caregivers Break The Silence* can serve as an educational resource for:

**Media and Teachers**

- to raise the level of public awareness and educate about the positive economic, social and cultural contribution immigrants have made to Canada; to raise society's awareness of racism, sexism and violence against women;

**Labour groups**

- to use INTERCEDE's policy recommendations to the federal & provincial governments to strengthen advocacy efforts for this vulnerable group of workers; to increase awareness of migrant workers' rights in the struggle against the devastating effects of economic globalization;

**Women's groups**

- to prioritize opposition to all federal immigration programs that allow for the existence of slavery-like practices which exploit and oppress women, particularly women of colour and women in poverty;



Some members of Caregiver's skit: Elizabeth Savilla, Genoveva Policarpio (Script writer) & Elisa Biseno



Volunteers & Staff: l to r: Allen Fabro, Melanie Dolo, Susan Ballena, & Anita Fortuno.



Members of SAWA (Filipino Students, Artists, Workers, Activists) Melanie & Sandra

**Caregivers, domestic workers and their organizations**

- to train and strengthen their advocacy and organizing skills; and to set their sights on achieving full equality for all women and the valuing of women's work in the home.

A limited number of copies are available. This publication is distributed by the Toronto Women's Bookstore (416-922-9744 or toll-free 1-800-861-8233). Orders can be made at [www.womensbookstore.com](http://www.womensbookstore.com)

This research project, printing and distribution was made possible through the generous financial support of Status of Women Canada's Women's Program and donations from community members.

*Thank you to all our staff and volunteers that assisted in making our book launch a success!*



## How to Order *Caregivers Break The Silence*



**In person:** Drop by our office at 234 Eglinton Ave E, Suite 205 during business hours or the Toronto Women's Bookstore, 73 Harbord Street (open weekends)



**By mail:** Phone the Toronto Women's Bookstore locally at 416-922-8744 or Toll-Free 1-800-861-8233 to arrange worldwide delivery



**By internet:** Visit the Toronto Women's Bookstore's Web store at [www.womensbookstore.com](http://www.womensbookstore.com)

*Limited number of copies available! Order yours today! Only \$12 (plus postage)*

*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 for their financial support.*

**Address:** 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205  
Toronto Ontario M4P 1K5  
**Regular Hours:** Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 p.m. (see below)  
**Telephone:** (416) 483-4554  
**Fax:** (416) 483-9781  
**Toll-Free:** 1-877-483-4554  
**E-mail:** [info@intercedetoronto.org](mailto:info@intercedetoronto.org)

**INTERCEDE STAFF:**  
Jo Alcampo - Interim Coordinator / JSW Facilitator / Layout  
Columbia Diaz - Settlement Counsellor  
Anita Fortuno - Intake & Administrative Assistant  
Carol Seeley - Settlement Counsellor  
Fely Villasin - Coordinator (on-leave)

INTERCEDE provides free & confidential counselling to caregivers and domestic workers employed through the Live-In Caregiver Program. INTERCEDE also assists sponsored family members, caregivers working in related fields and other newcomers.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in the Fall. Voting membership is open to domestic workers, caregivers, and newcomers. Annual membership fee is \$10.00, which includes a one-year subscription to our monthly newsletter, *DOMESTICS CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS*, and opportunities to attend subsidized training programs (First Aid CPR, Childcare & Eldercare Certificate Program, University Bridging Program, etc). Call office for application or attend our meeting the first Sunday of every month.

Donations or newsletter subscriptions from individuals and organizations are also greatly appreciated (see form below).

### IMPORTANT NOTICES:

- ⇒ **Summer office hours** will be Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Office will be closed Fridays during July and August. Regular office hours resume the first week of September.
- ⇒ **Intercede Caregivers' Cooperative** can now be reached at (416) 894-8904. Ask for Rose Canono.
- ⇒ INTERCEDE's **new e-mail address** is ([info@intercedetoronto.org](mailto:info@intercedetoronto.org)) Look for our Web site later this summer!

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**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  
 Yes, please send me a receipt for my subscription or donation       No receipt required