

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

monthly newsletter of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers' Rights

June 1990

(INTERCEDE)

NAC STATUS OF WOMEN APPROVES RESOLUTION IN FAVOUR OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

"Be it resolved that NAC recognize the value of domestic and care-giving work and actively support equal rights for domestic workers in Canada:

- oppose any system of indentured service which restricts foreign domestic workers in their choice of employment, employers and of residence;
- support the entry of foreign domestic workers to Canada as landed immigrants."

This was one of the policy resolutions adopted by the 500-group-member National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the largest women's organization in Canada, during its Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, May 11-14.

Original sponsor of the resolution, which was amended by INTERCEDE for the sake of clarity, was the Kababayan Community Centre. Leti LaRosa, regional representative from PEI and treasurer of the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada, seconded the resolution. One of the most eloquent supporters who spoke in favour of the resolution was Sue Colley of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. A caucus of visible minority, aboriginal and immigrant women lent valuable input and support for the resolution, particularly Toronto's Women

Working With Immigrant Women, represented by Salome Loucas, and Judy Pershad of the Cross Cultural Communication Centre,

INTERCEDE's Board of Directors and members were pleased with the passage of the resolution which represents a concrete move by the Canada-wide organization to broaden its base and to recognize the important struggles for equality that immigrant women of colour are waging.

About 300 women delegates attended the meeting which focussed attention on the \$1.6 million federal budget cuts to women's centres and publications, the proposed bill (C-43) in Parliament to legislate abortion, the Goods and Services tax, and violence against women.

According to Lynn Kaye, NAC outgoing president, cuts to funding of women's centres and publications represent an "attack on democracy" and demonstrates that "the government has no commitment to women's equality". NAC members were not satisfied with Government's concession to restore some of these cuts for one year saying that previous fundings were insufficient in the first place and that government has to show it is serious about women's participation in all aspects of society by increasing operational funding for the "heart of the women's movement" - the women's centres.

***Come to INTERCEDE's monthly meeting on Sunday, June 10, 1990
from 3 to 5 p.m at the Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil Street.***

***Theatre Workshop with Virginia Reh, Acting Coach of the Canadian
Children Opera Chorus and of Equity Showcase Theatre.***

***CLASP legal clinic will be open and
INTERCEDE counselling will be available.***

Judy Rebick, current member of the Board of Directors of INTERCEDE, was elected president of NAC. She starts her term with a commitment to the three priority issues enunciated in the conference: violence against women, the future of women's work, and defending and strengthening Canada's social support network.

Meanwhile, letters of support for INTERCEDE's recommendations to improve the FDM have been sent by the Women's Research Centre in Vancouver and the Peterborough Newcomers' Language and Orientation Committee. From the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Sylvia Farrant, Western Vice-President, expressed her personal agreement with the work INTERCEDE is doing and has encouraged the Council to review INTERCEDE's recommendations and to "support in whatever ways" they can.

NEWCOMERS ATTEND ORIENTATION

About 40 newly-arrived domestic workers, most of whom have been in Canada for less than three months, attended an all-day orientation workshop led by INTERCEDE staff and assisted by about 10 volunteers.

The orientation workshop took place May 13 at the St. Anne's Parish Hall on Gerrard St.

Participants began the day by testing their familiarity with facts about immigration, employment, human rights, social services and practical day to day life in their new surrounding.

They then listened to presentations made on immigration requirements, labour protection and other subjects. A plenary discussion followed small group workshops where participants shared practical experiences and problem-solving.

Nora Richardson, volunteer leader of the workshop, had high praises for everyone specially the volunteer facilitators who were able to practice some of the skills they learned during a Facilitators' Workshop held by INTERCEDE on April 28.

ATTENTION
NEWLY ARRIVED DOMESTIC WORKERS

Register at the June 10, 1990 meeting

for the next

Orientation Workshop to be held

September, 1990

TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS

All day on Sunday, August 13, 1990

Sign up at June 10 meeting and deposit \$10.

(Further announcements will be made)

We wish to thank the Employment and Immigration Canada (Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program); Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Women's Program); Ontario Ministry of Citizenship; Ontario Women's Directorate; the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (Community and Social Services); and the City of Toronto for their continuing support.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION: **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Intercede Members:	FREE	Non-member Domestic	\$ 5.00
Non-Profit Organizations	FREE	Others	\$10.00

COUNSELLORS JOIN OCASI PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

INTERCEDE counsellors Coco, Karen and Teresa made their clients wait for an important reason: they joined the professional development and training conference organized by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) and held at the University of Guelph from May 16 to 18.

While they did not miss the "fun" of getting together with other people in the same field of work and involved with settling newcomers to Canada, they also seriously spent their energy so that they could equip themselves with "a new set of skills and tools to apply" in their day-to-day work.

They attended three of the four modules open to participants:

- Cross-cultural counselling,
- Community development and the process of "naming the moment",
- and Programming (in particular a needs assessment to develop service delivery designs).

Coco found the method of "naming the moment" to analyze situations and develop strategies very challenging and educational. "The process helps me to be more critical and creative in working for change," she said.

Teresa appreciated the intricacies and complexities of counselling based on cultural sensitivity. "Now I am more aware of the importance of "accepting" cultural differences as a perspective in my work of counselling domestic workers," Teresa said.

Karen appreciated the challenge posed to settlement workers to "better equip and empower our clients to take care of their own problems."

Coco, Karen, and Teresa hope that the interruption in INTERCEDE's service will be worth it. They said they needed this respite and have come out of it reinvigorated.

"In the end this will mean improved delivery of service to our many clients", the counsellors said.

REMEMBER EVERYONE IS INVITED ALL DAY PICNIC

Starting from 11 am Saturday, June 9, 1990

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY at Seton Park

(Get off on Pape Subway then take bus north
to Thorncliffe Park Drive)

**Bring your own lunch and help gather petition signatures to support INTERCEDE's
recommendations to the Foreign Domestics Movement program.**

COCO'S CALENDAR

Hugs And Congratulations!!!

- to Board member, Carmencita "Ging" Hernandez, who received one of YWCA's Women of Distinction Awards
- and to Board member, Judy Rebick, who was recently elected President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women
- and to Board member, Rosemary Seymour, who has received her landed status.

Talking to Students

was what our Coordinator, Fely Villasin, was doing at the CHIMO (Conference on Multiculturalism and Race Relations) conference of the York Mills Collegiate Institute and at the Oakwood Collegiate Institute's race relations awareness day last May 10. Students asked lots of questions about domestic workers and compared the similar situation between foreign domestic

workers in Canada and domestic workers in South Africa.

Counsellors Training

offered by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) gave us a very valid excuse to close the office and update our skills and knowledge in intensive workshops from May 16 to 18 held in Guelph. Teresa, Karen and I spent morning, noon and nights discussing topics such as community development, cross-cultural counselling and program planning.

Thank you

staff members and facilitators who assisted and led the group discussions during the orientation for newly arrived domestic workers: Eugenia Arevalo, Bess Crisostomo, Eva Goco, Stella Ong, Beth Orcino and Celia Tababan. And to those who helped with the logistics: Erna Opena, Malou Olano, Leonida Gatos, Tina Santos and Lucy Tarnate.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Canada Immigration Centre	973-4444
Employment Standards Enforcement	326-7160
Revenue Canada (Taxation)	869-1500
Immigrant Women's Job Placement Centre	656-8933
Educ & Skills Training Ctr, Labour Council	971-5893
Legal Services	
Parkdale Community Legal Services	531-2411
CLASP (Osgoode Law School) Legal Clinic	736-5029
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Serv.	363-0304
Metro Tor. Chinese & SE Asian Legal Clinic	971-9674
Emergency Housing	
Nellie's Hostel	461-1084
Evangeline's	762-9636

Unemployment Insurance	730-1211
Ontario Human Rights Commission	326-9511
OHIP	965-1000
Immigrant Women's Health Centre	367-1388

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FIRST CLASS