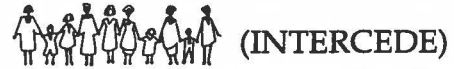


DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

monthly newsletter of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers' Rights

June 1995



Double jeopardy for new immigrants

\$10,000 SPONSORSHIP BOND OVER \$975 "HEAD TAX"

Domestic workers who have succeeded in getting landed by fulfilling the conditions of the Live-in Caregiver Program are now groaning under the weight of burdensome financial requirements that they have to meet to be able to sponsor and reunite with their families.

First there's the \$975 fee for the right to landing which is being called a "head tax" because it recalls the racist head tax imposed on Chinese immigrants a century ago. This \$975 fee is over and above the \$500 processing fee for landing.

Now there's the \$10,000 sponsorship bond which the Minister of Immigration, Sergio Marchi has confirmed will be launched by the Fall.

Canadian immigrants or refugees will have to post a bond of \$10,000 for the relatives they sponsor in order to guarantee that these sponsored relatives will not be dependent on the government for social assistance.

Opposition to the \$975 fee and the sponsorship bond is not just being voiced by immigrants and refugees and their friends and advocates. There are also Liberal Party officials who are known to oppose these measures such as Warren Allmand, Maria Minna, and Rey Pagtakhan, a Liberal member of Parliament from Winnipeg.

Pagtakhan said the "combination (of \$975 and \$10,000 bond) will constitute an undue burden." But he also says he is hopeful there will be changes

before these measures will be final.

It is obvious that the prohibitive financial conditions will discriminate against low-income immigrants and refugees, such as domestic workers. But there are also concerns that even business-class immigrants will be discouraged.

Don Devoretz, an economist of Simon Fraser University and adviser to Marchi, said that the landing fee and bond will be "a disincentive to independent business-class immigrants because they won't want to come here without a reasonable way of bringing over their relatives".

Because women and elderly parents are usually the subject of immigrant sponsorship, there is strong opposition to the \$10,000 bond by women's groups such as the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

The potential danger is great for women being bonded to their sponsors, usually their male spouse, specially if they are in violent relationships. As well, if sponsors can't afford to post bond, their female spouses and children will effectively be barred from entering Canada.

Write Minister Sergio Marchi of Immigration and Citizenship (House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6) and tell him how these increased costs to sponsor your family discriminates against you, or sign INTERCEDE's petition.

DOMESTIC WORKERS AND CAREGIVERS
Live-in or live-out, caregiving in hospitals or senior homes,
on temporary or open permit, immigrant or citizen

You Are Welcome

at INTERCEDE Meeting, Sunday June 4, 1995
3 to 5 pm at Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St. Cor. Spadina

Topic: NEW FACTS ABOUT CITIZENSHIP
Presenter: Giselle Cleckner, Citizenship Officer

2-4 pm Member Application & renewals of Member ID 94-1214 to 94-1278

CLASP Legal Clinic will be open.

DEMAND OF DOMESTIC WORKERS FOR ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS IS WORLDWIDE

Below are quotes from a press report:

"The few surveys carried out by ... women's groups, show that ...domestic workforce is mostly female, underpaid, denied minimum wages, toils long hours with no overtime payment and in conditions which damage health."

"Most domestics are migrants from villages who come to towns and big cities in search of a better living."

"Urban domestics living with their employers have to work up to 16 hours a day and are expected to be 'on call' day and night. There is no fixed leisure time."

"There are also health hazards in household work, with servants required to use toxic cleaning substances with no protection."

"Women domestics are ...exposed to risk of sexual violence by...employers"

"The condition of women domestic workers is "pathetic with no legal protection."

"...major labour unions seem reluctant to fight for domestics."

"Domestic workers are rarely seen and seldom heard by legal scholars. Even those scholars who concern themselves with human rights and labour issues tend to overlook this category of workers which is most exploited and least protected by law."

"They make up a large chunk of the country's largely unorganized labour force which is denied basic worker rights despite promises by the highest law of the land."

Do the above quotes refer to domestic workers under Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program? No, but these

quotes might as well be about them.

These quotes are actually from a story entitled "India Labour: Domestics still to get basic work rights", written in New Delhi by Mahesh Uniyal describing the condition of domestic workers in India.

In India, domestic workers work seven days a week, are paid \$10 a month, have no holiday and are often scolded by employers. Enacting laws to protect Indian domestic workers "is not easy" according to labour officials, because others argue it would "shrink jobs for the poor" as few employers would afford it.

FOR INTERCEDE MEMBERS ONLY

FREE! FREE! FREE!

BEGINNERS COMPUTER COURSE

Please book early, space for each schedule is limited:

Saturday schedule 1 - 5 p.m.

Start: September 9, 1995 - End: January 13, 1996

Monday Evening schedule 6 - 10 p.m.

Start: September 11, 1995 - End: January 15, 1996

For more information or to be on the waiting list call 483-4554

COMBINED FIRST AID AND CPR CLASS

Saturday, July 22, 1995 9 - 5 p.m.

OR

Sunday, July 23, 1995 10 - 6 p.m.

Space for each class is limited

Register early and pay \$50 to INTERCEDE

For more information call 483-4554

DID YOU CHANGE ADDRESS?

Please inform us by phone or mail so that you can continue getting your newsletter and we don't waste postage expenses for returned mail!

TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS since May 1994 (Does not apply to current members)

INTERESTED TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER? SEND THE FORM BELOW WITH PAYMENT.
IF NO RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION BY END OF JUNE, WE'LL REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM OUR MAILING LIST.

RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION NEW SUBSCRIPTION CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Please send *DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS* to:

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

CITY/PROVINCE : _____

POSTAL CODE : _____ TELEPHONE : _____

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES :

INTERCEDE Members :	FREE	Non-member Domestic :	\$20.00
Non-Profit Organizations:	FREE	Others	\$25.00

IT'S IN VANCOUVER!!

A CONFERENCE OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

Friday, August 5 to
Monday, August 7 (Civic Holiday)

In 1994, INTERCEDE organized a conference of domestic workers that was attended by more than 40 participants, coming from four provinces and other parts of Ontario. We discussed the impact of Immigration Plans, shared our services to domestic workers and caregivers, and presented our varied ways of organizing and education work. As a result of this conference we launched a Points Campaign, that now includes petitions to scrap the \$975 fee.

The participants resolved that in 1995 we would hold a follow-up conference in Vancouver. This time we need to assess where we are at in the Points campaign, what coordination we need to **challenge not only the \$975 but also the \$10,000 bond and other discriminatory requirements. We want to share more experiences about services to domestic workers. And we should also discuss what we want to happen in connection with the world conference on women that will be held in Beijing in September!**

(416) 483-4554

CALL NOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO GO TO VANCOUVER AND ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE. Early reservation and Group rates for plane fare and hotel will decrease costs!

VANCOUVER CDWCR
Committee for Domestic Workers' & Caregivers' Rights
(an INTERCEDE Affiliate)
Contact Julie or Lorina (604) 874-0649

Q & A: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

Q. What is child abuse?

A. Child abuse is the single occurrence or repeated mistreatment and neglect of a child by parent(s) or other guardian resulting in injury or harm.

Physical - shaking, beating, bruising, burning, repeated injuries, malnutrition

Emotional - failure to provide warmth, attention, supervision, normal living experiences

Verbal - excessive yelling, belittling, teasing

Sexual - incest, rape, fondling, indecent exposure, other sexual activity

Q. Child abuse only happens in poor homes and rural areas, right?

A. No. Child abuse can happen anywhere -- in poor, middle-class or upper-class homes; in rural areas, suburbs or cities.

Q. Aren't children safe as long as they don't talk to strangers?

A. No. The majority of abuse is committed by someone the child knows and/or trusts such as a family member, relative, family friend or neighbour. And the victims of sexual child abuse may be girls or boys of almost any age.

Q. If my child was being abused he would tell me, wouldn't he?

A. Not necessarily, some children who are sexually abused are afraid to tell anyone about what is happening. In many cases physical force, intimidation or threats are used to keep the child from telling. Children may also be embarrassed or fear their parents reaction.

Q. If it's not my child why should I get involved? (It's none of my business)

A. Keeping children safe from abusers is everyone's responsibility. We all have a moral, and in some cases, a legal responsibility to protect children from abuse.

Q. What are some of the side effects or problems that children may experience as a result of being abused?

A. While some children go on to lead very productive lives, many abuse victims experience severe and/or long term side effects:

- They may not be able to love and trust other people and may have a poor self-image;
- As teenager/adults, abused children may turn to drug and alcohol addiction, crime and

other anti-social ways;

- Permanent mental or physical damage caused by child abuse can also rob a person of the ability to be an independent and productive citizen.

Q. How can I tell if a child has been sexually abused?

A. Often, when children have a problem or are upset about something, they may show it by acting out of character. Here are some changes in behaviour that may indicate abuse:

- withdrawal, isolating herself or himself from others
- reluctant to go to a certain place or go with a certain person
- acting out sexual behaviour
- using words about sex that a child is not likely to know
- exhibiting self-destructive behaviour such as running away, hurting others, taking drugs or alcohol

Q. How can I help a child who wants to tell me about the abuse?

- A. - Allow the child to tell what happened in their own words without pressing for details and without judgement.
- Believe the child, no matter how hard it is. Even if the child made up the story, this is a sign that help is needed.
 - Stay calm, do not lose control. Fear and anger are normal reactions but can frighten the

We wish to thank the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Immigration Settlement and Adaptation Program); Canadian Heritage; Multiculturalism and Citizenship; Ontario Ministry of Citizenship; Ontario Ministry of Health; Ontario Ministry of the Environment; Ontario Women's Directorate; the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (Community and Social Services); and the City of Toronto Grants Review Board for their continuing support.

DOMESTICS' CROSS CULTURAL NEWS

c/o INTERCEDE

234 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario
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FIRST CLASS

child. Never blame, punish or embarrass the child.

- Give emotional support. Tell the child that he or she is not to blame. Let the child know that you will do something to help.
- Call for assistance immediately. Contact the nearest child protection agency or Childrens Aid Society as they have trained staff members who are specially trained to deal with these issues. Complaints can be made anonymously. You may also need to contact the Police.

Thank you to Nyron Sookraj, Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) for his presentation during INTERCEDE's Orientation session in April. Article based on excerpts from Channing L. Bete Co., Inc., A Scriptographic Booklet.

Mark your calendars:

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sunday, July 9, 1995, 3-5 pm

**Topic: New Facts about Sponsorship
Flemingdon Legal Clinic**

Sunday, August 6, 1995 3-5 pm

**Topic: Cooperative Ways of Organizing
for Better Benefits
INTERCEDE Caregivers Coop, Inc.**

NEXT ORIENTATION MEETING

**Sunday, June 25, 1995
12:30 pm - 5 pm**

**Learn about Immigration and Labour rules
Workshop on Self Assertiveness**

INTERCEDE SERVICE UNIT

**Place: 234 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 205,
Toronto, Ont. M4P 1K5**

Time: Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm

Tel: (416) 483-4554 Fax: (416) 483-9781

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