

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

monthly newsletter of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers' Rights

June 1996



TRIAL PROJECT: INTEGRATED IMMIGRATION SPONSORSHIP

Q. What is the "Integrated Sponsorship" Pilot?

A. It is an experimental project to be tested in Manila and at the Mississauga Case Processing Centre and will cover sponsorships of relatives residing in the Philippines. This is a faster and streamlined process. It will involve submitting together or at the same time The Undertaking of Assistance completed by the sponsor in Canada and the Immigrant Application completed by the applicant from the Philippines.

Q. How long will the Pilot Project applications be available?

A. Pilot kits were distributed from November 1995 until March 30, 1996. If you received your sponsorship application form within this period, your sponsorship will be under the pilot project. Cases excluded from this project include adoptions, immigrants sponsored by residents of Quebec, sponsorships including dependents who will turn 19 years of age within 6 months of the request for an application and Manila

processed cases involving Right of Landing Fee loan applications.

Q. Why have you singled out certain countries for this pilot?

A. The sites or offices that are being used are where the majority of persons applying to come to Canada are coming from ie. Manila. The pilot will be testing if the Integrated processing is faster and more efficient than the current system and will identify the most effective location, Mississauga CPC or Manila to process uncomplicated Family Class sponsorships.

Q. What's wrong with the current sponsorship system?

A. It is very time consuming and labour intensive because many files are handled several times over long periods of time. By having all documents sent in during the first submission, the pilot is hoping to determine if the cycle time can be reduced and the handling of files more efficient.

Contd. Pg 2

You Are Welcome

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 TO INTERCEDE MEETINGS EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

(if it falls on a holiday, meeting is on second Sunday of the month)

Next INTERCEDE Meeting

Sunday, June 02, 1996 from 3 to 5 pm.

Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St. Cor. Spadina

Topic: **OPENING ONTARIO JOBS TO WOMEN, RACIAL AND OTHER MINORITIES**

speaker: **Meerei Cho** - *Metro Labour Council*

2:45 - 3:00 pm Member Application & renewals of Member ID 95-0075 - 95-0092

3:00 - 5:00 pm CLASP Legal advice and INTERCEDE counselling available

Q. How long will it take for applicants to become landed?

A. Previously it was taking anywhere from 6 months to 2 years. The new pilot is hoping to reduce the cycle time to between 2 to 3 months.

Q. Who am I eligible to sponsor?

- A. Only relatives can be sponsored:
- husband or wife or fiance
 - dependent children if they are unmarried and under 19 years of age, full-time students and financially dependent on you or disabled and financially dependent on you
 - parents, grandparents
 - brothers, sister, nephews, nieces, grand children who are orphans, unmarried and under 19
 - children under 19 that you plan to adopt
 - one other relative if you do not have any who are permanent residents or citizens in Canada and if you do not have one of the relatives listed above.

Q. I do not have any relatives in Canada and I would like to sponsor my sister because my parents are old and do not want to come to Canada?

A. Immigration states that relatives are to be sponsored in the above order. For example, you cannot sponsor your sister unless you have sponsored your parents and your sister is accompanying them as their dependent. You

would also have to show that you had the required income to take care of everyone including yourself.

Q. How much income is necessary to sponsor my husband?

A. There is no specific amount of income required to sponsor husband or dependent children below 19 years of age. You will however have to pay upfront the \$500 to process your husband's application and the \$975 right of landing fee for him and every dependent above 19 years of age. The level of income required to sponsor all other family class relatives is detailed in the sponsorship application forms.

NOTICE: If you have any comments or complaints regarding the Integrated Sponsorship Pilot please contact INTERCEDE immediately.

A Story of a Domestic Worker Fighting Back

Contributed by Jan Borovy, Parkdale Community Legal Services

A domestic worker worked for one employer for 17 months. She routinely worked 15 or 16 hour days from Monday to Friday and very long hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Her employer did not pay her on a regular pay day. She did not receive a statement of wages. At the end of her employment with the employer, she was owed one month of unpaid wages.

The total amount owing for this period in overtime pay and unpaid holiday pay was almost \$33,000. The employer also kept and controlled all of her documents including her passport and her bank

Contd. Pg 3

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 1995 (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

book. He only released her documents only after she complained to a counsellor at INTERCEDE.

During the case the employer disputed every claim and statement made by the worker. The worker appealed the original decision by the Employment Standards officer. In the decision issued by the referee, he said "...the issue is entirely one of credibility. Either the worker's quite elaborate version of events is an untruth designed to collect wages to which she is not entitled or she is telling the truth and the employer has been guilty not only of not paying the workers her rightful wages, but of treating her like a slave."

The worker had not kept good records of her work hours. But, the employer's records were very suspicious. The employer could not produce documents to substantiate many of his claims. When the worker claimed she received any of her paycheques months after they were due. The employer again denied this. The worker could show her bank book to prove her story.

In the end and despite a difficult case, the worker won most of the money and was awarded almost \$23,000 in overtime pay and unpaid holiday pay.

URGENT ALERT: BASIC WORKERS' RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

(Contributed by Jan Borovy)

The Minister of Labour Elizabeth Witmer has introduced a new bill -Bill 49 - to change our basic rights as workers. She is claiming that Bill 49 brings in only small administrative changes. She is wrong.

There are at least two changes that will have a very profound impact. Bill 49 limits a workers complaint time to six months. Previously, a worker would up to two years to make a complaint against her employer to the Ministry of Labour.

In effect, Bill 49 is a gift to employers to violate our basic rights.

The Minister also announced that the entire Employment Standards Act will be reviewed in September. Our hard won rights are under attack.

A community campaign is starting to fight back. Call INTERCEDE and join your voice in the fight back!

SPRING GREETED WITH NON-STOP DANCE

Participants ignored a Spring thunderstorm to follow the rhythm at our annual dance May 11 held at Scadding Court Community Centre.

DJ Playhouse operated by Bernie Consul, who annually donates part of his fee for the enjoyment of INTERCEDE clients and members, did not disappoint, hardly stopping the music except for the raffle prize give-away and a special intermission number.

The cast of "Walang Sugat", a musical production of the Carlos Bulosan Cultural Workshop theatre group, surprised the house with a promotional performance of four songs from their forthcoming play.

By evening's end, more than 25 prizes were raffled off to delighted lucky winners, thanks to donors: Gie and Marie Asis, Hermie Austria, Dorothy Balitian, Ellie Bisenio, Rhona Capiral, Helen Diasanta, Dardo Diaz, Delia Echanes, Estelita Gante, Helen Gayola, Maise Lai Kwan Mak, Myrna de Leon, Cora Montilla, Martha Ocampo, Cora and Nestor Padayao, Nena Pacania, Matilde Papa, Shirley Ramos, Denyse Stewart, Flora Wilson and many others.

Those who missed the dance because of other obligations gave cash donations to cover dance expenses. We thank them all, especially Victoria Go Ho.

"LET'S TALK ABOUT WIFE ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"

Facilitator: Martha Ocampo and Jo Alcampo of Pilipinas Support Network
Call 483-4554

JOIN THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MARCH AGAINST POVERTY (organized by NAC-CLC)

In Toronto: June 8, 1996, 12 noon at Queen's Park
Bus to Ottawa: June 15, 1996,
Rally at Parliament Hill on June 15
call us 483-4554 to reserve a bus space

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

INTERCEDE Caregivers Cooperative, Inc.
Giving our best service, Getting the best benefits
Call 486-0548

VANCOUVER CDWCR

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sunday, July 7, 1996

Topic: Workshop Education On
Child Abuse Issues

Sunday, August 11, 1996

Topic: United Nations Convention on the
Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers
and Members of their Families

CARIBBEAN GROUP MEETING

Call Carol for time and place
Call Tel. 483-4554

GRUPO HISPANA REUNION

Llame a Coco
Tel. 483-4554

HOW ARE YOU ADJUSTING TO LIFE WITH NEWLY-SPONSORED SPOUSES/ DEPENDENTS?

Interested in group discussion with past and present
domestic workers ?

Interested in group discussion among their children
ages 10 to 20 ?
Call 483-4554

We wish to thank the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Immigration Settlement and Adaptation Program); Canadian Heritage; Multiculturalism Program; 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); the City of Toronto Grants Review Board, the Trillium Foundation, and United Way of Greater Toronto for their financial support.

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c/o INTERCEDE
234 Eglinton Ave. East
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1K5

FIRST CLASS

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Canada Immigration Centre	973-4444
Canada Employment Centre	730-1211
Educ. & Skills Training Centre	
Labour Council	537-6532
Employ. Standards Enforcement	326-7160
Women's Health in Women's Hands	593-7655
Immigrant Women's Health Centre	323-9986
Immigrant Women's Job Placement Centre	488-0084
OHIP TORONTO	482-1111
SCARBOROUGH	1-800-263-3814
MISSISSAUGA	275-2730
Ontario Human Rights Comm.	326-9511
Unemployment Insurance	730-1211
Workers' Compensation	927-9555
Revenue Canada (Taxation)	869-1500
Centro Para Gente de Habla Hispana	533-8545

CRISIS LINE

Toronto Rape Crisis Centre - 24 HR	597-8808
Assaulted Women's Help Line	863-0511

EMERGENCY HOUSING

Nellie's Hostel	461-1084
Evangeline's	762-9636

LEGAL SERVICES

Parkdale Community Legal Services	531-2411
CLASP (Osgoode Law School) Legal Clinic	736-5029
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services	924-4244
Metro Toronto Chinese & SE Asian Legal Clinic	971-9674
Toronto Workers' Health & Safety Legal Clinic	971-8832

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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INTERCEDE

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

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