

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS



June 2001

Toll Free - Canada
1-877-483-4554

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

RESEARCH FINDING: CAREGIVERS FORCED TO DEAL WITH FACELESS BUREAUCRACY

On May 6, INTERCEDE launched its first book, *Caregivers Break The Silence* - A Participatory Action Research on the Abuse and Violence, including the Impact of Family Separation, Experienced by Women in the Live-In Caregiver Program. Look for articles and photos of the event in upcoming issues of our newsletter.

The following is an excerpt from the section entitled, *Experiences of Abuse and Violence in Relation to the State - Federal Government Policies and Services*:

In their dealings with Immigration, caregivers commonly face bureaucratic delays and hassles at each and every step. They experience Immigration as a huge faceless bureaucracy which carries out unfair policies and is totally insensitive to the human implications of its actions. Caregivers on LCP have no choice but to deal with Immigration for so many different and often complex procedures: getting and renewing work permits on a yearly basis and for each new employer they may work for; applying for an open work permit after completing 24



months of full-time, live-in caregiver work; applying for permanent resident status; and sponsorship of family.

Whatever the causes of the delays, and whether they are intentional or not, they have a serious impacts for women under the LCP. Because each of these have huge implications for their lives and those of their families, caregivers' relationship with this bureaucracy causes enormous levels of anxiety, stress and psychological suffering.

Up until recently, caregivers needed to go to and get in long queues at an Immigration office for a face to face interview with an Immigration officer for every Immigration form and procedure they needed.

In recent years, restructuring in Immigration has meant that most matters are dealt with by mail or by phone. While this change has

eliminated the hassle and waste of time involved in queue waiting and the stress and intimidation of being questioned by an Immigration officer, it has created other problems.

One problem is the waiting involved in communication over the mail. Forms have to be sent usually weeks before the expiry of, for example, an employment authorization, so that the caregiver can continue working without having to wait for the extension. There have been many cases of caregivers given deportation orders as the application they sent for renewal of work permits had not been received by Immigration Canada by the due date. There have also been cases of caregivers losing prospective employers, as the employers have needed their services immediately and have been unable to wait for the processing of the new work permit in their name (*Case Files and Interviews with INTERCEDE counselors*).

To order your copy of *Caregivers Break The Silence*, see page 4 for details.



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 June 3, 2001

3 - 5 p.m.

Guest Speaker from CARE for Nurses Project
- Helping Foreign Trained Nurses to Work in Canada

Location:

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

INTERCEDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Learn Emergency First Aid with CPR
for Infant and Children - Saturday June 30**

One day training: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Markham/Sheppard East, Scarborough
Cost: \$65

**Learn Emergency First Aid with CPR
for Adults - Sunday July 1**

One day training: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
48 Wellesley St. East, Downtown Toronto
Cost: \$59

Registration required by June 22

Space is limited and we can only reserve spots with advance payment. Please register today by sending payment by cheque, payable to: St. John's Ambulance. Mail to: INTERCEDE, #205-234 Eglinton Ave. E, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5 For more information call (416) 483-4554 ext. 21

YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

**Domestic Workers Support
Group for Black Women &
Women of Colour**



Would you like to share your feelings and create solutions so that you can better cope with worry, fears, and other concerns?

Join us every Tuesday 11:30 am - 1:30 p.m.

at Intercede office, 234 Eglinton Ave E, Suite 205

Free and Confidential

*For more information contact
Carol Seeley, Settlement Counsellor (416) 483- 4554 ext. 22*



DAY TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS

There are plans to organize a day trip to Niagra Falls on Sunday July 1st. All INTERCEDE members, family & friends are welcome to join us for sightseeing fun and a chance to meet new friends. Travel plans and costs are still being confirmed, but if you are interested, call Anita at (416) 483-4554 ext 21.

SPECIAL GATHERING PLANNED



Raynalda Hadlow was a member who sadly passed away last year. Her husband Bob Hadlow has organized a gathering on Sunday July 15th (Rayna's Birthday) to show his appreciation of the support given to him by INTERCEDE members. The gathering will be at Earl Bales Park. For more information, please call (416) 223-0362

FREE Job Search Workshop for Caregivers and Newcomers

**Saturdays June 9, 16, 30 & July 7
or Sundays July 15, 22, 29 & August 5**



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**

Call now to register, space is limited (416) 483-4554 ext. 21

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

COST OF RE-ENTRY VISA IN MANILA : MAJOR HASSLE AND A LOT OF TIME & MONEY



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I am an Open Employment permit holder waiting for my landed status under the Foreign Live-In Caregiver Program. In March, I was given the opportunity to go to the Philippines to attend the graduation of my daughter. I was given three weeks vacation and supposed to be back to work by April 10, 2001.

My visa had expired and I planned to secure a re-entry visa at the Canadian Consulate in Manila before my departure date. I did this when I first went home in 1999. At that time, my application was processed and re-entry visa granted on the same day.

When I went to the Canadian Consulate in Manila on March 24th, I was told that the ~~Canadian Consulate~~ changed the process effective **March 1, 2001**.

Although I was already in the building, I was given a telephone number to call for an appointment to process my re-entry visa. I tried to call from a payphone, but could not get a connection. The staff at the consulate said I had to go to the **Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Call Mall** to make the phonecall.

This business was located directly behind the consulate building.

There were booths set up for customers and they monitor your time on the phone and charge you P20.00 (pesos) per minute, at a front desk.

I had a hard time getting hold of the embassy staff and when I did, they told me the earliest appointment was ~~April 24~~ in four weeks!

In an attempt to get a earlier date, I made several calls and it ended up costing me P1,200.00 (\$40 Cdn.) in phone charges!

I wrote a letter to the Canadian Embassy explaining that I had to be back in Canada by April 10 or I might lose my job. And my employer faxed them a letter advocating for an earlier appointment, but one was not given to me.

On April 24, I underwent an intimidating interview with a ~~Canadian Visa officer~~. I was then asked to pay P 2,400 or \$75.00 Cdn. for a single entry visa. (A multiple entry visa costs \$150.00 Cdn.)

I could not pick up my visa in person. I was advised to pay a courier company designated by the consulate, in advance, to deliver my visa within two or three days.

Delivery charges depend on where you want your papers to be delivered and you must be there to

receive the package in person, or else you will have to pay again to reschedule another delivery!

Needless to say, all this hassle and expense cost me a great deal of time, money, and emotional distress.

However, I was thankful to still have my job when I returned to Toronto on May 2. Other caregivers, in a similar situation, may find themselves out of a job.

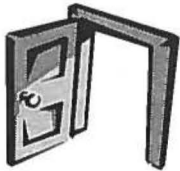
This could happen to some of you, who are planning to visit the Philippines with an expired visa, so I just want to give some sisterly advice:

- If possible, renew your re-entry visa in the United States before your trip, or make an appointment to process your re-entry visa application immediately after your arrival in Manila
- On your appointment date, bring your present Employment Authorization, Passport, and a letter from your present employer stating that you were allowed to go home for a visit and they are expecting you to be back to work on a specific date
- INTERCEDE gives free information at (416) 483-4554

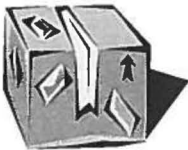
Article submitted by INTERCEDE member.



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 online webstore at www.womensbookstore.com to make a secure credit card order

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

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 CS GP for their financial support.

Address: 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205
Toronto Ontario M4P 1K5
Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 p.m.
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E-mail: office@tofdwr.org

INTERCEDE STAFF:
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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).

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 \$ _____

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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