

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

INTERCEDE for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers and Newcomers

June 2004

Toll Free 1-877-483-4554



TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

Trafficking in persons is historically one of the oldest issues that drew international concern. However, it has remained one of the most complicated problems of the 21st century. Its magnitude, forms and impacts are more alarming and disturbing today. The actions responding to the issue are the various efforts and resources created by international and regional organization, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGO) dedicated to combat trafficking in persons.

There are different opinions about what trafficking is, how widespread trafficking is, how to understand the problem and what needs to be done to respond and most importantly, how to address the growing restrictions against legal and safe migration that people around the world are facing.

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) launched a project in 2003 with the goal of developing the capacity among the Canadian NGO's, including refugee-serving NGO's, to respond appropriately to the concerns and needs of trafficked persons in Canada, especially women and girls. Also, to work towards the eradication of forced labour in Canada.

There is no doubt that trafficking issues trigger deep concern that raises more questions than answers. Questions like:

- ☞ What conditions are triggering the existing large international migration?
- ☞ What other work or labour options are there for migrants?
- ☞ What makes undocumented migrants vulnerable?
- ☞ How are government policies and enforcement practices implicated in trafficking?
- ☞ What are the effects of those policies and practices on migrants ?

There are serious human rights abuses occurring in any situation where women and children or men who are forced or tricked into traveling to a place where they are co-erced into exploitative labour relationships.

Some of the proposed recommendations from CCR (Canadian Council for Refugees):

- ☞ Focus policy responses on protecting trafficked persons and persons vulnerable to trafficking and not just on criminalizing and prosecuting traffickers.
- ☞ Provide opportunities for trafficked persons in Canada to regularize their status as a measure of protection
- ☞ Provide immediate short-term measures to protect trafficked persons, and give them an opportunity to make longer term decisions in security and as a bridge to any permanent protection (create a temporary visa for trafficked persons, access to the interim Federal Health Program, issue of work permit and access to settlement services and etc.)
- ☞ Review and amend existing immigration programs to reduce vulnerabilities of temporary workers to exploitation (review Live-In Caregiver Program, eliminate two-tier immigration categories, and expand the rights of temporary or seasonal workers)

(Excerpts from CCR Report)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Let's Celebrate INTERCEDE's 20th Year Anniversary

Watch for upcoming INTERCEDE ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES:

- ☞ **August 8, 2004** - **POT LUCK PICNIC AT EARL BALES PARK**
- ☞ **October 22, 2004** - **Dinner Fundraising**
- ☞ **December 4, 2004** - **Christmas Dinner Dance at Ramada Hotel**

Mabuhay! Long Live INTERCEDE!

*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)

Apply for/renew your membership - \$10.

Sunday, June 6, 3-5 p.m.
At Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.
(one block south of College cor. Spadina)

**INFORMATION SESSION FOR
PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS (PSWs)**

**Guest Speaker: Ms. Gail Acton, President,
National Association of Certified PSWs**

Weekend Café:**Information Session On Choosing
Your Career Path**

INTERCEDE now complements its Job Search Workshop with *Weekend Café*, a trade-specific information session which features a specific occupation or career. It helps caregivers and newcomers connect with organizations and individuals who may possibly guide them in deciding on job or career options related to their background and interest.

The specific objective of the "café" is to create a networking-support-group to help job seekers get important information related to their specific field or career objective, give them possible job leads and help them see the dynamics of the profession in the Canadian labour market in general.

Vicky Romero, the President of Filipino Nurses Association in Ontario was resource person of the first weekend café. She touched mainly on certification or accreditation and experience requirements for nurses. Feedback on this well attended first *Café* was very positive.

Participants learn which regions or provinces in Canada have great demand for the profession and which community colleges and universities are best recommended for skills upgrading. Resources persons also get to clarify the role certain association or regulating bodies play in the field.

Some 'success stories' are told to inspire and guide especially the undecided and those who are experiencing occupational barriers and other employment issues.

Towards the end of the information session, is a question and answer period. As time permits participants get the chance to have their resumes scanned and commented on.

Personal Support Work is this next Café's topic on June 6, which coincides with INTERCEDE's monthly meeting at Cecil Community Centre. **Ms. Gail Acton**, President of the National Association of Certified PSWs is the invited speaker. She is currently the executive director of GTA-based Creative Career System Inc.

**CASINO RAMA/BOAT CRUISE
FUNDRAISING**

**30,000 Island Midland/Muskoka Georgian Bay Area
FOR ONLY \$30**

When: Saturday, July 24, 2004

Assembly Time: 7:00 a.m.

Departure Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: York Mills Subway Stn.
(at Shell Gas Stn., Southeast of Yonge)

FREE Buffet Meal Voucher from Casino Rama

To register, please call Genie at 416-483-4554 ext. 21

NOTE: For those who don't have the Casino Rama Players card bring your passport or driving license to be able to claim the Buffet meal vouchers at the Casino. Under 19 years old not allowed.

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY TRAINING

Sponsored by **KAPISANAN PHILIPPINE CENTRE
And INTERCEDE**

"I learned about my rights and how to become assertive—now I am treated with more respect!" - Training participant

When : SUNDAY (Six months starting June 2004)

June 13 & 27, 2004

July 11 & 25, 2004

Aug. 8 & 22, 2004

Sep. 5 & 19, 2004

Oct. 3, 17 & 31, 2004

Nov. 14, 2004

Orientation— June 13, 2004, Sunday, 1—4 p.m.

Where : ACROSS BOUNDARIES

51 Clarkson Ave.

(E. of Caledonia/North of Eglinton W. (at least 2 bus stops))

For more information call 416-887-6126 or 416-483-4554 ext. 21

*This project is funded by Maytree Foundation and the
Ministry of the Attorney General Victims Services Division*

CASINO NIAGARA TRIP

On Saturday May 15, INTERCEDE went on a day trip to Casino Niagara. Fifty-two people came, including INTERCEDE board and staff members. The trip began with a bus ride at 9:00 am. We enjoyed the movie, *Love Actually*, and listened to the different descriptions given by INTERCEDE Counsellors about the scenery and historical sites on the way to Niagara. We stopped briefly at the Niagara Flower Clock and took pictures of the beautiful surroundings.

When we arrived the Niagara Casino was packed but that did not stop anyone from having a good time. Many gambled, enjoyed the Casino Niagara buffet, and took in all the beauty of Niagara Falls. The bus was leaving at 4:00 pm and time appeared to go by very quickly. Everyone had a great time, and so are all excited about INTERCEDE's next trip.

PLEASE NOTE:**INTERCEDE
SUMMER HOURS**

From June 21 to August 27, 2004

Monday to Thursday : 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

Q & A

Q. I am a live in caregiver who will soon complete the twenty four months requirement for permanent residence. Since I am not married, can I include my parents and younger siblings in my application for permanent residence? Will they be permanent residents too when my application is approved?

A. No, you cannot include your parents and younger siblings in your application for permanent residence since they are not your "immediate" family members. "Family members" are limited to husband and children only. After you receive your permanent residence, you should wait at least a year before you can sponsor your parents and younger siblings because you have to meet the income requirement. You must be able to show immigration that you have a stable full time job and that you can support your parents and siblings for a definite period of time. For more information, call INTERCEDE and ask for counselor.

Q. I arrived in Canada on April 2002 and have completed the 24-month requirement under the LCP on May 15, 2004. My current work permit will expire on April 2005, however, my employer gave me notice of termination effective May 31, 2005, because she lost her job and could not afford to pay me anymore. Will this affect my application for permanent residence?

A. No, as long as you have completed the twenty-four month requirement within three years, you can apply for permanent residence. Ask for record of employment from your employer and a letter certifying that you worked for them as live in caregiver for two years. Be sure to meet other requirements too, like medical and security clearances. However, because your current work permit is still for this employer, you can not work for another employer. Should you find someone willing to hire you as live-in caregiver, the HRDC must validate the job offer and you must then apply for a new work permit with your new employer's name. Call INTERCEDE for more information.

Q - I am currently on maternity leave taking care of my six-month old baby, but I will be returning to work soon and I was wondering if I could bring my sister from St.Vincent to work for me as a Live-in Caregiver?

A - Your sister can come to Canada to work for you on a temporary work permit as a Live-in Caregiver if she qualifies under the Live-in Caregiver Program. The main requirements to work as a Live-in Caregiver are the following:

- Must have a High School degree or diploma.
- Must be able to speak, read and understand English or French.
- Must have 6 months of full-time training in a classroom setting or 12 months of full-time paid employment as a Live-in Caregiver or at a job related to caregiving.

Therefore, if your sister has had any caregiving experience working with children, people with disabilities or the elderly she could qualify under the program. In addition, if she has worked or studied nursing, mid-wifery or teaching, this could qualify as caregiver experience.

For more information about the Live-in Caregiver Program you can go to the Citizenship and Immigration Website at <http://www.cic.gc.ca>. As well you can ask your sister to contact the Canadian High Commission Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago for information. This office is responsible for immigration applications from St. Vincent.



Caribbean Connection Black Support Group
 Next Meeting: Saturday June 12, 2004
 INTERCEDE Office
 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 *If you have any questions please contact Salma at
 (416) 483-4554 x 22

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE
 365 Bloor St. East, Ste. 900
 Toronto, On, M4W 3L4

Emergency First Aid + Infant/Child CPR (1 day) - \$75.00
 Sunday, July 11, 2004—9:30—6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, July 31, 2004—9:30—6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Aug. 1, 2004— 9:3—6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004—9:00—6:00 p.m.

Emergency First Aid + Heartsaver (1day) \$79.00
 Saturday, June 26, 2004— 9:00—5:00 p.m.
 Saturday, July 24, 2004—9:00—5:00 p.m.
 Saturday, Aug. 28, 2004—9:00—5:00 p.m.

Please register at least 2 weeks before the start of training date by sending a cheque payable to INTERCEDE:

For further details, please call Genie at 416-483-4554 ext. 21

READER GREET'S INTERCEDE STAFF!

First of all, I thank and salute you for your efforts in helping caregivers. This is why good words have spread very well around the community about the assistance you provide for free. Best of all, you save many of us from being victims and falling into the expensive pit of misinformation.

I particularly appreciate you for the Job Search Workshops with the Weekend Café. Last Saturday's forum for nurses was really something I looked forward to. It cleared a whole cloud of doubt and misconceptions, as I am anxious over my preparations for writing the nursing exam so I could get that license to practice here in Canada. Listening to Vicky Romero, President of the Filipino Nurses here in Ontario, made that afternoon worth our while.

I specially thank Coco, Anita and Des, as they really encouraged me a lot, helped me to be more patient as I struggled through my 24 months in the LCP. I could say I emerged a much stronger person. As I look back, I recall that fateful day, when Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) handed me a red INTERCEDE calling card just before I left the Philippine. Since then I have been telling people to contact INTERCEDE. Again, my best regards, to you all and my heartfelt gratitude. - Pat Galupo

Looking for job leads or career connections?



INTERCEDE Offers



Weekend Cafe



**Information Session
For Personal Support Workers**

Have fun in an informal group setting while you:

*Interview foreign-trained professionals in your field
who are now "success stories"*

*Know the terms, trends & the hidden job market
for your type of job/career*

*Know which organizations you may
professionally connect with.*



Explore training options



Meet new friends who can be your potential job leads

Sunday -- June 6, 2004, 3 to 5 p.m.

Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.

(one block south of College cor. Spadina)

Take Southbound Street Car fr. Spadina Subway Strn.

Please call for trade-specific information. Seating is limited.
(416) 483-4554 ext. 21 or 30

INTERCEDE also provides free and confidential counseling, information and referral services for domestic workers, caregivers and newcomers.



FREE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP FOR CAREGIVERS & NEWCOMERS

WHEN: SUNDAY

July 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2004

August 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2004

September 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2004

TIME: 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: INTERCEDE

234 Eglinton Ave E., Suite 405

Toronto, On, M4P 1K5

Please call (416)483-4554 ext. 30 or 21 to sign up.
Seating is limited.

Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada &
sponsored by COSTI & OCASI

INTERCEDE

Address: 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 405
Toronto Ontario
M4P 1K5

Regular Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 p.m.

Telephone: (416) 483-4554

Fax: (416) 483-9781

Toll-Free: 1-877-483-4554

E-mail: info@intercedetoronto.org

INTERCEDE STAFF:

Jo Alcampo — Interim Administrative Co-ordinator

Des Balce - JSW Facilitator

Columbia Diaz - Settlement Counsellor & Program Manager

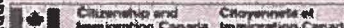
Anita Fortuno - Settlement Counsellor

Salma Saadi - Settlement Counsellor

Genie Policarpio - Intake & Administrative Assistant

Fely Villasin - Coordinator—on leave

*We wish to thank: Citizenship and Immigration Canada - ISAP Program and
Job Search Program with COSTI-OCASI; Ontario Status of Women; the
Municipality of Toronto CSGP, Maytree and Trillium Foundations grant
programs. for their financial support.*



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 Membership Renewal Change of Address Donation of \$ _____

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Province/State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

INTERCEDE Members: FREE

Others: \$25.00

MAIL TO: INTERCEDE, 234 Eglinton Ave East, Suite 405, Toronto, ON, M4P 1K5

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