

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

monthly newsletter of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers' Rights

May 1996



(INTERCEDE)

Join us in a caravan to Ottawa!

WOMEN'S MARCH AGAINST POVERTY ASKS END TO \$975 HEAD TAX

Has it been fair for domestic workers in the Live-in Caregiver Program to pay \$975 in order to sponsor dependents to join you in Canada? Has it been fair to pay an additional \$975 to sponsor your spouse?

If not, then let your voice be heard and join the Women's March Against Poverty in Toronto on Saturday, June 8. Then get on an INTERCEDE bus in a caravan to Ottawa on June 14 and 15.

The Women's March Against Poverty lists as one of its demands to eliminate the \$975 "head tax" and other restrictions against migrants, immigrants and refugees.

The march is being organized by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). It will start on May 15 in Vancouver B.C., the Yukon, Newfoundland and New Brunswick, and will culminate in a rally in Ottawa on June 15.

Stop policies that make more women poor

1996 is the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty yet in Canada and everywhere else, women's poverty just keeps increasing.

During the United Nations Conference on Women that was held in Beijing last September, the world's governments made commitments to women's equality through a Platform for Action that includes the elimination of poverty among women. Yet the Canadian federal and provincial governments have been passing laws and enacting policies that make life harder for women.

Some of these policies directly affect women migrant workers, immigrants and refugees:

Canada now prefers immigrants who have money or higher technical skills. This is a bias against women because as all statistics show, greater numbers of women are poor, have less education, and less technical skills.

Because of the \$975 tax, poor women cannot enter Canada or it takes them longer to save the money to pay for their permanent residence or to sponsor their spouse and dependents.

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, May 05, 1996 from 3 to 5 pm.

Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St. Cor. Spadina

Topic: FASTER PROCESSING FOR LANDED STATUS AND FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

speaker: Ms. Gina Ponziani - Canada Immigration Officer

2:00 - 5:00 pm ORIENTATION Meeting for Newcomers

2:45 - 3:00 pm Member Application & renewals of Member ID 95-0064 to 95-0074

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

From Pg 1

Immigrant women will have to show that they earn higher incomes in order to be able to sponsor their children.

The federal government will stop delivering immigrant services which means only rich immigrants will be able to pay for them. It is women who are directly affected by this decision since they have the most need of the services.

Stop scapegoating immigrants

These immigration policies send a message that immigrants, refugees and migrant workers should be blamed when there are problems with Canada's economy.

Instead of putting the blame on wrong economic priorities and wrong economic decisions, the government is sending a message that immigrants to Canada are a burden rather than contributors to the Canadian economy.

Every study has shown that immigrants, refugees and migrant workers contribute more to the economy than they take from government social and other services. They contribute to the economy through their productive labour, their taxes and their purchase of goods and services.

Anti-immigrant restrictions are being enforced at a time when most immigrants entering Canada are people of colour. It is easy to conclude that these restrictions don't just affect people of colour, they affect in a specific way, women of colour.

March demands justice for women

The national Women's March Against Poverty is relevant to all Canadian women, in all their diversity, young and old.

Grouped under the slogan of the march, the following are what women demand from the government of Canada:

Jobs - secure, full-time, well-paid jobs, jobs for women that have a future. Not unemployment, not the temporary, part-time, insecure low-paid jobs the majority of them have now. Women want jobs with a future.

Immediate increase of the minimum wage to \$7.85 and be able to buy what the minimum wage in 1975 could buy.

Aboriginal women's appropriate and equal access to federal resources for jobs and job training.

Bread - Pass a Canada Social Security Act that will restore national standards for social assistance.

These standards include the right of any one to adequate level of income, the right to social assistance based on need not on other conditions such as workfare, the right to appeal administrative decisions on social assistance, and the right to assistance in any province irrespective of length of residence.

Fulfill the Liberal Party's promise to institute a national child care program, a key requirement for women's economic independence and equality.

Guarantee portable and secure support programs for people with disabilities for whom services are being

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 April 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 MAY, 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

From Pg 2

cut and who earn as little as \$5000 to \$10000 a year.

Strengthen the public pension system and maintain women's independent access to old age benefits so that old people don't live in poverty and aging women don't have to depend on their husbands for old age benefits.

Enforce the Canada Health Act by sufficient transfer of federal money to provinces to make health care accessible to all, universal, portable, comprehensive and publicly administered and not-for-profit.

Make post-secondary education accessible to women through grants, not loans that will take them decades to pay or effectively discourage them from continuing their education.

Restore the benefit levels of unemployment insurance with the surplus in UI funds, and keep UI an insurance system that is universal and not conditional on household income.

Create 14,000 units of social housing per year for women and their families, housing that is quality and affordable determine health.

Justice - Allocate \$50 million for feminist services against male violence, such as anti-rape centres, transition houses and shelters, and women's centres.

End the \$975 head tax which is onerous to poor, immigrant, migrant and refugee women of colour, limits or delays their ability to reunite their families and violates their human rights.

Ask the Liberal Party to keep its promise to include sexual orientation as prohibited grounds for discrimination under the Canada Human Rights Act.

Call on the government to make the elimination of women's poverty a central objective of its foreign policy by working to eliminate loan conditions, aid and structural adjustment programs that further impoverish women in developing countries and cause millions of them to migrate in order to supplement their family incomes.

The demands of the Women's March Against Poverty must be heard loud and clear in Ottawa, they must be met. These demands are important for all Canadians and for our future. Join the women's march For Bread And Roses, For Jobs and Justice.

(Call 483-4554 or come to INTERCEDE for bus and other schedule, T-shirts at \$15 and other information)

PRISON TERM FOR FAITH HEALER RAPIST

Two years less a day. This was the prison sentence given to Enrico Ramos, 42, for one count of sexual assault against a woman who trusted him as a faith healer in the Filipino community.

Ramos was charged in court by three women, two domestic workers and a young relative of one. He was accused of sexually assaulting them during faith healing sessions where he pretended to drive out evil spirits or to cure them of their ailments.

In pronouncing sentence, the Judge scored the "cold and calculating" manner in which Ramos abused his position of trust and authority, violating a young woman he was pretending to heal, while her family waited in a room outside.

The maximum sentence for Ramos' crime is ten years. INTERCEDE's Coco Diaz learned that Ramos could be paroled even just after serving less than a year of his prison term. Then he could also be expelled from Canada as it was found he has no legal status here.

Women who came to support the victims of Ramos were unsatisfied with the short sentence he got and the possibility of early parole. The third case against Ramos will be heard at the end of May. They are hoping he will be found guilty and given a longer sentence that they feel he fully deserves.

**IT'S SPRING!
LET'S DANCE, DANCE, DANCE**

Saturday, May 11 at the Scadding Court
Community Centre
(Dundas corner Bathurst)
Tickets at \$15

FREE ! FREE ! FREE !
(For Intercede Members Only)

BEGINNERS COMPUTER COURSE
For information call 483-4554
Please book early, space for each schedule is limited

**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, June 2, 1996

Topic: Opening Ontario's Workplaces to
women, racial and other minorities

Sunday, July 7, 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); Cana-
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c/o INTERCEDE

234 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 205
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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FIRST CLASS