

# DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

INTERCEDE for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers, and Newcomers  
Toll Free 1-877-483-4554

MAY 2000



## INTERCEDE LOBBIES WITH MIGRANT ORGANIZATIONS AT UNITED NATIONS BEIJING +5

It has been five years since the World Conference on Women was held in Beijing.

Last March, INTERCEDE joined a group of organizations from different parts of the world to lobby for further actions to implement the Platform for Action – a list of commitments that members of the United Nations agreed to in order to advance the equality of women all around the world.

In the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Commission on Women, INTERCEDE was part of a delegation of non-government Canadian organizations which lobbied for three weeks together with their counterparts in other countries to advance on the work in Beijing.

As part of the Economic Justice Caucus, non-government organizations which focused on economic issues, and together with Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers' Rights (CDWCR), as well as migrant organizations represented by the Asian Migrant Centre in Hongkong, we summarized our principal demands to the UN member states which were negotiating a follow-up document to the Platform for Action.

Following are the key lobby points of the Migration groups:

1. To create and implement legislation to protect and promote the human rights, including social, political



INTERCEDE members at the International Women's Day march held in Toronto which also launched the World March of Women against poverty and violence which will culminate in October in a march to the United Nations in New York.

civil and cultural rights, of all migrant women in countries of origin, transition and destination.

2. Equal access to legal protection, health, education, social and other services and programmes, as well as to social security and pensions in countries of destination of migrants.
3. Unconditional cancellation of debt of countries where women are increasingly impoverished and forced to migrate.
4. Create economic reintegration programmes with adequate resources for migrants returning to countries of origin.

*All Domestic/Caregiver Workers, All Newcomers and Women on Temporary Work Permit*

*WELCOME TO*

### **INTERCEDE MEETING EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

(if a holiday, meeting is on second Sunday)

**Sunday, May 7, 2000**

3-5 p.m. at Cecil Community Center  
58 Cecil Street, South of College/Spadina

**Topic: Taking Care of Your Health by Anne Johnston Health Station**

**Renew your membership or Apply for new membership**



## A GLANCE AT PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION ACT:

### SO WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

On April 6, 2000, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced "sweeping new legislation" for Canada Immigration. Let's take a look at what they are proposing and how you may benefit:

- ✓ You will be able to sponsor dependent children under 22 years old instead of 19.
- ✓ Family class sponsorships could include spouse, common-law and same sex partners.
- ✓ You may be able to sponsor your spouse or partner who is already in Canada with you.
- ✓ You will be eligible to sponsor family if you are at least 18 years old (used to be 19 years).
- ✓ Your sponsorship commitment has been reduced to 3 years (used to be 10 years).
- ✓ If you cannot meet the "Low Income Cut-off" to sponsor immediate family, it may be possible to seek the help of a "guarantor" to cosign with you.
- ✓ Your sponsored spouse and dependent children will not be denied based on excessive health or social service needs.

Although these changes are heading in the right direction they fall short of the real changes that would improve the lives of domestic workers, live-in caregivers and their families. INTERCEDE continues to demand that domestic workers and live-in caregivers should be permitted to enter Canada as landed immigrants. In this way migrant workers will arrive in Canada armed with the same rights and entitlements as other immigrants.

We will continue to analyze and interact with the government's proposed amendments so watch for future developments.

## EMPLOYER ABUSE MUST BE STOPPED

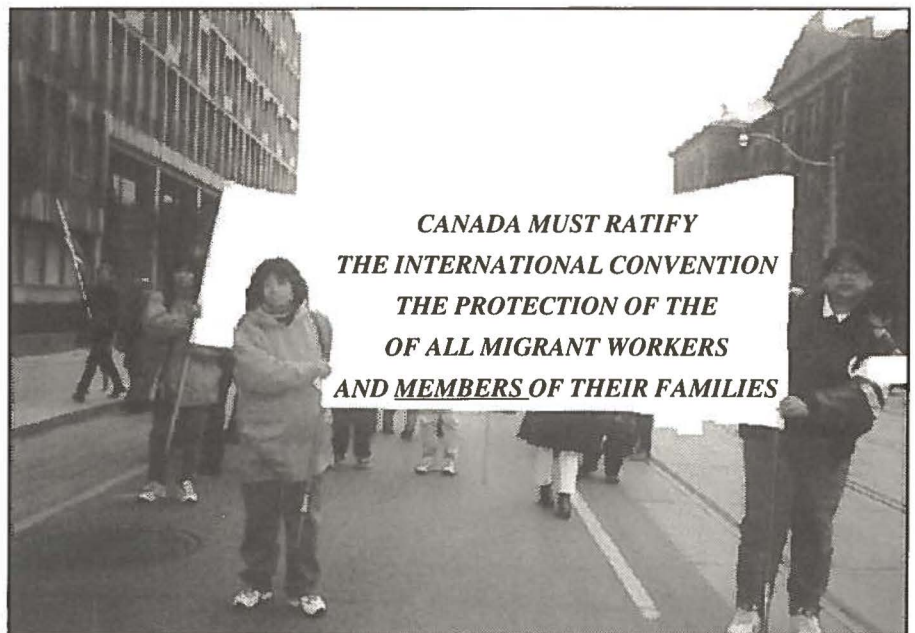
INTERCEDE members, caregivers / domestic workers and the Filipino community were shocked with the news and wanted to know the truth about the charges brought against Acting Philippine Consul General Olivia Palala by Rosario Dasilao, her domestic worker of several years.

As far as they were concerned, Dasilao's action was to be applauded because it showed she was empowered and strong enough to want to fight for her rights.

Once again, a live-in domestic worker was subjected to abuse, this time physical abuse, as described during the hearing of Palala in the Ontario Provincial Court. The judge's decision, however was to dismiss the case, not because Palala proved her innocence but because the domestic workers's defence, the crown lawyer, was not able to prove her case "beyond reasonable doubt".

Judge Feldman had been presented with photos of Dasilao's injuries and her statement to the police ; he had "strong suspicion" about what happened to Dasilao. The judge also found Palala's explanation "dismissive" and "arrogant".

As an organization which advocates for the rights of caregivers, domestic workers and migrant workers, INTERCEDE considers Rosario Dasilao's action of bringing charges against an abusive employer commendable and worth emulating. No employer should feel free to abuse a domestic worker without being made to account for it. And no diplomat is above the law.





## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

**Huldah E. Richards** has joined the staff of INTERCEDE as a Counsellor. She is a graduate of York University and has worked in the social services field for the past twelve years. Huldah has worked overseas in the Caribbean as an international fundraiser and in the United States in the area of mental health. Huldah immigrated to Canada from the Caribbean in 1970.

**Anicia Bonilla**, a former domestic worker under the Foreign Domestic Program Movement (FDM) in 1985, has joined INTERCEDE Caregivers Cooperative as Coordinator. She holds a degree in Accounting and upgraded in George Brown College in Business and Computers. She experienced discrimination as a woman of colour. Courage and motivation always win as they say, so she advanced herself and gained twelve years experience in the accounting field in a variety of business settings. She enjoys meeting different people and is a mother of three.

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Sunday on May 14, 28, June 4 & 11**

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**Tel. No. (416) 483-4554 ext. 25 or 22**

## OUR FATHER

*by Fr. Graziano Battistella, Scalabrini fathers*

(The following prayer message was sent to us by KAKAMMPI, an organization of migrants and their families based in the Philippines. It is worth reflecting on during this time)

### **Don't say: "Our Father"**

>If you don't recognize the migrants as your brothers and sisters.

### **Don't say: "In Heaven"**

>If you only think that migrants can bring you labor force but not values

### **Don't say: "Holy Be Your Name"**

>If you cannot call migrants by name because to you they are just strangers

### **Don't say: "Your Kingdom Come"**

>If you are only concerned with your well-being protected by fences and frontiers

### **Don't say: "Your Will Be Done on Earth"**

>If your laws discriminate and foreigners cannot have justice

### **Don't say: "As It is In Heaven"**

>If you have forgotten that on Earth we all are temporary residents

### **Don't Say: "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"**

>If you are afraid that migrants have come to steal your jobs

### **Don't Say: "Forgive Us Our Sins"**

>If you think there is nothing wrong in treating foreigners differently

### **Don't Say: "As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us"**

>If you are convinced that migrants have nothing to forgive you

### **Don't Say: "Do Not Bring Us to the Test"**

>If you cannot accept the challenge of peaceful living with foreigners

### **Don't Say: "But Deliver Us From Evil"**

>If you think that evil comes from abroad and you are not ready to question yourself

### **Don't Say: "Amen"**

>If you cannot believe that God is Father to all.



**Emergency First Aid with CPR –  
Infant Child**

Here's an opportunity to upgrade your skills in childcare. INTERCEDE is offering a course in Emergency First Aid with CPR - Infant Child conducted through St. John Ambulance. It's a one-day comprehensive training to enable participants to expertly tackle emergency situations involving children.

Course date and location to be announced.

**To register call: INTERCEDE**

**Tel. (416) 483-4554 ext 21 or 22**

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

INTERCEDE Caregivers Co-operative, Inc.

Your employment agency

Giving our best service, Getting the best benefits

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Need to practice your computer skills

or write your resume?

Call 483-4554 to schedule an appointment

**JOIN INTERCEDE  
CAREGIVER'S COOPERATIVE**

**on Saturday, July 1, 2000**

for a day of sightseeing tour to Niagara Lake,  
Cherry picking and Casino Niagara for  
only \$25.00 dollars.

**Call (416) 486-0548 x 25 for details.**

**VANCOUVER CDWCR**

*Committee for Domestic Workers'  
& Caregivers' Rights*

(an INTERCEDE Affiliate)

**Contact Julie or Lorina (604) 874-0649**

**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:	\$20.00	Others	\$25.00

*We wish to thank the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Immigration Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP) and Job Search Program With COSTI-OCASI: Status Of Women Ontario; Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation (NSP) and the Municipality of Toronto for their financial support.*

**INTERCEDE SERVICE UNIT**

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**INTERCEDE STAFFS**

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