

# DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

INTERCEDE for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers, and Newcomers

OCTOBER 1998



## INTERCEDE GUEST SPEAKER LEADS WORK ON WOMEN/HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

The guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of INTERCEDE on October 4, 1998 will be Penni Richmond, the National Director for Women's and Human Rights of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), the nation-wide federation of labour unions in Canada.

Penni has been a strong supporter of INTERCEDE'S Campaign to get Canada to sign the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. This will be one focus of her talk.

At the coming meeting, Penni will describe the role of the Canadian Labour Congress in the life of working people in Canada. She will discuss particularly how government economic policies usually have a different and worse effect on certain workers - such as women, migrants, immigrants and refugees.

Representation of the Canadian Labour Congress at this Annual General Meeting is highly significant for INTERCEDE'S members at a time when restrictions in immigration rules as well as immigration services are threatening their community. For it is at such times that all organizations struggling for a just society need to strengthen their bonds and fight inequality together.

## RESEARCH SHOWS IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT CUTS WORSE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

A research recently published by the Canadian Labour Congress and done by Elizabeth Kwan shows that immigrants and refugees are affected in different and worse ways by the federal government's decisions to reduce spending and transfer social programs over to the provinces.

While immigrants and refugees are shown to contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural benefit of the Canadian-born population, the same immigrants and refugees have had to cope with less services, less assistance, less benefits and more anti-immigrant attacks.

This is because of their status as non-citizens as well as discrimination against them because of their race or gender or ethnic origin etc.

Services that assist immigrants and refugees to settle in their new country (such as those given by INTERCEDE) used to be the responsibility of the Federal government.

But now that this responsibility is being transferred to the provinces, these settlement services will no longer be the same everywhere in Canada - some may be better, or worse, than others.

And money for these services is not just decreasing but provinces may divert it to other institutions. This will

*Domestic Workers, Caregivers, Newcomers and Families...Members and Friends*  
WELCOME to

## INTERCEDE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, October 4, 1998**

3-6 pm at Cecil Community Centre  
58 Cecil St., South of College/Spadina

- Annual & Financial Reports
- Election of Board members
- Program and Refreshments

\* **Guest speaker:**

**Penni Richmond**  
National Director, Women's & Human Rights  
Canadian Labour Congress



result in less money for non-government agencies to provide settlement services to immigrants and refugees.

Also, the Federal government's effort to cut service costs has increased the amount of fees that immigrants and refugees have to pay for work permits, for renewals or for landed status.

Because of unemployment, people often have to apply for welfare. But immigrants and refugees have to cope with still decreased welfare benefits because of their non-citizen status.

Employment Insurance rules exempt many immigrants and refugees from benefits. Because many of them are in the manufacturing and service sectors where work is less stable, seasonal or shift or part-time, immigrants and refugees are unable to qualify for EI.

Yet it is proven that immigrants and refugees rely less on welfare and social programs than Canadian-born citizens. In fact it was estimated that in 1990, the net contribution (all taxes paid minus all social programs used) from earnings of a "foreign-born" household was \$1813 more than a Canadian-born household so that an aggregate of \$2.6 billion was transferred from "foreign-born" to Canadian-born population.

In addition, most immigrants arrive in Canada young and healthy so that they increase the number of people working and paying taxes and boosting the economy. Canada enjoys the benefits of the health and education of this working population that were spent for by their countries of origin.

Government cuts in health and education also affect immigrants and refugees in different and worse ways, specially the youth among them.

The research study calls for an acknowledgment of this differential impact in the making of government policies and it also calls for unions to be aware of this fact as they struggle against downsizing in a changing labour market.

The Canadian Labour Congress now has to follow-up this research with appropriate action!

## Letters to INTERCEDE

### A Visitor's Lament .....

As a visitor in Canada I was able to see the world-famous Niagara Falls, watch baseball games at Skydome and see all of the interesting places in Ontario. All these happened during my first two months in Canada.

Through my network in my community, I was introduced to an Employment Agency which then referred me to an Immigration Consultant who said I could stay and work in Canada as long as there was a family who would hire me as a caregiver.

While waiting for the extension of my visitor's visa, I found a family in need of a live-in caregiver to look after their mother who had Alzheimer.

The Employment agency assisted my prospective employer in obtaining a Validated Offer of Employment at the Human Resource Centre which was later forwarded to the Canadian Embassy in Buffalo.

Prior to my schedule interview in Buffalo, I was able to have an appointment with an INTERCEDE counsellor, who asked me questions relevant to the Live-In Caregiver Program. I found out that I lacked qualifications and did not have proof of some information stated in my application form. I shared this information with my Immigration consultant who gave me assurance that I did not need to worry, since he would be accompanying me to my interview.

As I write this letter to your office, I have just closed my luggage in preparation for going back to my country after an unsuccessful attempt to work in Canada. I wasted my time and money and feel cheated by the fact that the Employment agency and Immigration consultant never told me the truth: **that I had a slim chance of success in the so-called Buffalo shuffle.**

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



## Right to Re-unite with Adopted daughter

After 10 years in Canada, single and alone, I decided to be re-united with my adopted daughter who is now 17 years old. The adoption was approved when I was still in my country and she was only four years old.

My adopted daughter was my inspiration while completing the requirements of FDM Program now the Live-In Caregiver Program. I became a permanent resident and then a Canadian citizen. In all those years I was full of hope that soon I would be re-united with my daughter.

In those growing years, my daughter was in the care of her natural mother, my sister. It was through telephone calls, letters and bi-annual vacation trips that we communicated but our relationship was genuine as mother and daughter.

Now, I feel devastated that Immigration has concluded that I only adopted my daughter for the purpose of bringing her to Canada and refused my sponsorship.

As a Canadian citizen, I strongly believe that my right as a parent is violated. How can an Immigration officer make a conclusion that my relationship with my daughter is not genuine after all the effort and sacrifices I have gone through just to be able to provide a better life for her?

After all, it was because of the live-in requirement of the LCP that I could not bring my adopted daughter with me when I first came to Canada.

## Access to Professions and Trades for Foreign Trained Immigrants...

Foreign trained immigrants can have access to practice their professions and trades in Canada, if they know where to go for information and what requirements are needed.

Some professions or trades have their own provincial regulatory bodies like engineers, nurses, dentists, midwives, accountants, physical therapists, physicians, embalmers, teachers etc.

To practice a regulated profession, you need to apply to the provincial organization responsible for regulating that profession. This regulatory body will assess your qualifications and, if you qualify, will license, register or certify you to practice your profession in Ontario.

The accreditation process is different in each province and for each profession. But usually you will need to have your education and other documents translated

into English. Community settlement and private translation agencies can translate documents; in certain cases your documents need to be notarized by a notary public or lawyer.

Most professions require that you write one or more professional examinations. The assessment process for accreditation takes time and costs money. It is important for an applicant to know the assessment process beforehand. To get detailed information, contact the professional regulatory body for your profession.

There are professions that are not regulated by law but have voluntary bodies which provide certification courses and professional registration. Call INTERCEDE for information or assistance about access to your profession or trade.

### Are You a New Filipino Immigrant?

Did you finish a university or post secondary course in the Philippines like Nutrition, Bachelor of Arts, Engineering, Nursing etc.?

Do you need an evaluation of your education documents for employment purposes?

Have your education documents assessed at:

### Comparative Education Service

University of Toronto  
315 Bloor St. West Toronto  
M5S 1A3

For Professional Licensing or Registration  
Contact your professional association  
For further assistance to new immigrants:

**Call INTERCEDE**  
**(416) 483-4554 or (416) 486-0548**

### EMERGENCY FIRST AID WITH CHILD CPR

*(discounted rate for INTERCEDE members)*

**Saturday, October 31, 1998** 10 am to 4 pm  
at St. John Ambulance

Register early and pay \$50 to INTERCEDE,  
space is limited

For more info call **483-4554**

### VANCOUVER CDWCR

*Committee for Domestic Workers' & Caregivers' Rights*  
(an INTERCEDE Affiliate)

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



**IPASA PAGKABASA - TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:**

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**SEPARATION, DIVORCE,  
CUSTODY AND IMMIGRATION -  
SOME BASICS**

with **CAROL ALLEN,**  
a lawyer on Family Law

**Sunday, November 1st 1998**

**3 pm to 4:30 pm**

Cecil Community Centre 58 Cecil Street

**CARING FOR CHILDREN IS  
A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY!  
BE UPDATED!**

**Child Care Training Session I**

(workshop will focus on infants to children five years of age)

**Sept. 26 to Nov. 7, 1998** (1-4 pm every Saturday)

**Child Care Training Session II**

(workshop will focus on children six to twelve years of age)

**Jan. 16 to Feb. 27, 1999** (1-4 pm every Saturday)

Fee: \$70.00 for each seven week session

arranged by INTERCEDE with

**Seneca College**

*Space limited, Register NOW!*

*We wish to thank the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Immigration Settlement and Adaptation Program); Canadian Heritage, Multiculturalism Program, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation (NSP) and the Municipality of Toronto for their financial support.*

## **CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

**Sunday, December 6, 1998 3 - 7 pm**

**Cecil Community Center**

**58 Cecil Street**

Exchange gifts (not less than \$10)

Bring your family and friends.

## **ARE YOU A NEW FILIPINO IMMIGRANT?**

Do you need assistance and support in:

- Job Search
- Career Upgrading
- Resume Writing
- Preparing for Job Interviews
- Comparative Evaluation of Education
- Housing Settlement
- Transportation and Route Access

Come and Join!

**Sabay Tayong Mag-Umpisa sa Canada**

**Job Search Support Group**

**INFORMATION SESSIONS ON:**

**October 7, 14, 21 & 28, 1998**

**every Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m.**

**Call INTERCEDE:**

**(416) 483-4554 or (416) 486-0548**

**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**

**Call 486-0548**

### **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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