

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

INTERCEDE for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers and Newcomers

October 2003

Toll Free 1-877-483-4554



HIGHLIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP BILL C-18

Highlights of 7th INTERCEDE Domestic Workers' Conference (con't.)

Amy Casipullai, Policy and Public Education Coordinator of the Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), shared some of the highlights of this proposed law and called attention to some of its worrisome proposals.

Equality of all citizens – OCASI welcomes the clear reaffirmation that all citizens, no matter how they become citizens, have equal status. However, language in the act must be very clear on protecting the rights of all citizens against discrimination in security screening practices at Canada-US borders and other borders to ensure that treatment is differently given based on one's place of birth or faith.

The differential manner in which citizenship is passed on to one's children is a cause for concern, such that a child born outside Canada to a second generation Canadian citizen

• Granting Citizenship

OCASI is also concerned about the inequality evidenced in the description of the right to pass on citizenship to one's children. A child born outside Canada to a Canadian citizen who is second-generation born outside Canada does not have the right to citizenship and may even become stateless. This will apply even when the mother in question has lived in Canada all her life except for the first few months. The child of a Canadian citizen who was born in Canada and then lives most of her life outside Canada is faced with no such restrictions. This provision is unfair, inequitable and subjects second-generation Canadians who are born outside Canada to 'separate

treatment' that will significantly affect her ability to even accept rewarding employment outside of Canada.

They recommend that this provision should be amended to recognize that a child born outside to an individual, whose application for citizenship has been accepted, should be considered a Canadian citizen. In addition, the cut off of age 28 for losing the right to retain citizenship seems to be arbitrary and provides no provision for appeal for those individuals who may have strong and valid reasons for not being able to apply for citizenship prior to the cut off age.

According to the provision in Bill C-18, it is the Minister of Citizenship that will grant citizenship. OCASI is concerned with this change since it will shift the granting of citizenship away from the Citizenship Judge who is governed by far more rules of process in the law.

OCASI is also concerned at the broad powers granted to Cabinet to refuse citizenship, on the basis that a person has "demonstrated a flagrant and serious disregard for the principles and values underlying a free and democratic society". The principles and the values are not clearly defined. OCASI believes that such a broad provision could be interpreted very differently by different cabinets and even individuals, and lead to abuse of the power to deny citizenship. Again, the lack of due process for adequate remedy is of serious concern.

• Revoking Citizenship

OCASI is deeply concerned at the potential for violation of

INTERCEDE

cordially invites you to its

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 4, 2003

Ramada Hotel, 300 Jarvis St., Toronto, On.

(south of Carlton St.)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 5:00 p.m. | - Business Meeting and Elections |
| 5:30 p.m. | - Guest Speaker: Ms. Yola Grant, M.Sc., LL.B. |
| 5:40 p.m. | - Ratification of By-Laws #4 |
| 7:00 p.m. | - Lottery Draw (\$10) |
| 7:30 p.m. | - Dance Party (\$35) |

See you there!

human rights with the proposed process for revoking citizenship. Out two main concerns are regarding the use of the certificate process where the evidence may not be disclosed to the individual who is affected, and that citizenship can be denied to a person who has disregarded the "principles and values underlying a free and democratic society". (Instead of on the basis of "public interest" as it was in previous bills). We are concerned that this provision is open to broad interpretation and as such can potentially deny the individual due process and a fair hearing.

Bill C-18 proposes that the Minister of Citizenship should be given new powers to annul citizenship, whereby an individual who obtained citizenship after immigrating to Canada may lose that citizenship without due process and without the right to a hearing. An individual who may have been falsely accused will not even have the opportunity of providing an adequate defence because the evidence against them may not be disclosed. Placing such a critical decision outside the judicial process does not in any way ensure that justice will be served and that the rights of the individual will be protected through due process and against false and malicious accusations.

• Statelessness

Statelessness is a growing global problem that is of concern to OCASI and of all Canadians. OCASI is a member of the STATUS campaign in Canada which calls on the Canadian government to regularize the status of individual without status in Canada. These individuals are presently living, working and making important contributions to Canadian society and the economy.

While Canada is a signatory to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the government have not signed the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of stateless Persons. OCASI therefore urged the Government of Canada to sign the 1954 Convention, and to make the necessary changes to the proposed Citizenship Act to ensure that it conforms to the spirit and intent of the convention. OCASI also recommended the addition of a clause in the Act stating that the "Act is to be interpreted in a manner consistent with the principle of reducing statelessness" relative to its previous recommendation on eliminating those provisions that will lead to the creation of stateless persons.

After the talk of Ms. Casipullai, there were exchange of comments from the participants and the speaker. Some participants feared that Citizenship Bill C-18 is so strong and powerful in favour of a single individual, since the Minister of Citizenship seems to have a blanket authority in granting citizenship and revoking citizenship single-handedly without the benefit of a Citizenship Judge. Furthermore, in revoking the citizenship of a person, there seems to be the absence of due process because of the use of "certificate process" where the evidence may not be disclosed to the individual who is affected, and that citizenship can be denied to a person who has disregarded the "principles and values underlying a free and democratic society". Some of the participants objected to the Bill. For them, the previous bill is better as it employs as basis "public interest" in resolving cases in citizenship. They also remarked that "this Bill is a way of putting an invisible masking tape to the citizens". At this point Fely informed the group of the "No One Is Illegal Campaign", a status campaign of an action-oriented group. Likewise Ms. Casipullai discussed the

circumstances when due to policy changes, people can be out of status and it is in this situation that OCASI could be of help to them. She gave her contact nos. where they could be reached, and with that she thanked INTERCEDE for inviting her to the Conference as a speaker and also to the participants for the opportunity given her.



SERVANT CULTURE 'KILLING FAMILIES, FEEDING RACISM'

World's poor pay for west's feminism, says author **Fiachra Gibbons**, arts correspondent, in Edinburgh, The Guardian.

Middle-class families who hire cleaners and nannies so women are free to go out to work are contributing towards a new ex[exploitative "servant economy", claimed by a leading American feminist.

Barbara Ehrenreich, whose international bestseller *Nickel and Dimed* tells how she spent a year trying to earn a living from menial jobs in the United States, said the new "servant culture" was destroying families in the developing world and inculcating racism in children in the west.

She told the Edinburgh Book Festival that many of the benefits feminism had brought to middle-class women in the west had been paid for by the enslavement of poor migrant women.

"Imperialism used to extract the gold and other resources, now we are taking love from the poorer countries. Many of these women have to leave their own children behind to come and work as childminders."

Ehrenreich, whose new book, *Global Women*, examines what she claims is an unrecognised people trade, said: "We women in the rich countries work, so we need someone else to do the work at home and look after our children.

"Our children learn quickly in this servant economy that some people are more worthy than others. New hierarchies emerge. Because increasingly cleaning women are women of colour, so you imprint racism very early." But the main blame lies with men for their failure to properly share the burdens of the home, she argued.

Ehrenreich said no longer having to do your own housework had also "bred a callousness and solipsism in the people it served", and made them complacent in their privilege.

"In this way paid housework is more damaging in some respects than violence in films," she said. It encouraged a thinking that the socks we dropped would be mysteriously tidied away, and by extension that the pollution our factories created would just go away and did not matter.

"The ugly underside of this is that women are also lured here for cleaning or childminding jobs by traffickers and they end up in brothels."

The rise of the new servant economy could be directly traced to the mid-1980s, she said, when women in the west first began to enjoy the fruits of feminism. "At that point that the graph in which men, who had for the previous decade or so been taking on more domestic chores, flattens out. It is because men have not taken up their responsibilities at home that this demand for domestic help exploded.

"You can even see it in the advertising that is used for house cleaning services in America, some even say, 'We will save your marriage!'"

Feminism had badly failed these poor and migrant women, she insisted. "We thought entirely in terms of reforming men, which hasn't worked yet. Even in the west, feminism may have made great gains for middle-class women, but the other 70% who are still doing stereotypical female jobs have not seen much change."

Ehrenreich has been labelled an "intellectual pornographer" by rightwing groups in America, who are furious that Nickel and Dimed has been adopted on to university syllabuses. "They said I was an atheist who has dedicated her life to the destruction of the American family," she claimed.

But the real destruction was in developing countries, many of whose governments actively collude with the trade in domestic servants. "If you look at countries like Sri Lanka or the Philippines that these women have left behind, it has had a calamitous effect. Children are left to be looked after by the men, such that they do, who are mostly unemployed."

She said the governments of poor countries often used the money sent home by migrant women workers as a way to do nothing about poverty.



ATTENTION!

INTERCEDE office is now on 4th Floor, Suite 405, of our same address.

REGULATIONS TO INTRODUCE EXPIRY DATES ON 900-SERIES SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

The Social Insurance Number is a nine-digit number used as a personal file identifier to administer various Government of Canada programs. SINs that begin with the number "9" are issued to people who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents and who need a SIN for employment purposes or to comply with other authorized uses, such as income tax filing.

- Since March 30 2003, all new 900-series SIN cards are given an expiry date that matches the expiry date on the immigration document used to apply for SIN.
- SIN cards issued before March 30, 2003 must be renewed before April 3, 2004. You must complete a SIN application and provide the type of valid immigration documents such as a Work Permit that HRDC will accept to issue a SIN. If you qualify, you will be issued a new SIN card with the same number and an expiry date that the same as that of your Work Permit. All 900-series SIN cards that do not have an expiry date and have not been renewed between March 30, 2003 – March 30, 2004 will expire on April 3, 2004.
- To reapply, one has to visit or contact Human Resources Canada Centre at 1-800-206-7218 (for service in English) or 1-800- 808-6352 (for service in French).

For further information call INTERCEDE. Please call for an appointment.

Reminder About Employment Contract

Many caregivers had been refused extension of their work permit, which led to losing their status. This happens because of ones failure to submit an Employment Contract co-signed with

the employer, when they apply for an extension. This could likewise happen even if the caregiver had submitted her application several months prior to expiry date of her work permit.

Losing a status could cost a caregiver \$200.00 for restoration fees plus \$150.00 for application for extension of work permit. Application for restoration of status must be done within 90 days after expiry of work permit. In some cases when a work permit expires for more than 90 days, application for restoration of status may be refused. Instead one receives a letter advising to leave Canada the soonest possible time.

To avoid such situation, always refer to your document checklist to be sure that you have provided all the required documents whenever you submit an application to Case Processing Centre in Vegreville or any of the Immigration offices. This could help facilitate hassle-free processing and possible approval of application. Note that document checklist is always included in all immigration application kits.

For more information call INTERCEDE's office and ask for any counsellors. It is practically advised that one has to call for an appointment prior to meeting a counsellor.



WIN CASH LOTTERY

1st Prize : CAD\$1,500 Cash
2nd Prize : CAD\$1,000 Cash
3rd Prize : CAD\$ 500 Cash

Three (3) Consolation Prizes

Raffle Ticket \$10

Raffle Draw: Saturday, October 4, 2003, 7:00 p.m.
Ramada Hotel, 300 Jarvis St., Toronto, On.

Lottery License No.: M210735

DANCE DANCE DANCE

Saturday, October 4, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Ramada Hotel, 300 Jarvis St, Toronto

Hot Buffet and Cash Bar

Semi-Formal

\$35.00 Ticket

Coco's corner:

Q By February 2004, I will be three years under the live-in caregiver program. When that time comes I would only be completing 20 months employment as caregiver. What will I do to complete the 24 months live-in work. Do I still have the chance to apply for permanent residence in Canada?

A- Prior to your completion of three years under the LCP, make sure to have a new Validated Offer of Employment from HRDC. In effect you may be given a chance of another one-year Employment Authorization. However, there is no guarantee your application for Permanent Residence under the LCP will get approved. Your option is to apply under the Humanitarian and Compassionate Consideration. Call INTERCEDE for assistance and counselling.

- Q- The stories in the previous issue of INTERCEDE Newsletter regarding Employment Agencies and Immigration Consultants, strongly warn us against dealing with widespread fraud happening in our Community. Is it possible for you to name such notorious agencies?
- A- Continue reading our stories because we have more appalling account "modus operandi" of such agencies. Due to confidentiality assured to clients we can not expose the names of the agencies. However, we have concrete proofs we can provide to authorities such as the Ministry of Labour and RCMP) These agencies are better equipped in dealing with FRAUD cases.

**INTERVIEW TIPS
TO HELP ENSURE JOB SEARCH SUCCESS**

An employer looks for the following

- Communication skills
- Enthusiasm
- Sense of responsibility & dependability
- Ability to quickly adapt to new work situations
- Ability to multi-task
- Clean, neat appearance
- Initiative and sense of flexibility
- Ability to get along well with others
- Cheerful disposition. Don't forget to smile

Interview Do's and Don'ts

Do's

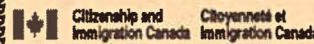
- Prepare for the interview: Prepare a customized resume, read company literature
- Dress appropriately
- Exude confidence: Give a firm handshake, maintain eye contact
- Listen carefully to the questions and think before responding. Follow the interviewer's lead, but try to get all your good points across in an honest and sincere manner
- Thank the interviewer for their time when you leave

Don'ts

- Don't sit down until you're invited to do so
- Don't answer questions with a simple yes or no. Always give full explanation of your answers
- Don't lie. It is impossible to fake job experiences. And in most cases this does more harm than good
- Don't make derogatory remarks about former employers, former co-workers and workplaces
- Don't bring up the topic on salary, until you are certain the employer is interested in hiring you or until you are finally offered the position
- Don't smoke or chew gum

Good Luck in your Job Search!

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



FREE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

FOR NEWCOMERS AND CAREGIVERS

When: October 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2003
November 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2003
Nov. 30, Dec 7, 13 and 14, 2003

Time : 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: INTERCEDE
234 Eglinton Ave. E., Ste. 405
Toronto, ON., M4P 1K5

Please call (416)483-4554 ext. 21 or 30 to sign up or e-mail
jsw@intercedetoronto.org / lrbalce@canada.com

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

Telephone: (416) 483-4554

Fax: (416) 483-9781

Toll-Free: 1-877-483-4554

E-mail: info@intercedetor

INTERCEDE STAFF:

Fely Villasin - Coordinator

Des Balce - JSW Facilitator

Columbia Diaz - Settlement Counsellor

Salma Saadi - Settlement Counsellor

Anita Fortuno - Settlement Counsellor

Genie Policarpio - Intake & Administrative Assistant

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