

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

monthly newsletter of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers' Rights

September 1995



(INTERCEDE)

MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS DEMAND PROTECTION

During the three day INTERCEDE conference held in Vancouver, domestic workers and advocates voiced unanimously the need for the international protection of domestic workers and migrants.

The Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers' Rights (CDWCR) in Vancouver, an affiliate of INTERCEDE, hosted this conference in August which was a follow-up to the one held in November 1994 by INTERCEDE in Toronto.

The twenty-five participants who attended represented various organizations assisting domestic workers: CDWCR, INTERCEDE, Intercede Caregivers Cooperative, Inc., Ottawa Multicultural Homemakers Association, Filipino Migrant Workers of B.C., BIBAK and Richmond Association for Multicultural Concerns.

One of the goals of the conference was to assess the networking and coordination of campaigns since the last meeting. Participants committed their actions to the continued opposition to the \$975 head tax, the sponsorship bond and the

privatization of settlement services through petitions and network activities.

Priority was also given to sharing tips to improve our method of organizing, strategizing our work and linking it to the international movement of migrant workers in relation to the Beijing conference.

It was particularly important to the participants that a clear strategy be developed to increase the support from domestic workers, members, other organizations, and the public in the struggle for equality of domestic workers under immigration, labour and all other laws. A strategy that would ultimately aim to protect not only domestic workers and migrants in Canada but all over the world.

As thousands of women from around the globe meet August 30 to September 15 in Beijing, China to pressure the world's government to commit their actions to achieving equality for women, the following message is sent with INTERCEDE Coordinator, Fely Villasin who is in Beijing for this conference,

Contd. Pg 2

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF INTERCEDE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Sunday, October 1, 1995

3 to 6 p.m. at

Cecil Community Center
58 Cecil Street, cor Spadina

2:30 - 3 p.m.

Registration

3:00 - 4 p.m.

Business Meeting and Election

4:00 - 6 p.m.

Program and Refreshments

All with valid membership by September 1995 have the right to vote.

From Pg 1

DEMANDS FROM A CONFERENCE OF MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS IN CANADA TO FORUM '95 IN BEIJING AND TO THE U.N. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

1. Migration must be an option not a necessity. Governments must commit to prioritize the interest of people over profit when they make economic decisions. Those decisions must protect the environment and sustain humanity so that no longer will women be forced to migrate in order to support their families.
2. Governments must provide equal protection under their laws to migrant, refugee and other displaced women. In particular, Immigration laws and policies that discriminate against them must be eliminated.

In Canada, such discrimination is being practiced through recent immigration policies such as: the \$975 head tax, the \$10,000 sponsorship bond, and the privatization of settlement services.
3. We demand an end to all forms of indenture labour. In Canada, the Live-in Caregiver Program results in such a form of indenture for migrant domestic workers who are accepted on temporary status and on condition that they live-in their employer's household.
4. The value of women's work must be recognized and promoted through immigration policies, labour standards and other laws.

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5. The rights of domestic workers to adequate remuneration and benefits must be granted and they must be protected by international and national labour laws on the basis of equality with other workers.
6. Stop the exploitation of migrant labour. United Nations agreements to protect migrant women must be ratified and implemented by governments. In particular the Convention to Protect Migrants and Members of their Families must be ratified and implemented by source and receiving countries of migrants.
7. Migrants and domestic workers must be provided advance information and adequate access including financial resources to be able to represent themselves in international conferences such as Beijing.
8. The human rights and labour rights of migrant women must be respected and protected by governments. Women's rights must be recognized as human rights.
9. Racism exacerbates the exploitation and abuse of migrant women and domestic workers in countries of the North. Governments must end racism in all its forms including systemic.

MIGRANT WOMEN AND DOMESTIC WORKERS DREAM OF THE FUTURE

We dream of day when we will no longer be forced to leave our loved ones, our children, our family and friends, and our country, to work in far-away places just to put food on the table; we dream that day will come;

...when we will be protected by the same laws

TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS since Aug 1994 (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 SEPTEMBER, 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 : _____

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES :

INTERCEDE Members :	FREE	Non-member Domestic :	\$20.00
Non-Profit Organizations:	FREE	Others	\$25.00

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

Next INTERCEDE Meeting, **Sunday, September 10, 1995**
3 to 5pm, Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St
(one block south of College St. off of Spadina Avenue)

Topic: **HOW TO BUDGET AND SAVE ON A LIMITED SALARY**
Presenter: Rehnee M. Doromal

From Pg 2

that protect the citizens of the countries where we migrate;

...when we will receive decent wages, decent standards of work and living wherever we are;

...when we will be treated as equals; when we will be respected for our occupation as domestic workers;

...when domestic workers will not be forced to live-in as a condition of their status in receiving countries;

...when we will have legal status wherever we go and we will not have to run and hide and put our lives in danger because we are "undocumented";

...when Fairness, Justice, Equality will not be mere words but will be our living reality;

...when there will no longer be any form of slavery nor indenture in the world...

FOR ON THAT DAY WE WILL BE FREE AT LAST!

Thank you to all conference participants for their hard work and especially to CDWCR for hosting the event and providing lodging.

CAREER PLANNING TIPS

Before planning for a career, you should ask yourself "What do I want to do in the future". Avoid following a certain career path because it's the popular choice. Your circle of friends or co-workers may be upgrading their skills in a certain area but it does not mean that their choice is what's best for you as well.

You may want to consider the following as a guide during your career planning:

- * What kind of work did you do previously, currently? What kinds of skills do you have as a result of these experiences?
- * What are your areas of interests, your strengths?

- * Do you want to work directly with people, with computers, in a home, at an office, hotel or restaurant, do you want to sell ideas or products, etc. ?
- * Are you good at cooking, writing, at math or figures, at analyzing statistics, taking care of children, the elderly or persons with disabilities, counselling people, doing repetitive work like in a factory, teaching, etc. ?
- * What kind of business would you like to work for or to start?
- * Are you looking for short-term or long-term employment?
- * Are you willing to work hard and to learn something new?
- * Do you need to speak to a career counsellor or to someone who can help you with your career planning?

Once you have determined what career path you would like to take you should list what previous skills are transferable in this new field, what new skills you may have to obtain and how you will pay for your expenses.

Keep in mind that while preparing what courses to take, you may have to accept a transitional job for survival purposes.

Good luck!

Thank you to Li Zhou, a counsellor at ACCESS for New Canadians (416-703-6611) for her presentation on Career/Upgrading at INTERCEDE's August monthly meeting.

CARIBBEAN GROUP MEETING

Sunday, Sept. 17, 1995
Call Carol to register: 483-4554

ORIENTATION AND SELF ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

Call 483-4554 for time and place

NOTES FROM MEMBERS, CLIENTS AND FRIENDS

continued from July newsletter...

"I want to express to you on behalf of Ten Days Toronto Central Committee, our thanks for your generosity with your time and efforts in the four events of February 15 and 25. Your presence and support were key to allowing us to develop and strengthen our program. I hope that we will have the opportunity to do further work together. Best wishes and all the best in your continuing work." . . . Margaret Sumadh

"We appreciate the attention and support you gave to our colleague Celia Mansilla during her visit to your country. We hope to establish regular communication and exchange of information about our work." . . . Asociacion Aurora Vivar of Lima, Peru.

"Please accept this donation as a token of appreciation to INTERCEDE for services I received while I was a client. A million thanks and God bless you all." . . . Lagricia Subia

Lagricia later wrote a longer note:

"What a relief to be landed! After six long, frustrating years of waiting, I finally got my landed papers."

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to INTERCEDE, and most specially to Coco (Diaz) and CLASP for all their help and support when I needed them."

"You people made me strong enough to handle all the problems that I encountered through Immigration. I'm so glad we have INTERCEDE. I hope you keep on doing your good work; giving advice, support and a helping

We wish to thank the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Immigration Settlement and Adaptation Program); Canadian Heritage; Multiculturalism and Citizenship; Ontario Ministry of Citizenship; Ontario Ministry of Health; Ontario Ministry of the Environment; Ontario Women's Directorate; the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (Community and Social Services); the City of Toronto Grants Review Board and United Way of Greater Toronto for their financial support.

hand to those who are in need like me. God bless you all." . . . Lagricia Subia.

Thank you for your kind words. INTERCEDE staff.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Canada Immigration Centre	973-4444
Canada Employment Centre	730-1211
Educ. & Skills Training Centre	
Labour Council	345-9312
Employ. Standards Enforcement	326-7160
Immigrant Womens' Health Centre	323-9986
Immigrant Womens' 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 - 24HR	597-8808
Assaulted Womens' 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

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