

DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS



September

2001

Toll Free - Canada
1-877-483-4554

INTERCEDE FOR THE RIGHTS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS, CAREGIVERS, AND NEWCOMES

NEWSbites & INFO

What's in a name? From OCW to OFW to OFI

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo now wants to call Filipino migrant workers a new name: Overseas Filipino Investors or OFIs - Why? Because they "invest the best years of their lives" away from home. The truth is that her government badly needs migrant workers' money remittances. Now, what else is new? (from Vicente Romano III of eLagda)

Do you have a safeworkplace?

INTERCEDE will promote safe workplaces for live-in caregivers through its Advocacy Training program. A round of workshops will focus on learning strategies with caregivers together with community facilitators involved in ending violence against women. At the end, a safety audit guide will be published for distribution. Free Registration is now open, just call 416-483-4554.

Government ignored opponents to immigration law

This was the complaint of Judy Wasylcia-Leis, lone New Democratic Party (NDP) member of the Parliament's Citizenship and Immigration Committee. She tried to get 80 amendments made to Bill C-11, the proposed new Immigration Law. But with their majority, the Liberal government passed the new immigration law without the substantive changes proposed by immigrant and refugee groups. So now we have a new law that has "offensive and troubling aspects" meant "to keep people out rather than reuniting families and building a nation". The new law is expected to take effect in October.

Admission into University

You can do it through a Bridging Course held one night a week for just \$85 fee. Specially designed for women, this course is sponsored by the School for Women's Studies as part of York University community outreach

program. About 20 INTERCEDE members have joined this Course, some of whom are now pursuing university courses. If interested, attend the information and registration sessions Oct. 15 at 6:30 pm 225 Danforth Ave. near Main, or Oct. 17 at 6:30 pm at 201 Caribou Road near Bathurst & Lawrence. More info at 416-736-2100 ext. 77818

Two Documentary films planned

If you were active during the campaign in 1980-81 to obtain "landed status for domestic workers" or if you have photos and other materials of that struggle, producers of a film project about that historical event will be very happy to meet with you. Another documentary is planned based on INTERCEDE's research book, Caregivers Break The Silence. If you want to tell your story and be interviewed for this documentary, call Fely at 416-483-4554 ext. 24.

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*All Domestic/Caregiver workers,
Newcomers and those on Temporary Work
Permit are welcome to attend*

**INTERCEDE MEETING
Every First Sunday of the Month**

(if holiday, meeting is on the second Sunday)

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 9, 2001 at 3 - 5 pm
At 58 Cecil Street, Cecil Community Centre
(1 block south of College at Spadina)

Topic: **NEW IMMIGRATION RULES TO TAKE EFFECT**

A new law makes no changes to Live-in Caregiver Program but many other changes will affect caregivers and domestic workers' permanent resident status and family sponsorships.



**Family, Friends & Supporters of INTERCEDE Are Invited To
GO BACK IN TIME at our 50's, 60's & 70's Dance
Saturday September 29, 2001**

**at Scadding Court Community Centre
707 Dundas St. W. (Bathurst & Dundas - Parking Available)
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. * Tickets \$15 * Light snacks provided**

**Come dressed in your best 50's, 60's or 70's attire!
Reserve your tickets today! Call Anita at (416) 483-4554 ext. 21**



Visit by Kakammpi advocacy officer

Ellene Sana, advocacy officer of Philippine-based migrant organization, Kakammpi, recently visited Toronto and met with INTERCEDE board members. Ellene had attended a Human Rights training seminar in Ottawa. She took the occasion to share some of Kakammpi's work including an update of the

Absentee Voting bill. This proposed law is still on the burner and Filipino citizens living and working abroad are still waiting to exercise their constitutional right to vote. President Arroyo in her State of the Nation address mentioned the bill as among those which must be passed by Congress. In time for the 2004 presidential election, maybe?



PART-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT

August to March 2002

- has experience doing research
- will do data collection, interpretation and analysis
- will facilitate groups and conduct interviews
- 4th year University or graduate student with major related to sociology, health, social work
- must be familiar with Filipino community, speak or understand Pilipino

*Please email or write ASAP including research work to:
Fely Villasin c/o INTERCEDE
fvillasin@intercedetoronto.org
Absolutely No telephone calls.*

INTERCEDE

cordially invites you to its

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, October 14, 2001

At Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.

(one block south of College at Spadina)

3 p.m. Members' Annual Meeting and Elections

4 p.m. Program

Speaker:

Marilyn Oladimeji

(from Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape)

"Are you in a safe workplace?"

Community Speak-Out

Song Number

5 p.m. Snacks and Refreshments

FREE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND NEWCOMERS

INTERCEDE is offering free Job Search Workshops specifically designed for domestic workers and caregivers working under the Live-in Caregiver Program. Other newcomers are also welcome.

Participants learn skills needed to find work in Canada, such as how to identify their skills, write effective resumes, and handle job interviews with confidence.

In the past three years, INTERCEDE has served over 400 participants and 80% have secured full-time or part-time work.

In particular, we assist domestic workers and caregivers with the transition into the broader labour market, once they complete the Live-in Caregiver Program. Participants learn how to view their caregiving skills as valuable skills and how to talk about these 'transferable' skills in interviews.

Here is some feedback from past participants:

"I feel different about my job prospects now that I have participated in a JSW Program. I have more self-confidence in myself now."

"In a few more months I may be granted an open employment permit, and attending a workshop like this, I can say that it really helps me to organize things in setting up my goals..."

"I am most definitely feeling much better about my job search skills. And my stay in Canada."

"INTERCEDE bring opportunities for Newcomers & LCP participants, opens job possibilities thinking, and ways of meeting people. This workshop also helped me get back to my old assertive self."

"Knowing your rights as a worker makes you comfortable in looking forward to the very next step in my life. Knowing that you are not alone and will go on to further achievements."

INTERCEDE IS HIRING...

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND INTAKE WORKER
(for full-time six-month contract \$13.75/hour starting October with possible extension)

Do you have experience and knowledge of:

- working with immigrant or migrant women?
- Issues and regulations, related to immigration, labour, human rights, social services etc. affecting domestic workers, particularly those in the Live in Caregiver Program
- Office administration, good English correspondence, filing and computer skills
- Excel data-base and accounting system
- Must be able to work at least two Sundays a month

If so, please send a resume before Sept. 17, 2001

Addressed to: Hiring Committee, INTERCEDE
234 Eglinton Ave., ste. 205 Toronto M4P 1K5

Please do not call. Only those selected for interview will be contacted.

The four-day workshops are held on Sundays at **George Brown College** in downtown Toronto. Next classes are September 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Space is limited, please call our intake worker, Anita Fortuno at (416) 483-4554 extension 21 to register. This free program is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada; and sponsored by COSTI and OCASI. Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion.



From Left to Right: JSW graduates Merlie, Evelyn with Facilitator, Jo Alcampo



“You are nothing but a nanny. You are here because you are poor!” – 12-year-old boy to Filipina in the Live-in Caregiver Program.

“They treat you like ...I wouldn't say a dog because they treat a dog better!” – Caribbean domestic worker.

Caregivers Break The Silence is a book about the abuse and violence experienced by women who come to Canada under the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) and leave behind their own families in order to care for our own.

How to Order *Caregivers Break The Silence*



In person: Drop by our office at 234 Eglinton Ave E, Suite 205 during business hours or the Toronto Women's Bookstore, 73 Harbord Street (open weekends)



By mail: Phone the Toronto Women's Bookstore locally at 416-922-8744 or Toll-Free 1-800-861-8233 to arrange worldwide delivery



By internet: Visit the Toronto Women's Bookstore's Web store at www.womensbookstore.com

Limited number of copies available! Order yours today! Only \$12 (plus postage)

We wish to thank: Citizenship and Immigration Canada - ISAP Program and Job Search Program with COSTI-OCASI; the Federal Status of Women & Status of Women Ontario; the Maytree Foundation, and the Municipality of Toronto CSGP for their financial support.

Address: 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205
Toronto Ontario M4P 1K5

Regular Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 p.m. (see below)

Telephone: (416) 483-4554

Fax: (416) 483-9781

Toll-Free: 1-877-483-4554

E-mail: info@intercedetoronto.org

INTERCEDE STAFF:

Jo Alcampo - JSW Facilitator

Columbia Diaz - Settlement Counsellor

Anita Fortuno - Intake & Administrative Assistant

Fely Villasin - Coordinator

INTERCEDE provides free & confidential counselling to caregivers and domestic workers employed through the Live-In Caregiver Program. INTERCEDE also assists sponsored family members, caregivers working in related fields and other newcomers.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in the Fall. Voting membership is open to domestic workers, caregivers, and newcomers. Annual membership fee is \$10.00, which includes a one-year subscription to our monthly newsletter, *DOMESTICS CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS*, and opportunities to attend subsidized training programs (First Aid CPR, Childcare & Eldercare Certificate Program, University Bridging Program, etc). Call office for application or attend our meeting the first Sunday of every month.

Donations or newsletter subscriptions from individuals and organizations are also greatly appreciated (see form below).

WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER? If you want a one-year subscription to *DOMESTIC'S CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS*, please complete the form below and mail it to us with appropriate payment or call (416) 483-4554 ext. 21

Please check: New Subscription Renewal Change of Address Donation of \$ _____

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Province/State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

INTERCEDE Members: FREE *Individuals & Non-Profit Organizations: \$20.00* *Others: \$25.00*

MAIL TO: INTERCEDE, 234 Eglinton Ave East, Suite 205, Toronto, ON, M4P 1K5

Yes, please send me a receipt for my subscription or donation No receipt required