

# **DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS**

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

September 2007

Toll Free 1-877-483-4554



## **JSW Success Story** *Jackielyn Policarpio*

From the day that I set foot in Canada, I immediately had the feeling that everything was going to be alright with me. My two older sisters resided here. I had no doubts that they would take care of me; their so called "little sister". Looking after me was a bit challenging for my sisters.

I migrated to Canada as a Live-in Caregiver- I lived with my employers. Although it was hard for me at first, I managed well. I am pleased that I was able to adjust myself to a new country, new culture and new living situation.

My sisters used to work as Caregivers under the Live-in Caregiver Program. They were both very supportive. Trusting their wisdom, I listened to their advice.

I was introduced to INTERCEDE. I then became an active member of the organization. On weekends I attended training workshops that helped me with personal and professional development. I also upgraded my skills based on the information I received about the Labour Market, from the JSW (Job Search Workshop)

Through assistance from the staff at INTERCEDE I was able to make consistent progress towards my future goal. The service was free. When I successfully finished my 24 months under LCP, I immediately applied for an Open Permit and Landed Immigrant Status. One month and two weeks after I received my permit, I was hired as a full time Medical Office Assistant at a Clinic in Toronto.

Thank you INTERCEDE and more power to JSW.



## **INTERCEDE**

**For the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers and Newcomers**

*cordially invites you to its*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

***Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St,***  
**(one block south of College, corner of Spadina)**

Sunday, November 4, 2007  
3:00 - p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

*Guest Speaker will be announced*



**WELCOME TO  
INTERCEDE'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Board, Members and Staff would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Agatha Mason.

Agatha has a myriad of work and volunteer experiences ranging from front line to Management, in various capacities with diverse populations.

Agatha is people oriented and energetic. Her career objective is to work as part of a team with an organization that practices the principles of anti-oppression, actively promotes respect and embraces diversity and positive change, while fostering mutual growth and development, through education, for all stakeholders.

*Welcome Agatha!*

**YOU ASK US AND WE ANSWER  
by INTERCEDE Counselors**

**Question:**

I am a Live-in Caregiver. On March 2007 I applied for permanent residence and open work permit. I included my family members in my application. My employment was terminated on June 2007. I had concerns about how being unemployed would affect my permanent residence application.

So, I called the CIC Call Centre and informed them that I **sponsored** my family members in the Philippines and I was now unemployed. The CIC agent told me that I should be employed full time while my sponsorship was being processed; otherwise my family's application for permanent residence might be refused. **Is that true?** I am now confused. Please help me.

**Answer:**

**No, that's not true.** In your case, it does not matter if you are unemployed. It will not affect your application as long as you have worked for twenty four months as a live-in caregiver within three years of your arrival in Canada. You and your family members will receive permanent residence status if you have:

- ☒ Passed the security clearance (Police check)
- ☒ Passed a medical examination
- ☒ Certification of "no previous marriage" record for spouses (for applicants from the Philippines)
- ☒ Proof that all children over 22 years old are still full time dependents

You are not yet a landed immigrant or citizen. Sponsorship of family members and other relatives is done by immigrants and citizens of any country that allows this process. Regarding your application under the LCP, **the term "sponsorship" does not apply.**

*Cont. next column*

**Question:**

My employers are not giving me a pay slip and I have no idea how much was deducted from my salary. They are paying me cash and my friends told me I will be in trouble because I should be paid by cheque as proof of my employment. How will I know if my employers have remitted the Taxes, CPP and EI deductions they have taken from my salary? What should I do?

**Answer:**

You can call Revenue Canada and enquire if your employers made any remittances on your behalf. If no remittances were made, then request that your employers remit your taxes. If they refuse, you can file a claim against them at Revenue Canada. It does not matter if you were paid in cash or in cheque. You should be given a pay slip every time you receive your salary. Keep a record of all your working hours and copies of your pay slips as proof of your salary deductions.

**For additional information about the above issues and matters pertaining to the your rights and responsibilities under the Live-in Caregiver program call us at 416-483-4554 ext. 21**



**BBQ FUNDRAISING  
By Bernice Small**



On Saturday August 18, 2007, the Caribbean Connection (INTERCEDE Black support Group) held its third fundraising Barbeque at Earl Bales Park The event drew approximately 130 people. We raised \$446.90.

The menu at the BBQ included: vegetable rice, dinner rolls, garden salad, chicken, and cold drinks. Also, there were games such as cricket, dominos, cards and soccer. Members of the group and INTERCEDE staff organized and participated.

We wish to express thanks to all who worked very hard to help make this annual event a success. With out your constant dedication we will continue to make it happen.



**QUOTES!**

*"We can do anything we want if we stick to it long enough."...Helen Keller*

*"Real integrity is doing the right thing knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not"...*  
*Oprah Winfrey*

## FOR YOUR INSPIRATIONS

### *SWEET BLURRY EYES*

The 'window to the soul' is how humans often refer to you  
But there's no guarantee that what you show to me is true

You see skin color and label it inferior  
You see eye color and call it superior  
You see wisdom and label it wrinkles  
You see sarcasm and name it giggles

Often what you see is not always a true copy or picture  
Sometimes your description is a very inaccurate replica

You see sameness and label it minority  
You see desperation and call it loyalty  
You see inequality and label it diversity  
You see humanity and name it ethnicity

Through your tiny lens the mind projects its perceptions  
You are the channel for interpreting its ideas and visions

You see oppression and label it authority  
You see freedom and call it immaturity  
You see addiction and label it obesity  
You see fear and name it conformity

When your mind seeks new sanity, knowledge will increase  
Let your body taste abundant fruits of joy, beauty and peace

You see injustice and label it legislation  
You see truth and call it revolution  
You see ignorance and label it segregation  
You see change and name it liberation

When your soul mends the pain, your heart will love again  
Let your spirit know with time, it will shine despite the rain

You see the isolation and label it independence  
You see manipulation and call it romance  
You see assimilation and label it tolerance  
You see opportunity and name it chance

When all your windows are washed with water from the skies  
Let those teardrops cleanse your lens my *Sweet Blurry Eyes*

*By: Agatha Mason, Executive Director of INTERCEDE*

*Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Keisha Toby,  
President of INTERCEDE and family on the death on  
her Grandmother in St. Vincent...*

## COCO'S CORNER:

Mercy shed tears of happiness. The result of her Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) conference was positive. She released a big, deep breath after answering the series of questions. She had appealed the initial result of her sponsorship application. She was refused due to insufficient annual income.

The decision was based on the following:

- ☞ Mercy was alone in Canada. She had obtained Canadian citizenship after grueling years, working as a domestic worker. She had upgraded her skill in health care and had been taking care of seniors who has medical problems.
- ☞ For over 16 years in Canada, Mercy was never a recipient of Employment Insurance or any social assistance. She worked to support herself and her children back in her country.
- ☞ Mercy was very self-sufficient and fully adjusted to Canadian way of life but then realized that being alone in Canada was lonely and scary. She was surrounded by friends but it was different. It would be more beneficial if her family members were around.
- ☞ One of Mercy's children (son) was a single parent of two children. She gave him financial support. She then chose to sponsor him to join her in Canada.
- ☞ Mercy's son had a special skill. That would make it easy for him to find employment once he arrived in Canada.
- ☞ In spite of Mercy's meager income she maintained paying monthly premiums on her life insurance and had impressive Investments and RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan). She was also part owner of a real state property.
- ☞ Mercy had integrated well into the Canadian society.

Mercy relied on the guidance and services of INTERCEDE who assisted and coached her during her appeal interview. She is now waiting the arrival of her son. Their re-unification will take place soon.

## GOOD NEWS!

*Look out for a new INTERCEDE Website,  
[www.intercedetoronto.org](http://www.intercedetoronto.org)*



**COMPUTERS FOR SALE!  
BEST BUYS!**



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- Keyboard
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**Lap Top—Combo Drive (CD&DVD)**

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- Publisher
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One Year warranty, parts and labour, in-home set up.

**Price - \$700**

Call Genie at 416-483-4554 ext. 21.

**VOLUNTEERS AT INTERCEDE**

*Where would INTERCEDE be without our volunteers!*

*INTERCEDE would like to thank all of our volunteers over the years.*

*Ongoing thanks to our Board of Directors, Finance Committee, Fundraising Committee and Personnel Committee.*

*Volunteers we are seeking volunteers from among our members to join our committees: Fundraising and Program.*

**FREE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP  
FOR CAREGIVERS & NEWCOMERS**

**WHEN: SUNDAY**  
October 13, 14, 21 & 28, 2007  
November 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2007  
December 2, 9, 15 & 16, 2007

**TIME :** 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** INTERCEDE Office  
234 Eglinton Ave. E., Ste. 405  
Toronto, ON., M4P 1K5

Please call (416)483-4554 ext. 30 or 21 to sign up.  
Seating is limited.  
Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada

**INTERCEDE**

**Address:** 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 405  
Toronto Ontario  
M4P 1K5

**Regular Hours:** Mon-Friday 9 am – 5 p.m.

**Telephone:** (416) 483-4554  
**Fax:** (416) 483-9781  
**Toll-Free:** 1-877-483-4554  
**Web Site:** www.intercedetoronto.org  
**E-mail:** info@intercedetoronto.org

- INTERCEDE STAFF:**
- Agatha Mason** - Executive Director
  - Columbia Diaz** - Settlement Counsellor & Program Manager
  - Anita Fortuno** - Settlement Counsellor
  - Bernice Small** - Settlement Counsellor
  - Vicky Policarpio** - JSW Facilitator
  - Genie Policarpio** - Intake & Administrative Assistant

*We wish to thank: Citizenship and Immigration Canada - ISAP and Job Search Program; and the Municipality of Toronto CSP for their financial support.*



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