

May 10, 2004

Dear CCNCTO Members,

RE: Urgent Call for Support to the Homeworkers' Association

I want to share with you a personal story about my mother.

My mother has worked in the Toronto garment industry since 1975 when we immigrated from Hong Kong. **During the day she worked in a factory on Carlaw Avenue for less than minimum wage and at night she toiled away in the kitchen on an old sewing machine as a homemaker.** Mom was the last one in the house to sleep and when my sisters and I awoke for school, she had our lunches prepared and was already clocked in the factory for her 5:30 a.m. shift.

No doubt, the life of a homemaker is difficult and with many challenges. My mom found no time for ESL classes because all her spare time was devoted to her young children and attending to house chores. **Poverty kept her family in a cycle of low wages and under-employment.** She never was able to experience all the opportunities that have been afforded to my sisters and I as a result of her hard work and sacrifices.

Last July, CCNCTO became a lead sponsor of The Homeworkers' Association (HWA). **This is an invaluable organization that I wish that my mom had access to when she was still a homemaker.** Maybe then she would have felt less isolation or would have even taken ESL classes with other homeworkers. My mom is a wise woman with a grade six education who taught me to put the needs of others before my own. She taught me the importance of family and community.

The incredible work of The Homeworkers' Association is literally a lifeline to women working in the isolation of their homes. Through HWA, women garment workers of Chinese origins not protected through the employment and labour laws are offered some hope. CCNCTO is deeply

fair wages.

This is why I am writing to you.

HWA currently receives no funding for the important work that they do. You can make a positive difference in the lives of homeworkers; who are mothers, aunts, grandmothers, daughters, sisters and friends. **Imagine the impact your financial contributions would make to the many women who are a forgotten workforce.** Women who are paid 'wages' that amount to \$2.00 per hour. Women who have no legal recourse should they fall ill or injured and are unable to work. Women whose work remains unpaid simply because no one is holding the bosses to account. Women who are most vulnerable to unemployment and poverty due to systemic barriers.

Please help us support The Homeworkers' Association. We can't do it without you!

Sincerely,



Kristyn Wong-Tam
President

P.S. Your contribution of \$100, \$75, \$50 or whatever you can give will help the Homeworkers' Association continue to connect the many women sewing garments in their homes to resources that will improve their lives. Thank you.



親愛的會員：

支持家庭車衣工人聯誼會的呼籲信

我想與你講述一個有關我媽媽的故事。

自1975年我們全家移民多倫多后，我媽媽一直在制衣行業工作。她白天在 Carlaw Ave. 一間衣廠做，賺取少於最低工資的薪水，晚上她又坐在櫥房的一架舊衣車前車衣，做一名家庭車衣工。媽媽總是全家人中最遲上床睡覺的，當早晨我和妹妹起床學時，她已為我們準備好了午餐并且清晨五點半已在工廠開工了。

無可置疑，作為家庭工人是極艱難并會面對許多挑戰的。媽媽將她僅有空餘的時間用來照顧孩子及家務，根本沒有時間去上英文班。貧困使全家處於低收入及生活在水平線下。媽媽從來沒有經歷像我和妹妹所擁有的機會及努力工作之后的成就。

去年七月，平權會多倫多分會全力贊助家庭車衣工人聯誼會并協助其組織及發展。這是個極有意義的機構，我多么希望當媽媽還是家庭車衣工人時有機會參加這個組織，這樣可使她少些孤立，或和其他家庭車衣工人一起上為他們而設的英文班。媽媽雖然只有六年級的教育水平，但她是一位賢慧的母親，她常教導我將他人利益至於個人利益之上，她教我認識到家庭及社區的重要意義。

家庭車衣工人聯誼會有意義的工作就是將那些被孤立在家工作的華裔婦女們團結組織起來，通過聯誼會的工作，為那些不受勞工法例保障的車衣工人提供幫助。平權會多倫多分會支持車衣工人，為爭取他們在法律上的認可及爭取公平工資而奮鬥。

這就是我呼籲的因由。

家庭車衣工人聯誼會目前正陷入經濟危機，短期內欠缺基金以繼續其重要工作，你可以為那些在家工作的媽媽，阿姨，婆婆，女兒，姐妹，和朋友生活的改變提供有意義的幫助。試想你的金錢資助對那些在被遺忘的工人婦女們所產生的積極影響——

對那些每小時僅僅被支付兩元薪水，當她們病或受傷而不能工作且不受法律保護，及由於制度的障礙而生活在水平線之下的窮困婦女們。

伸出你的援手，請支持家庭車衣工人聯誼會，你的支持對我們具有重大的意義！

平權會多倫多分會謹上



主席黃慧文

二零零四年五月十日

附言：你可以捐\$100, \$75, \$50 或任何數目的款項。你的捐款將資助家庭車衣工人聯誼會的運作經費并籍以協助那些家庭工作的婦女們。特此致謝！

HWA FUND RAISING 2004 REMITTANCE FORM

家庭車衣工人聯誼會零四籌款表

Your Name 你的姓名: _____
Organization's name 機構名稱: _____
Address 地址: _____
Postal Code 郵編: _____
Contact Number 聯絡電話: (_____) _____
Email 電郵: _____
Amount of Contribution 捐款數目: _____

Method of Payment 付款方式: (please ✓ accordingly 請✓)

Cash 現金:

please hand in at 302 Spadina Ave., Suite 507
(Dundas & Spadina), please contact Judy or Barnett
請親自交往 302 Spadina Avenue, Suite 507, 聯絡
Judy 或 Barnett

Cheque 支票:

payable to "**Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter**"
please bring or attached the form with your payment and send to
抬頭請寫 "**Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter**"
並請將這張表帶來或隨支票寄來, 謝謝!

支票寄往: *HOMEWORKERS' ASSOCIATION*
302 Spadina Avenue, Suite 507
Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2E7

Thank you for your generous donation! If you have any questions regard to the donation, please contact

多謝你的捐款! 如你對這個籌款活動有任何問題, 請聯絡
Judy at 416-596-8548 or email hwa@ccnc.ca, or Barnett at 416-596-0833.