



Caregiver Connections Education and Support Organization (CCESO)

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NEWSLETTER

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GOVERNMENT CRACKING DOWN CROOKED IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS

OTTAWA— Immigration Minister Jason Kenney has introduced a bill that would enact numerous changes to the rules surrounding immigration advice in order to counter the sweeping problem of “crooked consultants” **who bilk unsuspecting immigrants of thousands of dollars** and often go unpunished.

The government wants the crimes of so-called “ghost” consultants to be punishable by up to two years in jail and/or a fine of \$50,000. The proposed legislation would amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act so that fees could only be charged by authorized consultants, lawyers and notaries. It would also widen the scope of when it becomes a crime for an unauthorized consultant to provide advice for a fee to include the time before an application is submitted.

“The unfortunate reality is that many consultants are working dishonestly or even illegally, to profit from people’s dream of coming here,” said Mr. Kenney.

The CSIC has been criticized for not being effective enough in regulating its own membership and going after bad consultants.

The Cracking Down on Crooked Crime Act would also allow citizenship and immigration to disclose information to those responsible for governing or investigating unethical conduct.

“Ghost” consultants operate inside Canada and abroad and frequently charge prospective immigrants thousands of dollars to fill out applications, which they may load with false information and, in some cases, don’t even submit.

They earned the “ghost” label because they are not seen by immigration officials and their names appear nowhere on the paperwork submitted to the government. Unlike lawyers and certified immigration consultants, they don’t have to adhere to education and ethical standards imposed respectively by provincial law societies or the CSIC. Many operate abroad, making it difficult for authorities here to put them out of business.

While Mr. Kenney said the scope of the problem remains largely anecdotal, he referenced hundreds of cases where immigrants to Canada have shared their stories with the media. Canada admitted about 250,000 new permanent residents last year.

— with files from Norma Greenaway

Laura Stone, Canwest News Service · Tuesday, Jun. 8,

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Ottawa+crack+down+crooked+consultants/3127240/story.html#ixzz0sLfkS9bh>

PROFILE

Anita Fortuno has many reasons to empathize and sympathize with women who currently work under the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP). In 1997, she left her hometown of Laguna, Philippines and jobs in the accounting and teaching profession, to work in Canada as a caregiver. Married and a mother to three children, Anita knows the pain of being separated from your own family year-after-year, in the hopes of creating a better future for your whole family.

During her weekends, Anita enrolled in continuing education courses to learn more about Canadian culture. She attended Leadership and Advocacy Trainings and meetings to understand programs like the LCP. Eventually she discovered an organization that was involved in assisting caregivers. She credits the late Fely Villasin, former Coordinator of *Intercede* - a non-profit organization that provided free services for Caregivers and Newcomers - for nurturing her passion for community service and guiding her to become a leader.

After Anita completed the LCP, she worked as an Administrative Assistant at *Intercede*. Her dedication eventually earned her a job as a Counsellor. Anita is well respected for being a caring support person and an expert on immigration policy and procedures for temporary workers.

Anita currently works full-time as a Settlement Counsellor at *Access Alliance*, a non-profit organization that promotes health and well being for immigrants and refugees. On her weekends, she works as a Volunteer Counsellor with *Caregiver Connections Education and Support Organization (CCESO)*. She attends meetings, trainings, and provides telephone support to caregivers.

Anita reflects on her choices, “It is true that I am getting self-fulfillment in assisting immigrants and refugees five days a week from my current work, but I am still longing for the self-fulfillment I get by assisting caregivers. The caregiving job is very close to my heart and assisting caregivers makes my work complete.”



Anita the mother



Anita the advocate and a counselor

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Tel. No.: 416-656-5778

Email: caregiverconnections@gmail.com
<http://caregiverconnections.tumblr.com>

CCESO'S AKTIB-VITIES



3 Days Tour to Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Kingston

Fund-raising

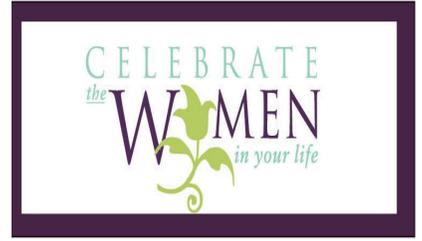


Resume Clinic



Coco & Martha in support of a good cause for women.

You are cordially invited to the Assaulted Women's Helpline 7th annual fundraising event



Information Sessions

Trips

Community outreach

Community Support

THE PHILIPPINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK, TORONTO AND THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ANGIE IPONG invite you

"To see the light and the dawning of a new day ... The bright hope that someday we'll be free. Free to continue the task that we have started. Free to touch the heart of the oppressor. Free to teach our children and learn from them. To find meaning in these prison walls. To keep on the fight to the very end."
- Angie, Pagadian City Jail

as we launch the book

Garden Behind Bars

The diary and letters of Angie B. Ipong

Friday, 9 April 2010, 6:30 pm
The Peace Lounge
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)
7th Floor, 252 Bloor St. West
cor. Bedford Rd., Toronto

FOR INFORMATION CALL
416-418-1377 or 416-239-6553
or email justitica@oise.utoronto.ca

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GABRIELA MIGRANT WOMEN'S COORDINATING BODY



CCESO at the Book Launching of Angie Ipong's Garden Behind Bars, a Filipino political detainee whose motto is "Grow where you were planted."

Workshops



Anita as Emcee of the night (here with the creator of the CCESO website, Jo Alcampo)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH THE COUNSELORS

Q. I arrived in Canada last month under the LCP and I am two months pregnant. My employer is unaware of my situation, can my employment be terminated?

A. Pregnancy could not be a cause of termination and it is a violation under the Employment Standards Act. As a live-in caregiver, there are chores that you are expected perform that may be difficult or affect your pregnancy. You need to see a doctor and have a medical check-up. Since you are less than 3 months in Ontario, you do not have yet the medical coverage (OHIP). Discuss with your employer for medical referral and some financial assistance for your check up (hopefully). There might be some modifications of your duties as their live-in caregiver or may end up of some arrangement but make sure that you do not agree to any that may be in violation of the conditions under the Live-In Caregiver Program. Come and join sessions of Caregiver Connections, Education and Support Organization (CCESO) ...

Q. While I was still in LCP, I fell in love with a guy and gave birth to his son. My partner and I broke up and he vanished with his promise of marriage and spousal sponsorship. I was left in the dark without any valid immigration status, with the task of having to provide for our child by myself.

My situation turned from bad to worst when I received deportation order from CIC. They advised me to process for a Canadian passport for my child or else they will send me home without him. What should I do?

A. I don't know if you applied for permanent residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate considerations but being on deportation order that is in effect, CIC wants you to leave Canada the soonest possible time. However, for so called "humanitarian reasons", they don't want your child to be separated from you that is why they want him to have a Canadian passport so he can travel with you to your country of origin and he can come back to Canada anytime being a Canadian citizen.

You need to consult an immigration lawyer regarding your situation. Look for the nearest Legal Aid office in your area and try to apply for Legal Aid Certificate; particularly you are a mother of a Canadian born citizen. For further assistance and information call 416-656-5778 and ask for a counselor.

A NEW LIVE-IN CAREGIVER NEEDS TO KNOW

CASH PAYMENTS

It usually worries caregivers when paid cash rather cheque for their salary. Your employer can pay you in cash. This is legal. But they must give you a record or “**pay slip**” every time you are paid.

A pay slip should reflect the following:

- Your Name
- Pay Period (example: July 1 – July15, 2010)
- Hours you worked and rate of pay
- Overtime hours you worked & rate of pay
- Gross Pay (before deductions)
- Net Pay (after deductions)
- Vacation Pay (some employers pay every pay period)
- Employment Insurance deductions (EI)
- Canada Pension Plan deductions (CPP)
- Tax deductions
- Room and Board

HOURS OF WORK

Live-in caregivers have the same rights to limits on hours of work and overtime pay as other workers. However, caregivers often face pressure to work long hours, because they are living in the home of their employer. It is advisable to keep any contract you receive. Document all details of hours and dates you worked. This will help if you file a complaint. Before you file a complaint, discuss the issue with the employer first, write a letter if you have to and give them a deadline to comply (call CCESO for advise).

OVERTIME

After 44 hours work in one week, you should get paid 1.5 times your regular pay. For example: If you get paid \$10.25 an hour on your regular pay, you should get paid \$15.125 for every hour worked after 44 hours.

TIME OFF INSTEAD OF OVERTIME PAY

You can agree in writing to take paid time off instead of overtime pay. You should get 1.5 hours paid time off for each hour of overtime you worked (example: if you worked overtime 6 hours, you get 9 hours time off).

TERMINATION NOTICE OR PAY

Your employer can terminate your employment with out notice if you have worked less than three months. When you leave, they should always give you:

- A record of employment (ROE)
- Unpaid vacation pay of 4% of your gross earnings
- Any unpaid wages

After three months of employment, you have the right to receive notice or pay in lieu of notice if your employment was terminated. If you are fired because of “neglect of duty, disobedience or willful misconduct” – you may not get any notice.

How much notice you should receive depends on how long you worked for your employer. According to the Employment Standards Act, the minimum notice or termination pay that a worker should receive is as follows:

- More than 3 months, less than 1 year worked = at least 1 week
- More than 1 year = at least 2 weeks

VACATION

After 1 year of working with the same employer, you are entitled to 2 weeks of paid vacation. Your employer has the right to tell you when you can take your vacation. It is illegal for your boss to make you take your vacation one day at a time.

VACATION PAY

After the first year, if you had no vacation, you should get paid vacation pay (4%) on your total gross wages or if you leave a job before taking vacation. you are entitled to a 4% vacation pay for every dollar you earned! Some employers pay vacation pay on every cheque. If you file a claim at the Ministry of Labour, you can go back 1 year to file for unpaid vacation pay. You have 6 months to file a claim at the Ministry of Labour

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT (ROE)

Your employer must give you a Record of Employment (ROE) every time you leave a job. This document is important because it allows you to apply for Employment Insurance (EI) more easily. (Call CCESO for more information or any other issues of concern)

You asked your employer, “Ma’am what is **“LIGHT Housekeeping”**”?



Your employer’s response... “ALL OF THE ABOVE”!!!

Membership Form: *Membership Fee: \$10.00* **Date:** _____

Name: _____, _____, _____
(First Name) (Last Name) (Initial)

Address: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
(Street no. & name) (Apt. No.) (City) (Prov.) (Postal Code)

Phone Numbers: _____ / _____ / _____
(Home) (Work) (Cell)

Email: _____

By Check: Name it to: Caregiver Connections, Education & Support Organization
Mail it to: Caregiver Connections, Education and Support Organization
 1 – 1843 Dufferin St., Toronto, ON., M6E 3P5