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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELPS MULTILINGUAL WORKERS

Initiative Means Better Protection For New Ontario Workers

TORONTO — A unique, new community partnership with the Government of Ontario is helping to provide information to immigrant and multilingual workers about their employment rights, Labour Minister Steve Peters announced today.

“The Centre for Information and Community Services is setting an example by playing a vital role in educating the community about the Employment Standards Act,” said Peters. “People who are new to Ontario may not be familiar with our laws and regulations. They need to know their rights and have them protected.”

“In Ontario, we are committed to making sure our newcomers reach their full potential, and have every opportunity to succeed socially and economically,” Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle said. “Having all the necessary information will better protect immigrants in the workplace.”

The Centre for Information and Community Services (CICS) provides a range of outreach services to members of immigrant communities in their own languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Tamil, Urdu, Sindhi, Hindi, Arabic and South Sudanese.

Protecting rights in the workplace and offering resources to help workers and employers achieve compliance with employment standards is vital to ensuring healthy communities and a strong Ontario.

“The training and information that the ministry has given our staff allows us to provide a new and valuable employment service in our communities,” said CICS President Raymond Tam. “CICS is committed to becoming a diverse and inclusive agency with enhanced programs and services for immigrants and newly settled youth, and our relationship with the Ministry of Labour is an important step toward our goal.”

The training initiative is part of a larger, ongoing Ministry of Labour campaign to provide information for workers and employers that also includes:

- Workplace Gateway – a website that provides easy to access information for both employers and workers
- Seeking partnerships with more groups who can help spread employment standards information
- Four easy-to-understand brochures about workplace rights in 21 languages.

"The government is creating fair workplaces and strong communities through outreach and enforcement," said Peters. "We want every Ontarian to be able to reach their full potential."

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