



The Women's Centre

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Halton Women's Centre Seeks Immigrant Women

Oakville, ON. – The Halton Women's Centre is currently recruiting volunteers for an exciting program, **Caring Across Cultures**, a peer counselling program for immigrant women. Through **Caring Across Cultures**, volunteer counsellors will provide one-on-one support and assistance to immigrant women in their native language.

"**Caring Across Cultures** will address a fundamental gap in services and will provide an opportunity for volunteers to assist immigrant women by supporting them through abuse, grief, loss or self-esteem issues," says Melvina Walter, Executive Director. "In recent years Halton has experienced a growth of 41% in terms of the number of immigrants settling in the region. Also, 44% of immigrants have settled in Peel Region in recent years, making it home to the second highest percentage of new immigrants in the GTA. These numbers make this program essential to the women in these areas," added Walter.

An eight-week training program will be provided by the Halton Women's Centre in September for counsellors enrolled in the program. Immigrant women who are fluent in English and are passionate about helping other women from different cultures are encouraged to apply. Women from Spanish-speaking and South Asian backgrounds are particularly encouraged to participate, however women from any cultural background are welcome.

"This is a unique volunteer opportunity for women to make a lasting, positive difference in the lives of other immigrant women in our community, while acquiring or upgrading their skills" said Walter.

The program also addresses an important gap in services that are currently provided across the region. According to Parminder Mann (Program Director), "There are certain cultural nuances that are unique to specific immigrant communities. Women are more likely to reach out for support if they know they can speak to someone who is familiar with their own cultural and immigrant experience."

Applicants are invited to complete an application and submit no later than July 10, 2009. Interviews will take place over July and successful candidates will be notified by August 7, 2009.

Caring Across Cultures has been generously funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The OTF is an agency of the Government of Ontario that continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

For more information, please contact

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