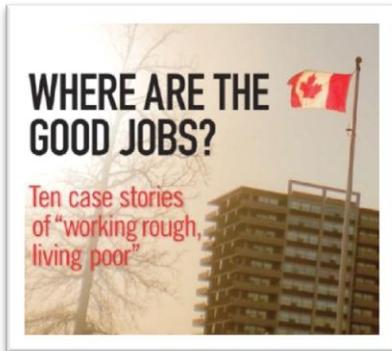


‘Where are the Good Jobs?’ New Report reveals immigrant workers are living in near-poverty conditions in spite of working very hard.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(Toronto, ON) **July 8th, 2013:** Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services has released a new research report titled *‘Where are the Good Jobs?’* This report contains ten powerful case stories of immigrant families from racialized background (‘visible minority’) who are struggling to find stable employment in Canada.



Study results show that immigrant families are getting systematically pushed into low-paying, unsafe, and unstable types of jobs (also referred to as ‘precarious jobs’) soon after they come to Canada. Worse, they get stuck in such jobs with little support to get out. Deep structural barriers are preventing these families from getting stable employment they want. These include systemic discrimination, limited professional network, immigration-related barriers, temp agencies, and conditions of precarious employment itself.

“Most services do not try to overcome structural barriers but focus on individual behavioral modifications of immigrant workers (e.g. reshuffling their resumes) to make them fit the Canadian labour market – a labour market

that is highly discriminatory and increasingly marked by precarious types of employment. Our current policies and services are not working because there are fundamental limitations in how we are tackling this problem” says Dr. Yogendra Shakya, Senior Researcher at Access Alliance.

These hard working families are living in near-poverty conditions in spite of actively participating in the labour market. Worse, they are experiencing breakdown in family relationship and facing numerous health problems including debilitating workplace injuries, gastro-intestinal ailments, severe mental health issues, cardio-vascular illnesses and chronic diseases. In other words, labour market discrimination and bad jobs are making Canadians very sick.

“All levels of government, non-profit sector and private sector need to work together to stop the rise of bad jobs and to eliminate discriminatory practices in the labour market,” says Axelle Janczur, Executive Director.

The case stories are based on results from the third phase of a research project conducted by Access Alliance’s Income Security, Race and Health team in Toronto. Results from this phase build on the *Working Rough, Living Poor* report released in 2011. Two public education films based on the research – “Bad Jobs are Making us Sick,” and “Just Wait for our Call: The impact of temp agency work on health” will be available this summer.

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Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services works to promote health, wellbeing and improved access to services for immigrants and refugees in Toronto. From three locations in the city, we offer resources, provide links, conduct research and build capacity to enable individuals, families and communities to achieve health with dignity. Our range of programs, services, advocacy and partnerships address medical, social, economic, environmental, settlement and integration issues for immigrants of all ages at all stages of their life. Find out more about our work at: www.accessalliance.ca.

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