

Rose

August 24, 2019      Interviewer Marco Luciano, Camera Don Bouzek

Q: Where are you from?

R: I came from the Philippines in 2011.

Q: Tell me about your background in the Philippines.

R: I live in the province of Tarlac before; it's not a city before. My family is low rich family. We are seven in the family and my family really struggled at times. Out of the seven siblings that I had, all of my siblings didn't finish high school and college. I'm the youngest; so when I saw the hardship of my family before, I'm tell to myself that I don't want to be like my other siblings. I want to finish my school, no matter what will happen. By the time my father died, because he was scammed by an agency, he sold our house to the bank so that he could pay that recruiter going to the Middle East before. At that time he wants to give us a good life. So he loaned our house to the bank, but unfortunately he was scammed. He cannot recover on that matter, and he got alcoholic and then our house was taken by the bank. At that time we don't have house anymore; so we squat on the railways for almost ten years. Soon my father died. So my mother, before is only a housewife, but when my father died she's the one who look after for us. She start selling fruits and vegetables during nighttime and then doing laundry and iron clothes just for us to survive. My mother continued to do the laundry and selling fruits and vegetables to our neighbours. My older brothers and sisters cannot go to school because my mother cannot afford to send them to school. I help my mother at doing laundry at that time. I continue to go to high school even if I don't have allowance, because I want to pursue my schooling. When I graduated high school, I just want to give my mother tears of joy. During my time in elementary and high school, I'm an excellent student. I got a ? during elementary, and in high school I'm always in top five. I saw how happy my mother before; then when I finished schooling I asked my mother if I can go to my cousin. My other relatives are middle class – they can afford their kids to send to high school. So I asked my mother if I can go to my auntie, and my mother said yes. Then I stayed to my auntie with her family and do the household chores for them so that I

can continue my schooling in the college. In the first year, I applied for scholarship on the university in Manila; so I passed the high scholarship. Then, because it's not enough for me to support my other school needs, I need to work. So I apply in McDonalds and at that time I work in a fast food restaurant and then continue my schooling. But by that time my relatives keep forcing me to do the household, but I don't have time because I work. So my scholarship was lost. I'm on the dean's list at that time, but because I need to work more, I lost my scholarship and not on dean's list anymore. But still I continued to finish my school and get my diploma. I want to be a civil engineer at that time; that's really my dream. But because I cannot afford the engineering course, I shift to management.

Q: So you worked at McDonald's?

R: Yeah. I worked at McDonald's before. That's my first job. I always get promoted because I worked hard. From the team leader, then when I finished my schooling at college they promoted me to manager. Then after manager, after a year they promoted me to store manager 1, then after a year store manager 2. When I'm store manager 2 handling a store by that time it's been 10 years working in McDonald's. When I'm working in McDonald's, because it's in Manila, I'm renting a room for myself and I keep sending money for my family back home. So it's really hard, because we cannot save money, because I'm renting in Manila and sending money. So I asked the employer if I can transfer to my province. So the employer let me transfer to the province so that the rent is not expensive. When you are in the city, the rent is so expensive. When I move in the province, it's like half to the rent that I save, and then I can help my parents at that time. My parents got lung cancer at that time when I'm the manager in McDonald's; so I included her on my medical benefit. Whenever there's an emergency for her, McDonald's allowed me to bring her to the hospital at no charge because I'm paying her medical benefits on my salary before.

Q: So you went back to Tarlac.

R: Yes, I went back to Tarlac. So when I'm in Tarlac I'm ordering buns from a well-known bake shop, Goldilocks Bake Shop and Food Shop. The McDonald's is the supplier of Goldilocks Bake

Shop and Goldilocks asked me if I can apply for them. For McDonald's they paid me only 10,000 pesos. Even if you are a manager at that time, the salaries are really little, like 10,000 only. When Goldilocks is hiring me, if you're going to transfer to our company we will pay you 20,000. So from 10,000 then of course I go, even if I love my work before. I grab the offer of Goldilocks because they offer me times two of my salary before. But the problem is, they're going to assign me again in Manila. When I'm working at the bakery, I need to find again another place. Manila again is so expensive. So even if my salary is times two of my previous work, it still doesn't compensate, because the rent is so expensive. I stayed there for six years and every year I got promoted, from store manager, then restaurant manager, and then I became a ? manager, handling three stores from the whole city. So I'm working for six years and then one agency stop in my store and ask me if I want to apply for Canada. That's how I started applying Canada. At first I'm hesitant, because I don't have any idea about going abroad. Because of what had happened to my father for going to Middle East, that's why I hate that Middle East before. Any opportunity for me going to Middle East, I rejected it. But that time it's Canada. So it's like, no, I don't like it because my work is already good and I'm enjoying what I had before. But agent just keeps coming back. When we had coffee time together, then she told me everything about what is Canada all about. I was so mesmerized about what she told about Canada – that there's a possibility of becoming a permanent resident, and the salary is high, like 100,000 pesos. That's what he offer me before. So thinking like 100,000 pesos from 20,000 is like times five of your salary back home. So I applied.

Q: What made you decide to apply?

R: I decide to apply because at that time my mother was died already and all of my siblings are dependent on my mother's side. They are only elementary graduates and they don't have a permanent job in the Philippines. In the Philippines, even if you are a degree holder it's really hard to apply. For them, they only finished elementary; so it's hard for them. Some of my siblings do only cooking and cleaning houses just to survive. Before my mother died she told me I needed to help my other siblings. So that's why when there's an offer here in Canada I grab it, not for myself but for my family.

Q: When did you arrive in Canada?

R: On November 2010. That year 2010, when I applied for that agency we are 200 applicants, and only me was the one selected. It's a Skype interview for the employer; so out of 200 I'm the one selected as a restaurant ? manager. The processing is six months and the processing is not free. The agency asked for something like 3,000 pesos in money, and then the other one is like 75,000 pesos. I think I paid around 100,000 pesos for the processing and everything. But when I put my resignation to my work, they don't want to accept it. But when the ticket is already there, they cannot do any more. So they released my paper. They supposed to ? me but November is the flight time; so end of October that's the time that they just let me go from my previous work.

Q: Where in Canada did you arrive?

R: In Toronto. We arrive in Toronto and then the employer pick us up. We are six; the other one is my best friend. Then there's four bakers. So we are six in one group. Then they pick us in the airport and bring us to Colborne, Ontario. That's a big tourist ? restaurant. At that time it's wintertime. Employer picked us up in the airport and then he brought us in the house of his wife's parents. But for the wife's parents we need to pay the rent; they were going to deduct our salary. At that time it's \$400 per head for the six of us who are going to stay in that house together with the parents. On the contract it says there's 40 hours in a week, but what had happened that time they gave us only 20 hours per week because it's too slow during wintertime at that time. So for that 20 hours a week we need to pay \$400 for the rent, and there's no means of any communication outside from the employer's wife's parents. They are the ones who are going to bring us to the bakery, but we need to pay again, aside from the rent. They're cutting \$700 on our paycheque; so in return we don't have. Sometimes it's owing. On the one month we complain to the agency that brought us, because there's nothing left for us. We asked if we can move to the nearest house that we can walk to the store. So there's one house that we rented and the six of us shared all together, and then we paid \$350 each and then you walk. But still the hours is 20 hours. During that time, because the restaurant is slow,

the employer asked us to cut trees outside to his farm. At that time this is our first winter experience. We don't have enough winter gear at that time; so we're really shaking.

Q: Why did the employer ask you to cut trees?

R: Because there's another white staff working in there. So those white staff are the ones in the restaurant and the six of us, three of us every day go to his farm to cut trees. The Canadian staff are there doing nothing, because it's slow in the store. So instead of the six of us working in that bakery, they will send us to his farm so that we're going to cut trees.

Q: How do you cut trees?

R: By that time he give us. . . and then the guys have like the axe. But it's two weeks only because I cannot. . . We were really shaking, so I called the agency and inform them what was happening to us. The agency called the employer. So the employer get mad at us. He said we are the first one to do that, and he's threatening us to send back home. So we are scared to inform again the agency, because he threaten us to send back home. At that time we don't know anything about immigration policies. So that's why we keep saying yes yes to the employer. But for me it's really hard. So I spoke to him, the employer in the office, and told him everything about the contract. I'm holding the contract to him and telling these are supposed to be our responsibilities. Then he get mad and he fire us all, the six of us get fired for three months, the probationary period. So we don't have work that time after three months. We're also attending mass every weekend and we met a Filipino priest. So he's the one helping us. He help us to go to the non-profit organization and the NGO lawyer; so the lawyer help us to compile a case about illegal dismissal. But on the Colborne area, we lost; they said we are under probation and the employer can do anything about us and he can fire us. Then the lawyer did not stop; he filed the case on higher, like in Toronto. But by that time we don't have work already. So we don't know how to survive and how to pay rent. So we moved to Scarborough. In Scarborough we met a Filipino bakery. The owner is really nice. So she rent out an apartment and we stayed all in that one apartment. Then he give us work in a factory, like packing bread. By that time they paid \$7 per hour, but that's good because still we can survive on \$7 per hour;

they're giving us 40 hours a week. At that time my best friend is very stressful and he died November of 2011. He died in that apartment. There's a blood clot in his head. No, actually August 26<sup>th</sup> when he died-- that's two days from now is that anniversary. So he died. Forty days he's in a coma in the hospital, and the doctor told me already that they cannot do anything about him because the blood was already clotted in his head. Even if they going to break the skull, they cannot remove the blood because it's in the middle. Then I'm the one who always sign the bill in the hospital, because at that time we don't have health insurance. The bills went up to \$10,000. I told to the one who was helping us to the bakery, how can I pay that \$10,000? I'm the signatory, because I'm his best friend and we don't have relatives here. How will I send money back home? I will let down his family, because his family knows me and is like a second family for me, because he's my best friend. Then there's a caregiver resident; the bakery owner introduced me to the caregiver resident. In Toronto there's a lot of ? group. There's no foreign worker. I think we are the first one to enter in Toronto as a temporary foreign worker. So the caregiver resident is the one who help me to waive all the hospital bills. Then they did a fundraising to help send the body back home. I just talked to the family of my best friend: is it possible to cremate the body, because it's too expensive if we're going to send the dead body? If we're going to cremate it, it's better; it's only in a container. So there's only one public viewing for my friend, and when that public viewing, there's a computer and all his family back home is watching. Our Filipino priest friend is the one who blessed the body that night, and they cremated it. Then another problem for me is how to send the things, all his things and stuff. Then the caregiver resident helped me to go to the Fedex and they gave me free to send all the boxes of my friend to the Philippines. Then for the remains of my friend, there's a Filipino funeral. He's the one who take care of the remains of my friend going back to the Philippines.

Q: Did you get any help from the consulate?

R: No. By that time we don't know anything about where to ask or to seek help. The Filipino priest was the one helping us at that time, giving us food. Then, when we move in Scarborough, we really don't know where to find help. We apply for Unemployment Insurance at that time, but we got rejected because they say we don't have enough contribution.

Q: How long did you work at the bakery, and what happened with that case?

R: We work only for three months. When the NGO attorney filed the case in Colborne, we lost. Then he filed it in Toronto but it said to us that it will take one to two years. By that time, I forgot to tell you the working permit is only six months; here in Toronto it's only six months. At that time we are like a 50/50 chance to grab the work permit, because it's only six months. But when we calculated it, because they told us it's 100,000 to 120,000. So even if six months, it will make us enough money to save to go back home. But it didn't happen. When we lost the case and they filed in Toronto, we were running out of time. We don't know at that time how to file your extension; we don't know that. We know only that after six months we have to leave Canada. But when I met the caregiver resident, she told me that I can ask for a restoration. So they helped us apply for a restoration. The other baker went back to Middle East, went back to the Philippines, but I'm the one who stayed because the caregiver resident helped me to apply for a restoration because the bakery who was helping me wants to hire me as a production manager. So they applied for LMO; they applied for job offer and made everything and restore first my status. But the LMO was refused because I think the bakery at that time has a labour issue; so that's why it was refused. So I applied online and then I applied in Peterborough at a restaurant. So they hired me, but the problem is it will take longer to process LMO. Then the general manager told me if I'm willing to transfer to Alberta, because it's easiest to process here the LMO at that time and there's an open supervisor LMO already. So I grab it. So when I grab that LMO going to the supervisor, the case is not yet over because it will take longer. The other baker decided to settle it, like there's a ? who settle it. So they just paid everything for the six month salary and that's it, there's no more damages. The lawyer told me, if you want to pursue this we can pursue this. But for me it's hard for me because I'm going to move in Alberta and my apprentice has already died. So one consultant told me not to pursue it anymore because it will take longer and I'm already in Alberta by that time. So we just settle like for the six months. The lawyer told me that we have a sound case before, because of all the damage and everything and we have evidence because at that time we were checking all the hours and we have a recorder whenever the employer are telling us shit to us. He already said fuck; so we had a recorder. But they said it will take longer for the case. The other group doesn't want to pursue it

anymore; so I'm just the only one now here. That's why we decided to drop it, and we just get the settlement.

Q: When did you move to Alberta?

R: I moved to Alberta 2011, November of 2011 – 2010 November in Ontario, 2011 in Alberta, Edmonton.

Q: What is your work in Alberta?

R: I work as a shift supervisor by that time. Then because my work made me shift supervisor, I just work hard, then after a year they promoted me to restaurant manager. I got an LMO for restaurant manager.

Q: Tell us about your work as a restaurant manager, and pursuing your status.

R: With the restaurant manager I have a one year work permit. For that one year, by that time I keep looking and reading on the immigration policies so that I know what to do. For the AINP I applied it alone, but I need the employer sponsorship. For the employer sponsorship, we have to ? the district manager. So I asked his permission if he's going to sign the sponsorship. The district manager signed it but when I submitted it it was approved, the AINP. I was supposed to apply for the permanent residence at that time but I asked for a vacation leave so I can renew my passport. But the district manager did not grant my vacation date. I'm resident manager, but there's a general manager. The general manager, I consider her as my buddy, my work buddy. So the general manager and the restaurant manager in the restaurant--but there's a problem with the district manager. The district manager has a lot of wrongdoings, like harassment in the workplace. I'm not the only victim, but there's a lot that he has victimized for harassment. He wants to terminate me and the general manager, because we are the one who's telling the agent about his wrongdoings. But by that time my application for AINP is ongoing; I had his signature already. So he transferred me to the other branch, because he's under investigation. When I transfer to the other branch, I didn't know that he pulled out his sponsorship for my



AINP at that time. But by that time I already submitted it. But I need to renew my passport, because my passport is only a year. I need to renew it; so I asked for a vacation. He transferred me to the other store, so there's another general manager there that I don't know; it's different nationality. He's kind of, I don't know what to say, racist or. . . They're always putting me on the graveyard schedule. On a graveyard schedule you need to work until 3 a.m. At 3 a.m. there's no more bus. So if you want to go home you need to ride a cab. By that time, the cab is so expensive because it's too far. Before, I'm only renting a room near the university that I work with. But, when they transfer me to the south, it's too far for my room to stay. So I need to take cab. It's for three months that I'm on a graveyard schedule. Sometimes I stay at the restaurant after 6 a.m. to catch the first bus. Then when I get home at 6:30 I need to go again to work at 10 a.m., so I don't have enough sleep. So it's like that. They're playing with my schedule.

Q: How did your work permit work when you changed locations?

R: It's a restaurant manager work permit.

Q: So those are two different employers?

R: No, it's same employer. The district manager handling ten branches.

Q: Is the LMO just for one?

R: One for Edmonton, but the other branch is also Edmonton. For the work permit it says you can work anywhere in Edmonton. That branch is also Edmonton; it's only on the south side.

Q: So when you were transferred there, you were given different schedules. What happened then?

R: I complained to the general manager. By that time my district manager is under investigation. So the HR department find the evidences that we brought. Me and my friend, the general manager in the other branch, is the one who gather those evidences. Then he was dismissed

after 30 years in service. They asked him to resign. He's supposed to terminate, but because he's been in the company for 30 years, they just asked him to resign.

Q: Why was he harassing the employees?

R: He's harassing all the TFW. If you are TFW service crew, just harassing females. All the female service crew, you cannot apply for an experience class because you are not a manager or supervisor. He's going to tell the service crew that you come with me and then I will promote you to become a supervisor. The district manager has the right to promote you and become a supervisor. He is one of the signatories of the LMO. So they're going outside. But in the work area he's not going to help you. But he's going to massage you and touch you on different parts of your body.

Q: So the employees started complaining?

R: Yeah. Actually they're scared because they're scared to lose their job. But me and my general manager helped them to speak up. We had a hidden meeting with the HR for the other places, and it's a secret. There's two to three staff that speak out, but those staff are on different branches. Like I told you before, the district manager is handling ten branches. From the ten branches, he harassed some of the staff there.

Q: Aside from the harassment, have you ever faced health and safety concerns?

R: For the health and safety, I don't know. They put me on the graveyard and then they're giving me only like, they're short staffed, and the scheduling manager will give me only like. . . It's supposed to be four closing staff on the team: the drive-through person, counter person, kitchen person, and the manager. But there's only two of us, so me as a resident manager will do the three tasks, the drive-through counter and the kitchen all together. Of course by that time the concern is we have a lot of complaints because we are short staffed. It's 3 a.m. in the morning that we're supposed to be three person going home, but I stayed there until 6 a.m. because for the first bus.

Q: Just waiting?

R: Yeah, just waiting, but if you have money then you can take the cab going home.

Q: You said that your application was pulled out?

R: Yeah, the AINP that I didn't know by that time because it's under investigation by that time. On my knowledge, it's already provided in immigration. When my application was refused, it says there that you don't have a sponsorship by the employer, that they pulled out and your AINP was already expired.

Q: Then what happened to your status?

R: By that time I thought I have another work permit to come out, but since they stopped it I apply for restoration for my status. Then I apply for another employer while I am still on that company. But I cannot handle all the graveyard schedule and it's not healthy for me to work there with the other staff because I don't know anyone in the branch. When you work there it's like the feeling of you're just working alone. No one is going to help you. So I resigned at that time because I find a new employer. But by that time my new employer-- because I didn't know the AINP that it's supposed to be on the same employer because there's no LMO already needed-- but when I applied for the second employer, because the second employer hired me. Then he told me that your paperwork permit because your LMO is still okay but it got refused. That's why I don't have status now.

Q: When did you lose your status?

R: January of 2015.

Q: So from January 2015 until now, you don't have status.

R: Yeah.

Q: How do you survive without status?

R: I work under the table and with the help of other friends.

Q: How do you find work?

R: Through friends. I have one friend that her friend is working in Bee Clean, so that's why I knew Bee Clean. So they introduced me to the manager and then he told me if I can do the work and I said yes.

Q: The manager from Bee Clean?

R: Yes, the manager and a subcontractor.

Q: Tell us about your work with the cleaning company.

R: During my first couple of months I went on nightshift, 5 to 9 p.m.. So 5 to 9 p.m. I'm working with different nationalities but they are already with Bee Clean so they are paid per hour. For me, I'm working under the manager of Bee Clean but under subcontract. They are paying \$15, supposed to pay \$15, but my subcontract agent will pay me only \$12 per hour and they will give us the payment after-- like you need to finish the one month. You're going to have your salary after a month. You will have the salary after two weeks of your one month of work. There's an advance of two weeks; there's an advance. You need to finish the one month and then you'll get your payment after two weeks; so one and a half months. So for that \$12 per hour, because they cut already to three hours-- so she will ask you, what do you want to pay, cash or cheque? Of course I prefer cash because at that time I'm scared to accept cheque. So if you're going to accept cash, like for example \$960 issue monthly, she will give you only \$800, but if she's in a bad mood sometimes \$750. But \$800 is okay with her if she's in a good mood.

Q: So the manager from Bee Clean is also the subcontractor.

R: Yes, she's deploying staff under her company.

Q: Then that company, the subcontractor, is paying you \$12 an hour.

R: Yes, but it's supposed to be \$15.

Q: Then after a month's work that's supposed to be \$960.

R: Yes, but for the cash they will pay us just \$800.

Q: How do you and others like you take that?

R: For non-status, we can't complain. If you complain, you can go – just easy like that. Then we were struggling to find another job, so that's why even ? law we will get that. Even we can have means to survive for that little amount, better than nothing.

Q: Are there other nondocumented people working there?

R: Yeah. But there's also some with papers but paying under the table, because they don't want to lose the benefit of their children. They're under low income. So if they are low income they are not allowed to work fulltime because they will reach the limit being on low income. So those are also taking that.

Q: What's a typical workday for you?

R: For that evening shift, because it's a building, I have two floors. All of us working there have two floors. For the two floors you're going to, like there are offices and you need to clean the washroom, you need to vacuum the floor, you need to remove all the garbage for all the offices.

Then you need to dust and wipe. There's not only one office in one floor, there's a lot, like 20 offices and then there's two floors.

Q: How long do you have to finish those two floors?

R: It's 5 to 9. If you are a fast worker, you can finish that for three hours. The good thing only, like if you finish at 9 o'clock, then you can go.

Q: Are you provided with cleaning materials?

R: Yeah, there's cleaning materials that they provided. We have uniform, we have ID, and then there's a maintenance room that we can get all our stuff. For the cleaning, we also have one supervisor watching us. The supervisor is not working; he's just going to check us working. He's the one who's taking our in and out, and he's the last person to alarm that building when we leave.

Q: How many buildings do you clean?

R: For that time, two months on that evening shift, then I transfer to morning shift. Morning shift is different. On the evening shift there's no staff working already in the building, but in the morning shift there's staff working. All you need to do is go to their kitchen and clean their kitchen, and then every now and then the washroom; you need to clean the washroom and repair everything. The most part that you need to take care of is the main floor. You need to vacuum it every now and then, vacuum the elevator, and then the glass, and do picking outside, like cigarette picking; you need to clean outside.

Q: Have you experienced any health and safety issue while you're working?

R: On my daytime they will give me a ? That ? actually belongs to the maintenance. There's a maintenance engineer working. If there's a broken light, then the maintenance is going to fix it. But all the broken lights, you're going to clean it. I think that's the only danger for me. We don't

have safety gear what we need, I mean we're not trained on how to clean those maintenance things. They're supposed to do it, but I'm doing it.

Q: Is there any union or workers' organization that you can go to if you have problems at work?

R: For Bee Clean? They did not orient me about that and I don't have any idea.

Q: What kind of orientation did you get?

R: The orientation is how you clean the floor to maintain it. They have the daily cleaning, the weekly cleaning, and that's the orientation that we only have. But sometimes we have like the safety orientation. So we're just going to read that, and then we're going to sign it like that. He already train us and discuss. Before going to work, it's like monthly. They have the calendar, what do you call that, a calendar that there's a monthly safety meeting that we're supposed to attend. The supervisor is going to say, there's a safety meeting, it's like this like that, so you know this already, blah blah blah, and then you sign. So all of us are going to sign.

Q: What was on your mind when you were cleaning that glass debris?

R: On my mind at that time, I just need to be careful because I don't want to get hurt. I don't have insurance. I don't have a health card. I want to ask why I'm doing that, but I'm just scared because I'm just thinking it's part of my job even if it's not part of my job. I just need to be extra careful not to get hurt. I don't have health card and if I get hurt they are not responsible for me.

Q: So as a non-status person, you cannot access healthcare?

R: Yeah, we cannot access healthcare.

Q: What do you do when you get sick?

R: It's like self remedy – just Google, just go get the prevention and how to cure yourself.

Q: Aren't you afraid?

R: Of course I'm afraid sometimes. Of course I'm scared.

[Tagalog]

Sometimes I pity myself or I get envy to those who have health card, because they have a yearly checkup on themselves so they know they are healthy or what. But that's life. We really don't have health card. That's the reality.

Q: Do you have family to support?

R: Yeah, I have a daughter back home and I have a daughter here, a Canadian-born child here. But because of my status, she cannot get access to anything. But because of the advocacy of Migrante for the right of the Canadian-born here, my daughter now can access healthcare benefit. But that's the only thing that she can get access, but other than that no more. We cannot get access on her child benefits because I don't have status.

Q: What do you think is your future here?

R: I don't know but I'm hoping that my papers will be okay because I've been here already for how many years. I don't want to go back home because that's why I went here, because I know that Canada has more opportunity for us and it can give us a better life here. If I'm going back home, it's hard for me to find now a new job and it's hard to start all over again there.

Q: Do you have support from friends or groups?

R: For what?

Q: Support in your struggles.



R: Oh what I'm thankful for is I met you. I'm thankful for Migrante because without this organization maybe I am not here anymore. That's why I consider them as my family here. Maybe without them my daughter is not okay, I am not okay. Maybe I give up. But because of Migrante I still have hope. I'm still hoping that everything will be okay soon.

Q: Are you involved with Migrante?

R: Yeah, I think I'm part of Migrante. I think I'm a member of Migrante. I want to continue with Migrante and what do you call that. I don't know the proper term to say. But yeah, I consider myself as part of Migrante and I want to be a Migrante supporter and advocate leader. I want to become an active advocate for Migrante because my struggles still continue but I want to continue the fight. I still want to fight to stay for my daughter's future.

Q: Where are the buildings you were cleaning located?

R: All the buildings that I clean for Bee Clean are all located in downtown Edmonton. The three buildings that I work with are all in downtown.

Q: If you're supposed to be paid \$960 but you're usually paid \$800, how do you live?

R: For the \$800 we're going to rent, you're going to pay \$500 for the rent, and bus pass and food and then the needs of your daughter. Actually it's a very struggle for us.

Q: Has anyone talked to you about the potential hazards of the cleaning materials you use?

R: No. Actually as far as I know, if you're working with a chemical solution you need to know how to dilute it and how to use it. Before on my working in a restaurant before, we have a training on all the chemical hazards and chemical dilution and everything. But here in Bee Clean it's different; so I'm not familiar with the chemical or dilution that they're using. They didn't have a chance to teach me and show me what these are all about. They just give me the stuff, well this one like that. If you don't have a voice to ask, sometimes our workers are not asking

what is this used for? So we're not asking how to use this. I think the problem there is like if you're using chemicals that you don't know how to use it, there's a hazard for that, not only for you but for the people surrounding you.

Q: When you're at work do you ever meet other workers?

R: Yeah, I meet other workers, but at that time we have different tasks. But those ? keep complaining. They will ask the supervisor, oh I cannot do this, I cannot do that: because my back is aching, I cannot reach the glass so I cannot do this, so I'm not going to do this. Sometimes I heard those direct workers from Bee Clean that are not going to do the task because they said it's too dangerous for them. But for me sometimes I cannot say that. I don't know if I have the right to say that, to complain or say no to that task.

Q: Have any of the other workers offered to help and support you?

R: No, there's no other workers support me. Because we have different tasks, we're focused only on our tasks.

Q: Is your daughter able to work here?

R: My daughter was born here and she's turning four this coming September. When she was born here, I don't have status at that time. Then I got a hospital bill because I don't have status. At that time before the advocating for the healthcare Canadian-born, I am paying for her checkup. But then after Migrante advocate for healthcare of the Canadian-born, then it's free for my daughter not for the checkup.

Q: If you get your immigration status, would you be able to bring your other daughter here?

R: Yeah. If my status will be granted, then I can get my other daughter back home and we can have a better life here.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to talk about today?

R: I don't know exactly what is the purpose of this, but I hope it will help some person like us. We can work without documents, but we don't have status. They call us illegal, but when we came here we are not illegal. There's only circumstances that we got documented but only if we can restore our status. We really work hard. We just want to work and be part of this community. I think for our part we already contributed something before. But now since we don't have status, I don't know. Some are thinking that we are a burden here, but I don't know what to think.

Q: People shouldn't be considered illegal.

R: Yeah, because we came here legally with legal document, but now we don't have legal document and they call us illegal.

Q: Migrants shouldn't be criminalized. So you shouldn't be considered illegal.

R: But the treatment is not same.

Q: How do you feel about the treatment?

R: If you don't have status it's different from the one with the status. For accessing service, you cannot access because you don't have status like the others, and you cannot complain because you don't have status.

[ END ]