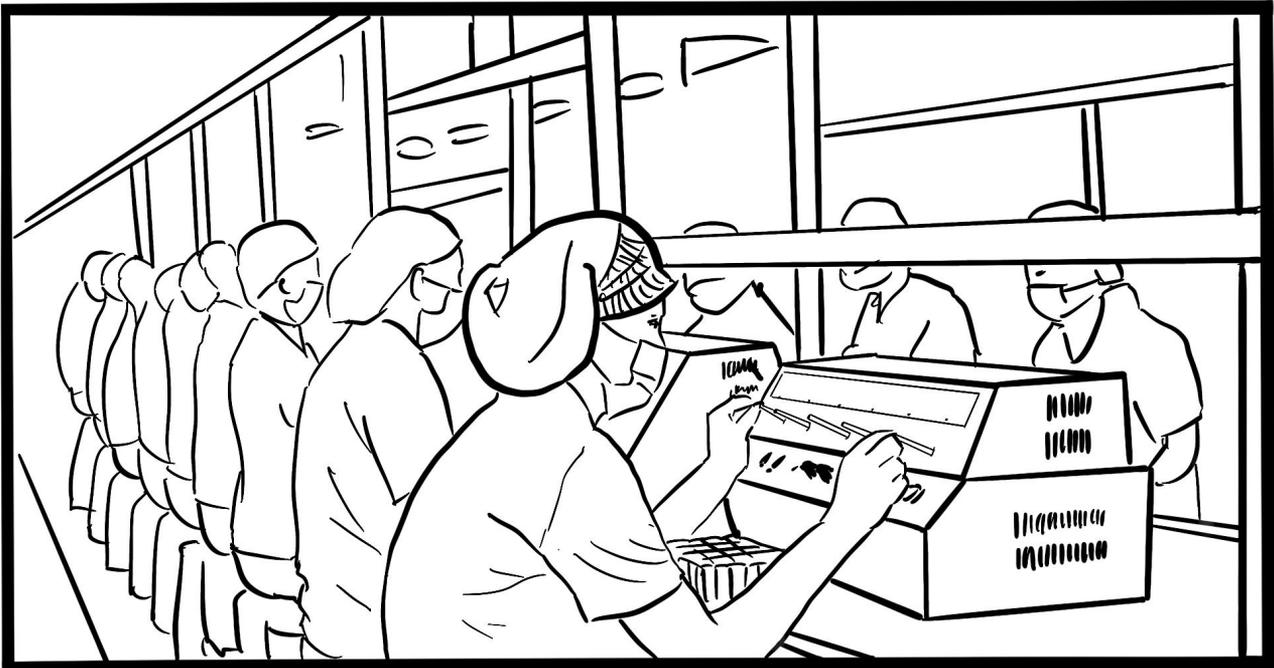


# FINDING COURAGE



DURING THE PANDEMIC, I WORKED AT A FACTORY CREATING VAPE PRODUCTS. I TOOK THREE BUSES TO GET TO WORK AND THREE BUSES HOME. WHEN I RETURNED, I WOULD COOK DINNER AND CARE FOR MY ILL DAUGHTER.

IT WAS EXHAUSTING.



I WAS PAID LESS THAN \$10/HR., WHICH IS LOWER THAN THE LEGAL MINIMUM WAGE.

I KNOW IT'S WRONG TO BE PAID SO LOW.

AT FIRST, I WAS RELUCTANT TO SEEK HELP AND STAND UP AGAINST THE POOR WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE FACTORY.



THIS IS BECAUSE OF MY PAST EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH SOCIAL SERVICES.



IN 2018, I ASKED A SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION ABOUT APPLYING FOR A TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMIT, WHICH WOULD GIVE ME TEMPORARY STATUS AND ALLOW ME TO TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND CHINA WHILE WAITING FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AND COMPASSIONATE PERMANENT RESIDENCY APPLICATION.



THE STAFF TOLD ME I SHOULDN'T APPLY BECAUSE I WAS AN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT AND WOULD BE DEPORTED IF THE GOVERNMENT FOUND OUT. I LISTENED TO HER. I WAS SO SCARED OF BEING KICKED OUT OF THE COUNTRY.



I WANTED TO RETURN TO CHINA TO CARE FOR MY MOTHER, BUT THAT MEANT I WOULD LEAVE MY ILL DAUGHTER IN CANADA.

SINCE I LACKED STATUS, LEAVING FOR CHINA MEANT THAT I WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO CANADA TO SEE MY DAUGHTER.



IN THE END, I DECIDED TO STAY IN CANADA TO BE WITH MY DAUGHTER.

I WAS ANGUISHED OVER MY  
DECISION TO STAY. I FELT LIKE I  
HAD SACRIFICED ONE FAMILY  
MEMBER FOR ANOTHER.

I THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T  
GET WORSE, BUT THEY DID.



MY LANDLORD STARTED TO GIVE  
ME TROUBLE AND I WORRIED  
ABOUT BEING FORCED  
TO LEAVE MY SUITE.

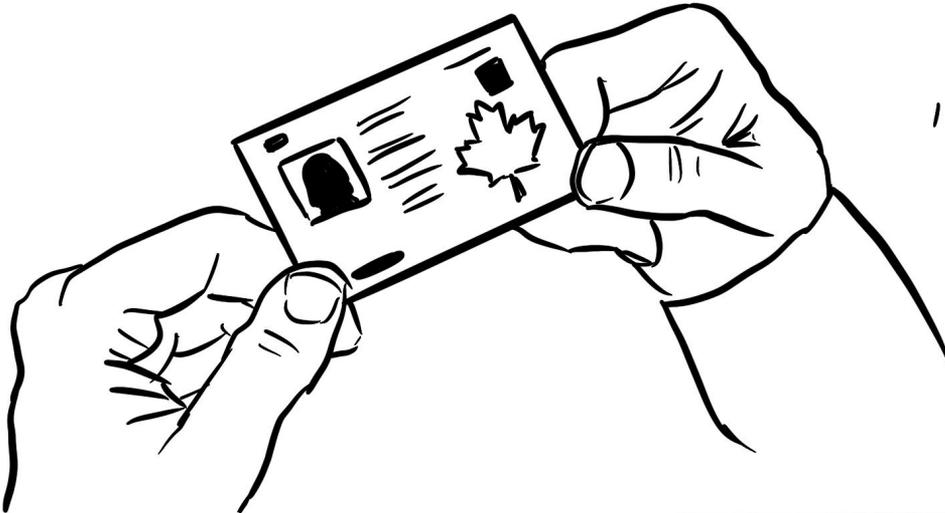


IN 2020, COVID HIT.

THEN, MY  
MOTHER PASSED  
AWAY.



SHORTLY AFTER,  
I BECAME A  
PERMANENT  
RESIDENT.



I STILL THINK ALOT ABOUT THE PAST AND ABOUT  
LOSING THE CHANCE TO APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY  
RESIDENT PERMIT. SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW MY  
MOTHER'S FINAL DAYS WERE WITHOUT ME BY HER SIDE.

BUT LIFE MOVES ON.

I LEARNED FROM THIS  
EXPERIENCE TO SEEK  
ADVICE FROM MORE THAN  
ONE SOURCE, AND MORE  
IMPORTANTLY, TO FIND THE  
COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR  
MYSELF AGAIN.

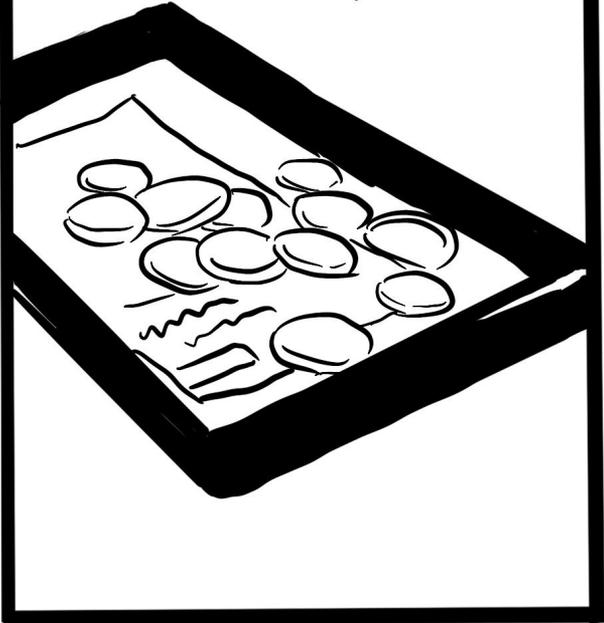


THE CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL TORONTO CHAPTER HAS BEEN TALKING TO MANY CHINESE WORKERS LIKE MYSELF AND DISCOVERED THAT MANY OF US ARE EXPERIENCING WAGE THEFT.

A SEAMSTRESS AT A GARMENT FACTORY WAS FORCED TO CLOCK OUT EARLY BUT KEEP WORKING.



A WAITRESS HAD HER TIPS STOLEN BY HER EMPLOYER.



MY EMPLOYER NEVER PAYS ME ON TIME AND WHEN HE DOES, IT'S ALWAYS LESS THAN \$10 AN HOUR. THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SURVIVE ON.

I LIVE PAYCHEQUE TO PAYCHEQUE. I STRUGGLE TO BUY MEDICINE FOR MY DAUGHTER AND PAY RENT.

I LEARNED THAT SOME WORKERS CREATED A CALENDAR TO DOCUMENT THEIR HOURS AND WAGES. CCNCTD PLANS TO PRINT SIMILAR CALENDARS TO ENCOURAGE MORE WORKERS TO DOCUMENT THEIR HOURS AND WAGES.

I KNOW I'M NOT ALONE. MANY OF US ARE STANDING UP TO GET OUR WAGES BACK. I'M HOPEFUL THAT USING THIS CALENDAR WILL HELP ME PROTECT MYSELF, BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES A FAIR LIVING WAGE.



## *Ms. X's story* X 女士的故事

### Image 1/第一象

#### *Finding Courage* 寻找勇气

During the pandemic, I worked at a factory creating vape products. I took three buses to get to work, and three buses home. When I returned, I would cook dinner and care for my ill daughter.

在疫情期间，我在一家制造电子烟产品的工厂工作。我坐三辆公车去上班，三辆公车回家。回来后，我会做饭，照顾生病的女儿。

It was exhausting. 真让人筋疲力尽。

I was paid less than \$10 an hour, which is lower than the legal minimum wage. 我的时薪不到 10 加元，低于法定最低工资。

I know it's wrong to be paid so low. At first, I was reluctant to seek help and stand up against the poor working conditions at the factory. 我知道工资这么低是不对的。起初，我不愿意寻求帮助，也不愿意站出来面对工厂恶劣的工作条件。

### Image 2/第二象

This is because of my past experience dealing with social services. 这是因为我去接触过社区组织的经验。

In 2018, I asked a social service organization about applying for a temporary resident permit, which would give me temporary status and allow me to travel between Canada and China while waiting for the Humanitarian and Compassionate Permanent Residency application. 2018 年，我向一家社会服务机构询问申请临时居留许可，这将给我临时身份，并允许我在等待人道申请的同时往返于加拿大和中国之间。

The staff told me that I shouldn't apply because I was an undocumented immigrant and that I would be deported if the government found out. I listened to her. I was so scared of being kicked out of the country. 工作人员告诉我，我不应该申请，因为我沒身分，如果被政府发现，我会被驱逐出境。我接受他的建议。我很害怕被赶出这个国家。

### Image 3/第三象

Shortly after, my mother, who lived in China, was diagnosed with cerebrovascular disease. I was heartbroken. 不久之后，住在中国的母亲被诊断出患有脑血管病。我很伤心。

Growing up, I was taught to respect my elders and care for my parents in their old age. 从小到大，我被教导要尊重长辈，照顾年迈的父母。

I wanted to return to China immediately to care for my mother, but that meant I would leave my ill daughter in Canada. 我想立即回国照顾我的母亲，但这意味着我将把生病的女儿留在加拿大。

Since I lacked status, leaving for China meant that I would not be allowed to return to Canada to see my daughter. 由于我没有身份，回去中国就意味着我不能回加拿大看女儿。

In the end, I decided to stay in Canada to be with my daughter. 最后，我决定留在加拿大陪女儿。

### Image 4/第四象

I was anguished over my decision to stay. I felt like I had sacrificed one family member for another. I thought things couldn't get worse, but they did. 我为留下来

的决定感到痛苦。我觉得我为了另一个家庭成员牺牲了一个家庭成员。当我以为已经够糟了，没想到我遇上更困难的事情

In 2020, Covid hit. 2020 年，疫情来袭。

My landlord was also starting to give me trouble and I worried about being forced to leave my suite. 我的房东也开始给我找麻烦，我担心被迫离开我的套房。

### Image 5/第五象

Then, my mother passed away. 后来，我妈妈去世了。

Shortly after, I became a permanent resident. 不久之后，我成为了永久居民。

I still think a lot about the past and about losing the chance to apply for a temporary resident permit. Sometimes I wonder how my mother's final days were without me by her side. 我仍然对过去和失去申请临时居留许可的机会会有很多想法。有时我想知道没有我在她身边的母亲最后的日子是怎样的。

But life moves on. I learned from this experience to seek advice from more than one source, and more importantly – to find the courage to stand up for myself again. 但生活还要继续。我从这次经历中学会了从不止一个来源寻求建议，更重要的是——找到再次为自己挺身而出的勇气。

### Image 6/第六象

The Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter has been talking to many Chinese workers like myself and discovered that many of us are experiencing wage theft. 平权会多伦多分会一直在与许多像我一样的华裔工人交谈，发现我们中的许多人都在遭受工资小偷。

A seamstress at a garment factory was forced to clock out early but keep working. 一家服装厂的女裁缝被迫提前打卡，但仍继续工作。

A waitress had her tips stolen by her employer. 一位女服务员的小费被她的雇主偷走了。

My employer never pays me on time and when he does, it is always less than \$10 an hour. That's not enough to survive on. I live paycheque to paycheque. I struggle to buy medicine for my daughter and pay rent. 我的雇主从不按时付钱给我，即使他付钱，也总是低于每小时 10 元。这还不足以生存。我靠薪水生活。我挣扎着为女儿买药和付房租。

I learned that some workers created a calendar to document their hours and wages. CCNCTO plans to print similar calendars to encourage more workers to document their hours and wages.

我了解到一些工人创建了一个日历来记录他们的工作时间和工资。平权会计划印刷类似的日历，以鼓励更多工人记录他们的工作时间和工资。

I know I'm not alone. Many of us workers are standing up to get our wages back. I'm hopeful that using this calendar will help me protect myself, because everyone deserves a fair, living wage. 我知道我并不孤单。我们中的许多工人都站起来要回我们的工资。我希望使用这个日历能帮助我保护自己，因为每个人都应该得到公平的生活工资。