

news

# Have you checked the company?

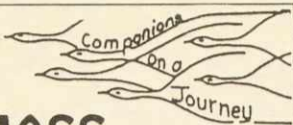
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DAILY MASS, TUES. & THURS. 12:30  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS  
OR FOR CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE,  
PHONE 494-2287  
CHAPLAINS: MARGARET MACDONELL  
FATHER BRIAN DUGGAN

by Bruce D. Gilchrist

So you wanna be a nanny? You may want to think twice before signing up for the job after reading this.

F. is a woman in her early twenties. Recently graduated from Dal, she wanted to get a job that would allow her to travel to another city, and a job as a nanny provided this opportunity. Unfortunately this was no opportunity for positive experience, as she all-to-quickly found out.

**The Training**

After hearing about being a nanny from friends, who gave both positive

and negative experiences about being nannies, she decided to go for it and applied to a Halifax Personnel company. Her resume was accepted and she was enlisted in a one-week training program. This 'training' program consisted of 8 hours a day of cleaning the house of someone connected with the company. "I thought it was totally misleading. The children were only a secondary concern. Supposedly I was training to be a live-in nanny, but really I was a housecleaner."

After enduring the training week, for which she was not paid, she was given a cursory interview by the company. However, F. says that the company was thorough in checking her references, although they did not interview her with any depth. She views the training week as the company "wanting to get their house cleaned" for free.

F. was "guaranteed" a placement. She was offered to contact a family with a 1 year opening in the Yukon, or a 2 month opening in Montreal. F. chose to contact the family in Montreal. The mother of the family in Montreal, Kay (not her real name), told F. that the salary was \$175 a week, that they had 3 kids including a new baby, and that the hours were from 7 am to 7 pm weekdays. Kay also said that "light housekeeping" was involved. "That was a complete load of horseshit," says F.

Kay did not ask what sort of training F. had, and F. therefore did not mention that the company had not provided any sort of baby handling training or baby safety training for F. "That was pretty unprofessional for the company. There was no safety training. That is stupid. [Kay] didn't even ask." Kay did mention that there were extras, such as the fact that that she went out evenings, meaning that F. had to work overtime some nights, and that she was a meticulous housekeeper and expected the like.

When F. mentioned that the company had said that Kay was responsible for paying the airfare to fly F. in from Halifax, Kay retorted by saying nothing of the sort. In the end, F. ended up paying the airfare to and from Montreal. F. figures that the reason the nannies are usually sent out of province is to isolate them, so that they're stuck and "can't quit on the spot". But then again F. feels that she did want to go to Montreal to travel as well: "So there's a bit of deception on both sides." F. also learned that the company advertises that Nova Scotia workers are supposedly harder workers (ie. used to gruelling work), and have more education.

**Starting Work as a Nanny**

Kay welcomed F. to Montreal by saying "You're late". They drove immediately to Kay's house where F.'s work began instantly: "I wasn't even allowed to unpack my stuff."

**See Nanny**

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