

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:02:12

So my name is Anastasiya Obratsova.

00:00:02:12 - 00:00:05:03

I'm 27 years old.

00:00:05:03 - 00:00:10:07

I'm currently an inside sales consultant  
with a printing and marketing company.

00:00:10:15 - 00:00:15:09

And a fun fact about me  
is that I speak three languages fluently.

00:00:16:06 - 00:00:19:06

I speak Russian, French, and English.

00:00:19:15 - 00:00:23:03

So my family came from Kazakhstan.

00:00:23:07 - 00:00:27:09

So well my mom's side of  
the family was originally from Russia,

00:00:27:09 - 00:00:31:10

but my parents and I have mainly lived  
in Kazakhstan with most of our family,

00:00:32:04 - 00:00:36:14

and it's in the south of Kazakhstan,  
so in a town called Shymkent.

00:00:36:15 - 00:00:39:13

So it's almost on  
the border with Uzbekistan.

00:00:41:00 - 00:00:45:10

And we decided to immigrate to Canada.

00:00:45:10 - 00:00:50:01

So generally as a pretty big reason for  
I think many people immigrating

00:00:50:01 - 00:00:54:08

is in being in search of a better life  
and better conditions of life,

00:00:54:12 - 00:00:57:09

more opportunities,  
whether that's for yourself

00:00:57:09 - 00:01:01:01

or your children or, you know,  
your children's children, essentially.

00:01:01:07 - 00:01:04:04

And we

00:01:04:04 - 00:01:07:11

we kind of chose Canada,  
I guess, compared to other places, mainly

00:01:07:11 - 00:01:12:11

because at the time Canada  
did offer immigration program.

00:01:13:01 - 00:01:17:03

So it was pretty like popular  
and well publicized.

00:01:17:03 - 00:01:22:08

And, it seemed like a good place  
to live with lots of opportunities.

00:01:23:03 - 00:01:26:10

We also, like my dad, knew some English,

00:01:26:12 - 00:01:29:14

so it was a good place to go  
where he'd be able to speak

00:01:30:03 - 00:01:32:04

the language of the country.

00:01:32:04 - 00:01:35:13

We also heard  
a lot of good things about Canada.

00:01:35:13 - 00:01:39:15

It was one of the top countries  
at the time in terms of quality

00:01:39:15 - 00:01:44:05

of life and economy  
and various other aspects of life.

00:01:45:04 - 00:01:46:15

It was seen as a very safe

00:01:46:15 - 00:01:50:05

country,  
with quite a bit of economic stability.

00:01:50:13 - 00:01:54:10

So these were some of the,  
I guess, high level reasons

00:01:54:10 - 00:01:57:10

for us to move to Canada, specifically.

00:01:58:12 - 00:02:03:04

But and I'm pretty sure  
it's still ongoing, but basically Canada

00:02:03:04 - 00:02:06:04

was looking to get more and more people,

00:02:06:08 - 00:02:11:10

into the country in order to,  
I guess, promote general development,

00:02:11:10 - 00:02:18:00

economic development,  
promote some diversity, get more people

00:02:18:00 - 00:02:21:09

into the country and participating  
in all of the different opportunities.

00:02:21:09 - 00:02:26:13

And so, Canada, in a lot of ways,  
is a much more kind of stable

00:02:26:13 - 00:02:30:03

and developed country than Kazakhstan was,  
at least at the time.

00:02:30:12 - 00:02:35:13

So, and not a lot of countries  
have immigration programs.

00:02:35:13 - 00:02:40:15

So contrary to some popular belief,  
you can't just up and immigrate

00:02:40:15 - 00:02:44:00

into any country in the world  
that you choose to go to.

00:02:44:08 - 00:02:48:05

You actually have to get there  
through an immigration program

00:02:48:05 - 00:02:52:02

typically, if it's not like  
a temporary visa or something like that.

00:02:52:09 - 00:02:56:03

So Canada had a program  
and anybody could apply.

00:02:56:10 - 00:03:01:07

So unlike the States where it's a bit of  
like a lottery, for example, in Canada

00:03:01:10 - 00:03:05:04

you could just apply  
and obviously it was conditional.

00:03:06:00 - 00:03:08:14

So there was no guarantee  
that you would get accepted.

00:03:08:14 - 00:03:10:11

So it's almost like an interview.

00:03:10:11 - 00:03:15:12

You have to go through documents and questions and interviews and check ups,

00:03:16:05 - 00:03:20:02

and then if you're successful, then you get to immigrate.

00:03:22:02 - 00:03:22:07

Yeah.

00:03:22:07 - 00:03:27:06

So as I had kind of mentioned earlier, we did not move to Burlington originally,

00:03:27:06 - 00:03:30:06

although we did originally land in Ontario.

00:03:30:13 - 00:03:36:12

So we landed in Richmond Hill, in hopes of my dad locating a job there.

00:03:36:12 - 00:03:38:08

And it was an Anglophone province.

00:03:38:08 - 00:03:40:01

So in Ontario

00:03:40:01 - 00:03:42:08

I was more so anglophone,  
and my dad spoke English,

00:03:42:08 - 00:03:44:15

so it seemed like a good spot to be.

00:03:44:15 - 00:03:47:12

And it was very close to Toronto,  
which had a very big Russian

00:03:47:12 - 00:03:49:11

speaking community.

00:03:49:11 - 00:03:53:06

But after a year of being there,  
my dad could not find any work.

00:03:54:05 - 00:03:56:06

So he ended up getting a job

00:03:56:06 - 00:04:00:00

in the same company  
he worked in back in Kazakhstan,

00:04:00:07 - 00:04:04:05

but their offices were in Montreal,

so we moved to Montreal for a bit.

00:04:05:06 - 00:04:06:09

And while he had the

00:04:06:09 - 00:04:09:09

job and we stayed there

for a fairly long time,

00:04:09:09 - 00:04:13:07

and then eventually

his department was being shut down.

00:04:13:13 - 00:04:17:11

So he had to find a new position,

and he ended up finding one again

00:04:17:11 - 00:04:22:08

in the same company, but he was changed

over to the Mississauga office.

00:04:22:09 - 00:04:23:13

So again in Ontario.

00:04:23:13 - 00:04:29:04

And so my parents decided

that they needed to move there.

00:04:29:12 - 00:04:33:06

And they were trying to find a community  
that was close to my dad's work,

00:04:33:11 - 00:04:37:15

but that was also,  
a great community to grow a family.

00:04:37:15 - 00:04:40:12

And so Burlington came about.

00:04:40:12 - 00:04:43:07

Burlington is very similar  
to the community

00:04:43:07 - 00:04:45:07

we used to live in back in Montreal.

00:04:45:07 - 00:04:48:01

It's very peaceful, very quiet.

00:04:48:01 - 00:04:50:14

It's it was at the time

00:04:50:14 - 00:04:56:04

and still is one of the best  
kind of mid-sized cities to live in,

00:04:56:05 - 00:05:00:12

in Ontario generally,

and even more so in Canada as well.

00:05:01:14 - 00:05:02:11

It was

00:05:02:11 - 00:05:05:11

a fairly affordable neighbourhood for us.

00:05:05:12 - 00:05:07:08

It's very green.

00:05:07:08 - 00:05:11:10

It has everything

that you would need to grow a family.

00:05:11:10 - 00:05:16:05

And so at the time, so back in Montreal,  
my brother and sister were born.

00:05:16:05 - 00:05:18:05

So my little siblings.

00:05:18:05 - 00:05:19:12

So our family did grow.

00:05:19:12 - 00:05:23:02

And then my grandmother came to join us  
as well from Kazakhstan.

00:05:23:11 - 00:05:28:12

So, Burlington seemed like a great place  
to cater to all of our different

00:05:29:00 - 00:05:33:02

generations living in one house  
and to all of our different needs.

00:05:33:08 - 00:05:37:01

So, yeah,  
that's one of the reasons that my parents

00:05:37:05 - 00:05:40:00

or few of the reasons  
that my parents chose it and,

00:05:40:00 - 00:05:43:01

they've been very happy with the choice  
so far.

00:05:43:01 - 00:05:47:08

And I've enjoyed living in Burlington  
the seven years that I did.

00:05:49:06 - 00:05:52:06

So unlike Kazakhstan, Canada has a lot of

00:05:52:06 - 00:05:55:13

different services and activities.

00:05:56:00 - 00:06:01:04

Everything is very much created  
for the population to be happy,

00:06:01:07 - 00:06:05:03

whether that's playgrounds or movie  
theaters or libraries.

00:06:05:03 - 00:06:08:09

Everything is very kind of open  
and free and accessible,

00:06:08:12 - 00:06:12:08

like the museum that  
you guys are a part of.

00:06:12:12 - 00:06:16:10

There's a lot of different things  
to do for different audiences,

00:06:17:00 - 00:06:20:12

and that's not something we had before  
back in Kazakhstan.

00:06:21:09 - 00:06:24:10

So that's what we were really hoping to  
achieve, is to come to a place

00:06:24:10 - 00:06:29:04

where we could really grow  
and use our full potential

00:06:29:04 - 00:06:34:14

and not be restricted by,  
I guess, the government and regulations

00:06:34:14 - 00:06:41:02

and the lack of kind of opportunities,  
for even everyday life back in Kazakhstan.

00:06:43:00 - 00:06:45:15

So it is a fairly long,

00:06:45:15 - 00:06:49:10

and a bit of a tedious process  
in some ways.

00:06:49:14 - 00:06:52:14

So there's a lot of documents to fill in,

00:06:53:02 - 00:06:55:08

that are very multi-step.

00:06:55:08 - 00:06:59:14

There's often a lot of,  
there's different checks to be done.

00:07:00:05 - 00:07:04:06

My parents have had to travel abroad  
in order to do interviews,

00:07:04:06 - 00:07:07:06

so they had to be personally  
interviewed to be assessed.

00:07:07:09 - 00:07:10:05

What kind of individuals they are.

00:07:10:05 - 00:07:14:09

So they actually had to at one point  
go to Poland to do an interview.

00:07:15:12 - 00:07:18:14

There's also a lot--it  
involves a lot of waiting.

00:07:19:01 - 00:07:23:03

So much like applying anywhere  
and waiting for documents to come back.

00:07:23:07 - 00:07:27:11

Maybe you need to get some documents  
notarized or anything like that.

00:07:27:11 - 00:07:30:08

So you're waiting on different people.

00:07:30:08 - 00:07:33:12

And then some of the difficulties  
that they encountered

00:07:33:12 - 00:07:37:00

was that there was delays from  
the embassy.

00:07:37:04 - 00:07:42:07

And then there was also that uncertainty,  
as I mentioned, of will

00:07:42:07 - 00:07:46:01

we even get selected because obviously  
all of this is conditional.

00:07:46:01 - 00:07:48:13

There's no guarantee  
that you'll make it at the end of it.

00:07:48:13 - 00:07:53:11

So that was kind of it's that  
kind of uncertainty and not really knowing

00:07:54:04 - 00:07:56:13

if there's going to be the outcome  
you're looking for

00:07:56:13 - 00:07:59:13

at the end of the process.

00:08:01:05 - 00:08:01:12

Well,

00:08:01:12 - 00:08:04:12

as you can imagine,

it was a big cultural shock.

00:08:05:06 - 00:08:08:06

So that's the main thing

that I can kind of notice.

00:08:08:08 - 00:08:11:11

So, yeah. Cultural and lifestyle shock.

00:08:11:11 - 00:08:17:01

Canada is very different from Kazakhstan

in pretty much every respect.

00:08:17:09 - 00:08:22:12

Also, we had moved to what was essentially

like a city, a bigger city.

00:08:22:12 - 00:08:25:14

I mean, Richmond Hill

isn't the size of Toronto necessarily,

00:08:25:14 - 00:08:29:12

but it was still much bigger than the town  
that we used

00:08:29:12 - 00:08:32:00

to live in back in Kazakhstan.

00:08:32:00 - 00:08:35:14

There was way more urban development

00:08:35:15 - 00:08:39:03

in kind of the cities,  
and their layouts where they were

00:08:39:05 - 00:08:43:13

more advanced in the structuring  
and they're planning than Kazakhstan was.

00:08:45:01 - 00:08:48:01

The climate was very striking for us.

00:08:48:02 - 00:08:49:15

Very different.

00:08:49:15 - 00:08:52:03

And we were also struck by the

00:08:52:03 - 00:08:55:06

the fact that people were very friendly

and generous.

00:08:55:12 - 00:08:59:07

So that's not really something  
that's part of the Kazakh culture.

00:08:59:07 - 00:09:03:06

And when I say that, I mean more  
so like strangers, because here you can be

00:09:03:15 - 00:09:07:07

walking outside and somebody sees you  
and they smile and they say hi.

00:09:07:07 - 00:09:10:01

So that wasn't  
something that was part of our lives.

00:09:10:01 - 00:09:12:00

Back in Kazakhstan.

00:09:12:03 - 00:09:17:10

For myself, I think the I guess the shock  
or the stress of the move,

00:09:17:10 - 00:09:21:15

the kind of like acknowledging  
it caught up to me a little bit later.

00:09:22:07 - 00:09:25:03

But even myself, I was certainly

00:09:26:03 - 00:09:28:01

like, there was a lot of confusion.

00:09:28:01 - 00:09:29:04

And I do remember there's

00:09:29:04 - 00:09:33:15

there's been a fair amount of times  
where I was sad, not necessarily homesick,

00:09:33:15 - 00:09:37:12

but just like when I started school,  
for example,

00:09:37:12 - 00:09:42:04

I landed full on into a regular English  
speaking class.

00:09:42:12 - 00:09:46:10

So I was the only kid,  
pretty much who didn't speak any English,

00:09:47:02 - 00:09:50:11

and nobody around me  
really spoke my language.

00:09:50:12 - 00:09:52:07

So I kind of had to.

00:09:52:07 - 00:09:58:11

And on top of it, you're adjusting to a very different lifestyle and surroundings.

00:09:58:11 - 00:10:01:14

So it was definitely kind of stressful, but

00:10:02:08 - 00:10:06:06

I think my parents did their best to alleviate some of that for me.

00:10:06:06 - 00:10:07:08

For sure.

00:10:09:01 - 00:10:09:09

Yeah.

00:10:09:09 - 00:10:14:15

I mean, when we first arrived, I, my mom kind of mostly stayed home.

00:10:14:15 - 00:10:18:11

She did eventually go and take English lessons at like

00:10:18:11 - 00:10:21:11

an adult kind of ESL type school.

00:10:21:15 - 00:10:24:09

And for myself,

00:10:24:09 - 00:10:26:14

once I started in that classroom,

00:10:26:14 - 00:10:31:15

I was assigned to a special teacher  
that would help

00:10:31:15 - 00:10:34:07

students like me because,  
as it turned out,

00:10:34:07 - 00:10:37:07

I was not the only immigrant  
in the classroom.

00:10:37:07 - 00:10:39:00

There was a couple of other kids

00:10:39:00 - 00:10:42:06

like me who came from other countries  
and that didn't really speak English.

00:10:43:03 - 00:10:47:12

And so to offer us extra support,  
we would spend a couple days of week

00:10:47:12 - 00:10:53:12

with that teacher, kind of one on one  
and do kind of more intense exercises.

00:10:53:12 - 00:10:57:01

She would give us things to do at home  
as well, to practice,

00:10:57:06 - 00:11:01:02

just to be able to  
improve our language skills.

00:11:02:06 - 00:11:03:12

And then

00:11:03:12 - 00:11:06:08

and then it was similar  
when we moved to Montreal.

00:11:06:08 - 00:11:09:08

So in Montreal,  
I had to learn how to speak French.

00:11:09:08 - 00:11:12:03

But there they have welcome classes,

00:11:12:03 - 00:11:15:09

which is again for immigrant children  
who don't know the language.

00:11:16:00 - 00:11:20:11

And so you basically in that class,  
you don't really do other school subjects

00:11:20:11 - 00:11:24:00

other than the language itself and math.

00:11:24:08 - 00:11:27:00

So that's all you do  
usually during the year.

00:11:27:00 - 00:11:30:04

And once you're done  
that year, you'll go back into the

00:11:30:08 - 00:11:33:08

the regular grade  
that you were supposed to go into.

00:11:33:13 - 00:11:36:13

So there were some

00:11:36:15 - 00:11:41:08

definitely different kind of elements  
like that in school for kids in place.

00:11:41:08 - 00:11:45:10

And then for like,  
my dad already spoke English, so he just

00:11:45:10 - 00:11:50:09

he worked and then my mom,  
she just went to schools

00:11:50:09 - 00:11:54:00

for adults who are learning  
English as like, a second language.

00:11:54:06 - 00:11:57:06

So she took some classes there  
and she was there

00:11:57:06 - 00:12:01:01

kind of the whole day,  
kind of like any, any other school really.

00:12:02:12 - 00:12:05:04

Yeah, I think it's like leaving any place.

00:12:05:04 - 00:12:09:02

And I think everybody can identify  
with the feeling of just moving

00:12:09:02 - 00:12:11:00

from one place to another.

00:12:11:00 - 00:12:14:12

But it's just leaving a familiar  
lifestyle behind.

00:12:15:02 - 00:12:19:05

So familiar lifestyle,  
familiar places, leaving

00:12:19:05 - 00:12:25:05

friends and family,  
and having a lot of unknowns ahead of you.

00:12:26:00 - 00:12:28:14

And unlike a move  
that would have been close by,

00:12:28:14 - 00:12:32:11

like if we had moved to the next city,  
over the next street, over,

00:12:32:14 - 00:12:34:13

we were moving all the way overseas.

00:12:34:13 - 00:12:38:02

So it's not like  
we can just come back at our leisure

00:12:38:08 - 00:12:42:04

and visit our family  
in our old hometown whenever we wanted.

00:12:43:11 - 00:12:46:12

So those were kind of the main  
difficulties.

00:12:47:00 - 00:12:49:08

And yeah, a lot of unknown.

00:12:49:08 - 00:12:54:09

So at the time, unlike today,  
there was not there was barely any,

00:12:54:09 - 00:12:59:10

social media and the internet was like  
it was going,

00:12:59:10 - 00:13:04:07

but it was definitely not as developed  
and as diverse as it is today.

00:13:05:02 - 00:13:08:12

So we didn't have the resources  
like we would have today

00:13:08:13 - 00:13:11:08

to be able to find out,

like about the country

00:13:11:08 - 00:13:15:06

and about what's going on in it  
and how we can to have that

00:13:15:06 - 00:13:18:06

preparation in advance,  
about what to expect.

00:13:19:02 - 00:13:21:10

So it was just kind of like,

00:13:21:10 - 00:13:26:14

you know, jumping off a cliff into a lake,  
but you don't know what's in the lake.

00:13:26:14 - 00:13:29:12

Is there rocks is it deep  
is it shallow. Right?

00:13:29:12 - 00:13:32:01

Like you just kind of go for it.

00:13:32:01 - 00:13:37:03

So so those would be the tough parts, the  
the familiarity of everything.

00:13:37:03 - 00:13:39:07

And then not knowing what's ahead.

00:13:41:04 - 00:13:43:15

So one of the people originally  
that was helpful,

00:13:43:15 - 00:13:49:07

it was sort of like a consultant slash  
kind of paralegal, assistant.

00:13:49:07 - 00:13:51:08

It was this kind of nice lady.

00:13:51:08 - 00:13:57:06

And she helped my parents with some of  
that application process for immigration.

00:13:57:06 - 00:14:01:12

And then she helped us  
kind of get settled upon arrival

00:14:02:04 - 00:14:07:03

and connect us to sort of like,  
the landlady we ended up living with.

00:14:07:12 - 00:14:09:08

And then some of the locals.

00:14:09:08 - 00:14:13:00

So we would at least have some basics  
about who

00:14:13:00 - 00:14:16:08

we could turn to  
and who we could ask questions.

00:14:17:04 - 00:14:21:00

And then for my parents, generally,

00:14:21:05 - 00:14:24:02

it's a variety of different.

00:14:24:02 - 00:14:29:03

My dad called them little people  
or maybe people that are not necessarily

00:14:30:00 - 00:14:34:06

occupying any particular huge role,  
but people that were just nice.

00:14:34:09 - 00:14:37:08

So as we said, like  
we were really surprised by how kind

00:14:37:08 - 00:14:40:08

and generous people are here  
without being asked.

00:14:40:08 - 00:14:42:13

And they're kind to strangers.

00:14:42:13 - 00:14:46:08

So it was everything

from having a grocery store

00:14:46:08 - 00:14:51:02

worker be kind enough to show you,

you know what, I'll your food items

00:14:51:02 - 00:14:56:10

and or how the stores are organized,

to like, you know, maybe a bus driver

00:14:56:10 - 00:14:59:10

kind of explaining how to use, like,

the transit cards.

00:15:00:07 - 00:15:04:04

My dad was really fortunate

when he was looking for work.

00:15:04:04 - 00:15:07:14

There was a lady at the organizing

and he was going to

00:15:08:06 - 00:15:12:00

that went the extra mile

when she was giving all of her kind

00:15:12:00 - 00:15:16:08

of lectures and classes,  
to give him the support he needed.

00:15:17:07 - 00:15:20:07

And then in my particular case,  
especially originally,

00:15:20:11 - 00:15:23:11

it was my teacher,  
actually my grade two teacher.

00:15:24:03 - 00:15:28:07

She was extremely supportive  
and she made me feel comfortable.

00:15:28:07 - 00:15:32:13

So even despite our language barrier,  
I could tell that she was very kind.

00:15:33:04 - 00:15:38:03

And she did  
give me a lot of, like, close attention,

00:15:38:04 - 00:15:42:06

that not a lot of teachers  
would take the time and energy

00:15:42:06 - 00:15:45:07

necessarily to, you know, focus away

00:15:45:07 - 00:15:48:07

from the rest of the class

and make sure you were settled.

00:15:48:15 - 00:15:53:03

And so she helped me adapt

much faster and integrate

00:15:53:07 - 00:15:57:01

into the classroom

without feeling left out.

00:15:57:01 - 00:16:01:00

So those were really like the first kind

of people

00:16:01:00 - 00:16:04:07

and touchpoints for us

that were really, really helpful.

00:16:06:04 - 00:16:09:05

I think the biggest thing for us is it

00:16:09:05 - 00:16:15:11

made us much more open

minded, and particularly open

00:16:15:11 - 00:16:19:11

minded with regards

to different people in different cultures.

00:16:20:04 - 00:16:24:00

So we had not been like we hadn't

been exposed to cultural diversity

00:16:24:00 - 00:16:25:00

in Kazakhstan.

00:16:25:00 - 00:16:30:08

Somewhat, but still a bit

more homogenous and still a bit

00:16:30:08 - 00:16:35:04

more kind of in terms of certain values

and people viewing things a certain way.

00:16:36:01 - 00:16:38:12

But coming to Canada, really

00:16:38:12 - 00:16:41:12

changed our perspective

on different people.

00:16:41:14 - 00:16:45:01

And I guess a bit of an optimistic view  
on that.

00:16:45:01 - 00:16:49:13

Like different cultures can coexist,  
kind of harmoniously

00:16:49:13 - 00:16:54:07

and can kind of learn  
from each other and benefit from it.

00:16:55:10 - 00:16:57:05

So yeah, there was, of

00:16:57:05 - 00:17:00:05

course, some things  
that were shocking, like, I remember

00:17:00:06 - 00:17:05:04

even like, you know, seeing people look  
a certain way that I was like, oh my God.

00:17:05:04 - 00:17:06:11

Like, for example, like I hadn't,

00:17:06:11 - 00:17:10:02

I probably had never seen  
like an Indian person in my life.

00:17:10:02 - 00:17:10:15

Right?

00:17:10:15 - 00:17:15:03

Or people from some other countries  
that I just never fathomed.

00:17:15:10 - 00:17:18:15

But here they were, like some of them  
were in my classroom in grade two.

00:17:18:15 - 00:17:21:01

And so I was like, oh, like,  
what are all these people?

00:17:21:01 - 00:17:24:01

So I think it really opened our mind to

00:17:25:00 - 00:17:28:00

everything that there is in the world.

00:17:28:00 - 00:17:30:04

And then for me personally,

00:17:30:04 - 00:17:34:09

I think it kind of  
changed my sense of like, identity.

00:17:35:01 - 00:17:38:12

Like,

I guess I was a little kid, like, I'd

00:17:38:12 - 00:17:43:15

probably be on, like, a little Russian kid  
from Kazakhstan, but then over

00:17:43:15 - 00:17:48:12

time, moving to Canada, I, I developed  
a much different sense of who I am now.

00:17:48:12 - 00:17:52:03

I feel like I kind of embody  
a variety of different cultures.

00:17:53:13 - 00:17:54:10

And it changed

00:17:54:10 - 00:17:58:00

a lot as well, my sense of curiosity.

00:17:58:07 - 00:18:01:01

So I'm, I'm much more curious and eager

00:18:01:01 - 00:18:04:12

to learn kind of person than I would then.

00:18:04:12 - 00:18:08:01

I think I would have been

if we had stayed back in Kazakhstan.

00:18:08:10 - 00:18:13:01

So it's kind of created this,  
like multifaceted,

00:18:13:11 - 00:18:16:08

I guess being from myself.

00:18:16:08 - 00:18:21:13

So, yeah, so kind of being more open  
minded and in tune with that

00:18:21:13 - 00:18:26:08

kind of developing a sort  
of a multi-sided identity

00:18:26:08 - 00:18:29:08

for me personally.

00:18:29:08 - 00:18:32:08

like, for example, for us, like

00:18:32:10 - 00:18:35:02

we didn't really celebrate Christmas,

00:18:35:02 - 00:18:38:15

we would get presents on New Year's  
and New Year's was the big holiday,

00:18:39:07 - 00:18:41:05

and that's when you would get presents  
from Santa.

00:18:41:05 - 00:18:47:03

So originally when we first moved,  
that's what we had started by doing.

00:18:47:07 - 00:18:50:06

But then with school,  
everybody was like, oh, Christmas.

00:18:50:06 - 00:18:53:06

So then I came home and I was like,  
I want presents on Christmas too.

00:18:53:09 - 00:18:57:10

But it remains that for us, New  
Year's is a very big holiday.

00:18:57:13 - 00:19:00:11

A lot of people here will just kind of,  
you know,

00:19:00:11 - 00:19:04:02

go out, wait  
until midnight and go to bed or whatever.

00:19:04:02 - 00:19:08:07

But for us, it really is a time  
for kind of gathering with the family

00:19:08:07 - 00:19:09:12

and having fun. So

00:19:11:00 - 00:19:11:05

there's some

00:19:11:05 - 00:19:14:11

holiday celebrations  
and then food, definitely.

00:19:15:01 - 00:19:17:09

And especially with like my grandma  
living with us and stuff.

00:19:17:09 - 00:19:20:07

So we do a lot of cooking,  
of a lot of different dishes

00:19:20:07 - 00:19:24:15

that are mostly,  
either a kind of Central Asian

00:19:25:04 - 00:19:28:09

or Russian or Eastern European generally.

00:19:29:00 - 00:19:33:10

And we did our best to locate some stores  
with some European food.

00:19:33:10 - 00:19:37:04

So we do buy a lot of those  
kind of food items

00:19:37:04 - 00:19:42:06

that are familiar to us, and that's  
usually always fun and exciting.

00:19:43:00 - 00:19:48:11

We still watch shows and listen to music,  
that we can take

00:19:48:11 - 00:19:52:14

from kind of, you know, Russian artists  
or Russian speaking artists.

00:19:52:14 - 00:19:55:14

So kind of like what we used to watch  
or listen to.

00:19:55:14 - 00:20:01:00

So there's still a lot of kind of  
those elements that remain in the family.

00:20:02:09 - 00:20:06:15

And I find often when people ask me like,  
oh, like, are you Russian?

00:20:06:15 - 00:20:07:13

Or like, you know what?

00:20:07:13 - 00:20:09:03

Who do you identify as?

00:20:09:03 - 00:20:11:02

Like, do you identify Canadian or Russian?

00:20:11:02 - 00:20:14:13

And I often just tell people

I identify as multicultural.

00:20:15:03 - 00:20:17:14

I don't really identify as one  
or the other.

00:20:17:14 - 00:20:20:15

Because I enjoy being

00:20:20:15 - 00:20:24:13

with Spanish speakers,

because I learn Spanish in high school.

00:20:24:13 - 00:20:26:08

And I thought that was very fun.

00:20:26:08 - 00:20:28:08

And I used to take like Latin dancing.

00:20:28:08 - 00:20:32:10

So I really loved kind of that  
whole Hispanophone community.

00:20:32:15 - 00:20:35:14

And then a lot of nostalgia for Quebec,

00:20:35:14 - 00:20:38:14

where we used to live,  
and then a lot of Anglophone stuff,

00:20:38:14 - 00:20:43:03

but also a lot of nostalgia for,  
I guess, Russian culture and elements.

00:20:44:12 - 00:20:45:11

So I'd say, yeah, I

00:20:45:11 - 00:20:50:00

became  
very kind of a fused and multifaceted.

00:20:50:00 - 00:20:53:00

And then in terms of kind  
of developing any

00:20:54:01 - 00:20:58:09

new traditions with my family, well,  
we certainly adopted some holidays,

00:20:58:14 - 00:21:02:01

and celebrations  
that we didn't used to do again.

00:21:02:08 - 00:21:04:03

Christmas being an example.

00:21:04:03 - 00:21:07:14

And even Easter,  
like we have Orthodox Easter,

00:21:08:03 - 00:21:11:04

but we didn't like really celebrated  
per se

00:21:11:11 - 00:21:14:11

and Orthodox Easter celebrated  
kind of differently as well.

00:21:15:02 - 00:21:18:08

So this whole like Easter Bunny chocolate  
egg hunt

00:21:18:08 - 00:21:21:08

situation was not really part of that.

00:21:22:05 - 00:21:25:00

But I brought a lot of those things  
from school.

00:21:25:00 - 00:21:28:00

And we ended up adopting them.

00:21:28:08 - 00:21:32:05

And then so also like attending festivals  
and cultural events.

00:21:32:11 - 00:21:35:11

That's not really something  
we did a lot of,

00:21:35:14 - 00:21:39:03

but then over time,  
we started to kind of enjoy that more so.

00:21:39:11 - 00:21:44:09

So we would kind of make an effort to  
to go out and participate in those.

00:21:44:13 - 00:21:47:06

So I'd say like, that's kind of like the

00:21:47:06 - 00:21:51:13

some of the newer traditions  
that we've developed or took on.

00:21:54:00 - 00:21:55:09

Pretty much just pictures.

00:21:55:09 - 00:21:59:10

We did bring photo albums with us,  
but they don't really.

00:21:59:10 - 00:22:02:10

I guess, though, that was just pictures  
that we took back there.

00:22:02:13 - 00:22:05:15

But then as we moved, my parents fairly

00:22:05:15 - 00:22:09:08

quickly wanted to get their hands  
on a digital camera

00:22:09:08 - 00:22:13:12

because back then we only ever used, like,  
those disposable film cameras.

00:22:14:08 - 00:22:17:14

So they got their hands on  
like a small digital camera.

00:22:17:14 - 00:22:23:13

And that kind of became a big part  
of our life for quite a few years.

00:22:24:01 - 00:22:27:14

Because we it was a way for us to

00:22:28:15 - 00:22:32:05

kind of document it for ourselves  
because, like I said,

00:22:32:09 - 00:22:36:12

especially me, I was a kid,  
so I wasn't like, obviously I was in awe.

00:22:37:02 - 00:22:39:02

But you don't experience these things  
the same.

00:22:39:02 - 00:22:41:11

Like to me, I was kind of like,  
oh yeah, everything looks different.

00:22:41:11 - 00:22:44:12

But like, whatever, I'm just gonna,  
you know, play or go to school.

00:22:45:00 - 00:22:46:13

But for my parents, it was like,

oh my God.

00:22:46:13 - 00:22:48:08

Like the trees look different, the streets

00:22:48:08 - 00:22:50:04

look different,  
the cars look different, right?

00:22:50:04 - 00:22:55:01

So they really wanted to,  
I think, document it for themselves,

00:22:55:02 - 00:22:58:06

like their experience of it,  
but also very much

00:22:58:06 - 00:23:02:02

so to to share it with, family back home.

00:23:02:09 - 00:23:05:13

So with my dad's mom  
who now lives with us, and then

00:23:06:06 - 00:23:08:15

with like my uncle's family.

00:23:08:15 - 00:23:10:07

So my dad's brother.

00:23:11:08 - 00:23:14:15

So a lot of  
those photos would get sent over to them

00:23:14:15 - 00:23:20:04

so that they can kind of experience this  
with us and understand what we're seeing.

00:23:20:04 - 00:23:21:15

And what we're doing.

00:23:21:15 - 00:23:24:06

So that's really just it.

00:23:24:06 - 00:23:29:02

We didn't really bring any,  
my family's not really big on heirlooms

00:23:29:02 - 00:23:33:10

or mementos or things like that,  
so we didn't really bring anything over.

00:23:34:08 - 00:23:37:08

But yeah, photos are are a big one.

00:23:38:13 - 00:23:39:02

Yeah.

00:23:39:02 - 00:23:44:05

Well, so I mean, again, originally  
like when we had moved to Richmond Hill,

00:23:44:10 - 00:23:49:04

my dad was volunteering  
for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

00:23:49:10 - 00:23:53:01

So volunteering  
was is one of the bigger ways

00:23:53:01 - 00:23:57:00

here of being able  
to not only integrate into the community,

00:23:57:00 - 00:24:02:06

but get the skills that you need  
to get a job and advance professionally.

00:24:02:13 - 00:24:05:04

So that's something that he was doing.

00:24:05:04 - 00:24:08:01

And then after he got a job,

00:24:08:01 - 00:24:11:00

and my mom was mostly a stay at home mom  
because I was little.

00:24:11:00 - 00:24:12:09

And then my little siblings were born.

00:24:12:09 - 00:24:16:10

So she was mostly always home  
and always had her hands kind of full.

00:24:17:01 - 00:24:21:15

But she did participate  
in, when I was like a not a lot of,

00:24:21:15 - 00:24:25:00

I guess, our extracurriculars  
or school related stuff.

00:24:26:04 - 00:24:26:13

So when I

00:24:26:13 - 00:24:29:13

was dancing,  
she was a very big part of that.

00:24:29:13 - 00:24:32:02

She was making a lot of the costumes.

00:24:32:02 - 00:24:34:04

She attended  
pretty much all of my concerts,

00:24:34:04 - 00:24:37:04

and she was heavily  
kind of involved in that.

00:24:37:04 - 00:24:41:00

And then when my siblings were little,  
she would, kind of help out

00:24:41:00 - 00:24:44:03

at sometimes  
some like school or kindergarten, like

00:24:44:07 - 00:24:47:07

little sales and fairs  
and things like that.

00:24:48:11 - 00:24:52:05

But I think overall at this point,  
like after like my,

00:24:52:05 - 00:24:56:02

you know, my mom, my dad got a job  
and my mom was mostly home

00:24:56:06 - 00:25:02:04

once I started kind of late elementary  
into high school and all that.

00:25:02:05 - 00:25:07:00

I've been kind of the  
the volunteer expert in the family.

00:25:07:04 - 00:25:10:09

I've been mostly involved  
in the community

00:25:10:09 - 00:25:13:12

pretty much everywhere  
that I was, anything

00:25:13:12 - 00:25:18:08

from tutoring other students  
at the schools I was at in Montreal.

00:25:18:10 - 00:25:21:10

I volunteered at the local library  
for a while.

00:25:22:00 - 00:25:25:07

And now often in schools  
with any kind of events,

00:25:25:07 - 00:25:28:07

programs, tutoring did a lot of that.

00:25:28:12 - 00:25:34:11

In my dance troupe, I would help out

a lot as well with really anything.

00:25:34:11 - 00:25:39:11

Everything from announcing during shows  
to helping rehearse with the little kids

00:25:39:11 - 00:25:44:14

or things like that, and then specifically  
in connection to Burlington.

00:25:45:06 - 00:25:49:08

So settling in Ontario was, again,  
like a big move for us

00:25:49:08 - 00:25:52:03

because we had lived in Quebec  
for 11 years.

00:25:52:03 - 00:25:56:04

So moving to Ontario  
was not necessarily like immigrating,

00:25:56:04 - 00:26:00:11

but it almost kind of  
was because it's still quite different.

00:26:01:01 - 00:26:05:14

So I immediately turned to volunteering  
because

00:26:06:10 - 00:26:09:06

I guess the answer, the second part of the question, I think it's

00:26:09:06 - 00:26:12:15

very like, I think it's extremely helpful with settling

00:26:13:07 - 00:26:16:01

because it provides in like a stress free environment.

00:26:16:01 - 00:26:20:09

It's not like a job where you have to like meet expectations, meet quota,

00:26:20:10 - 00:26:23:10

like fill your hours and all that,

00:26:23:11 - 00:26:27:02

and you're not looking to get paid.

00:26:27:10 - 00:26:31:00

You're just looking to kind of do something you enjoy and give back.

00:26:32:02 - 00:26:32:11

So I think

00:26:32:11 - 00:26:36:03

volunteering, that's why I immediately  
like like Ireland House

00:26:36:03 - 00:26:39:03

was the first place  
I went to when we moved to Ontario.

00:26:40:06 - 00:26:44:02

Because like, I liked museums and stuff,  
but it really helped me

00:26:44:11 - 00:26:46:01

get to know the community

00:26:46:01 - 00:26:49:09

I was living in, because you're constantly  
interacting with locals

00:26:49:15 - 00:26:51:13

and you interact  
with people of different ages,

00:26:51:13 - 00:26:54:11

so you get to know about, okay,  
what are young people doing?

00:26:54:11 - 00:26:56:00

What are older people doing?

00:26:56:00 - 00:26:58:04

So I could bring that information home

00:26:58:04 - 00:27:01:15

and kind of tell my parents

and my grandma and my siblings, right.

00:27:01:15 - 00:27:04:15

And then it helps

give you something to do.

00:27:04:15 - 00:27:08:05

So you kind of feel like your days

if you're not too busy

00:27:08:05 - 00:27:11:05

or if you don't have a job yet,

you can fill them with something,

00:27:11:10 - 00:27:15:03

you can make friends or at least

acquaintances that you can turn to.

00:27:15:09 - 00:27:16:03

You meet different

00:27:16:03 - 00:27:19:03

people who have different professions,  
who know different things in the city.

00:27:19:07 - 00:27:22:07

So it really helps you kind of adapt.

00:27:22:07 - 00:27:27:00

It gives you a purpose,  
like it makes you feel less lonely.

00:27:27:07 - 00:27:31:00

And I often found that for myself  
personally, when I'm busy kind of

00:27:31:00 - 00:27:35:00

helping other people,  
it helps take my mind off things

00:27:35:00 - 00:27:38:08

like if I'm feeling kind of sad  
or anxious or whatever.

00:27:38:08 - 00:27:42:11

I find that volunteering in that way  
has always been very fulfilling.

00:27:43:08 - 00:27:46:08

So yeah, I would say that,

00:27:46:11 - 00:27:49:11

I was kind of mostly part of that,  
like in Burlington.

00:27:49:11 - 00:27:53:08

I was in the museums,  
I was in the performing Arts center,

00:27:53:08 - 00:27:56:08

and a couple of little one time  
initiatives, like with the city

00:27:56:08 - 00:27:59:08

parades and things like that, the Sound  
Music festival.

00:27:59:13 - 00:28:02:00

So, yeah. And I think,

00:28:03:00 - 00:28:06:03

I think being part of  
like these kind of community organizations

00:28:06:03 - 00:28:11:00

and initiatives, especially on a volunteer  
basis, really helps you integrate

00:28:11:00 - 00:28:14:06

kind of faster

and more genuinely into the community,

00:28:14:12 - 00:28:18:09

than simply like getting a job  
or going to school.

00:28:18:13 - 00:28:21:01

It's definitely very nice.

00:28:21:01 - 00:28:23:05

I think.

00:28:24:11 - 00:28:25:00

Yeah.

00:28:25:00 - 00:28:26:10

Well, I mean, I guess the biggest one

00:28:26:10 - 00:28:30:00

and now that it's available  
is do your research.

00:28:30:06 - 00:28:33:05

That would be my biggest thing.

00:28:33:05 - 00:28:37:12

So moving  
or like immigrating in general, moving,

00:28:37:12 - 00:28:41:06

even if you're moving,  
just changing your cities, that's the best

00:28:42:07 - 00:28:43:01

way that you

00:28:43:01 - 00:28:46:11

can help yourself  
be as prepared as you can be,

00:28:46:15 - 00:28:50:08

and to avoid any unnecessary  
kind of stress

00:28:50:08 - 00:28:53:11

or kind of unmet

00:28:53:11 - 00:28:57:00

expectations  
is to really research where you're going.

00:28:57:05 - 00:28:59:15

So what is the place like?

00:28:59:15 - 00:29:02:15

What's available there,  
what are the services?

00:29:03:04 - 00:29:04:06

What's the economy like?

00:29:04:06 - 00:29:06:01

What do things cost?

00:29:06:01 - 00:29:09:06

Kind of the job market, right.

00:29:09:06 - 00:29:10:15

Like how it's organized.

00:29:10:15 - 00:29:12:11

If you have children. Right.

00:29:12:11 - 00:29:15:05

What are the schools,  
what's the education system like?

00:29:15:05 - 00:29:16:13

What's the health system like?

00:29:16:13 - 00:29:21:04

Pretty much anything  
that's new to you or could be new to you

00:29:21:13 - 00:29:26:05

so that you don't,  
like I said, come and have all these needs

00:29:26:05 - 00:29:29:12

or expectations, and all of a sudden  
they can't be met for whatever reason.

00:29:31:05 - 00:29:34:08

And then another big thing I would suggest

00:29:34:08 - 00:29:37:08

is to learn the language  
of where you're going.

00:29:38:01 - 00:29:43:09

And it doesn't have to be learn it  
like to a level of high proficiency, but

00:29:43:09 - 00:29:49:02

at least to get some sense or some kind of  
conversational level of understanding.

00:29:49:08 - 00:29:53:12

Because it will help you orient yourself,

00:29:54:02 - 00:29:54:14

and especially

00:29:54:14 - 00:29:58:11

if you don't have any kind of friends  
or family or other resources to help you,

00:29:59:00 - 00:30:02:11

you'll at least be able  
to navigate your way and

00:30:03:05 - 00:30:06:04

at least be able to get yourself  
into a school or something.

00:30:06:04 - 00:30:08:03

Again, to keep learning the language.

00:30:09:10 - 00:30:12:06

But then all that being said,

00:30:12:06 - 00:30:17:02

despite all of this kind of effort  
and stuff, it's very much worth it.

00:30:17:09 - 00:30:19:15

So there will be challenges regardless.

00:30:19:15 - 00:30:24:08

But once you get all that preparation  
and all that effort, it really is

00:30:25:10 - 00:30:26:05

kind of worth it.

00:30:26:05 - 00:30:29:05

As long as you remain  
kind of resilient and

00:30:30:07 - 00:30:32:15

that, and I guess the third biggest

00:30:32:15 - 00:30:37:14

tip, would be to be open minded,  
because especially if you're

00:30:38:03 - 00:30:42:04

moving to a completely new country,  
like people can be completely different.

00:30:42:04 - 00:30:44:00

Things will be completely different.

00:30:44:00 - 00:30:46:14

So just being patient with that  
and accepting that

00:30:46:14 - 00:30:50:14

as like part of the process  
and I guess embracing it, even.

00:30:53:15 - 00:30:54:09

For sure.

00:30:54:09 - 00:30:58:13

So a first big one I would say  
is the high cost of living.

00:30:59:03 - 00:31:04:11

At least in some of the major,  
I guess, urban hubs that immigrants

00:31:04:11 - 00:31:09:03

tend to gravitate towards,  
or maybe some urban hubs that tend to be,

00:31:09:08 - 00:31:13:06

I guess, advertised or publicized  
a bit more frequently.

00:31:13:13 - 00:31:17:15

So kind of bigger cities  
like Vancouver and Montreal and Toronto.

00:31:19:03 - 00:31:24:12

So definitely a big challenge  
to find a place that's affordable,

00:31:24:12 - 00:31:27:00

especially as an immigrant,  
when you don't necessarily

00:31:27:00 - 00:31:30:00

have a source of income  
or a steady source of income to rely on.

00:31:31:01 - 00:31:35:04

Another challenge,  
I think would be getting a job,

00:31:35:11 - 00:31:38:11

or competition  
for different things in general,

00:31:38:14 - 00:31:41:12

like you had mentioned  
wait times in different places.

00:31:41:12 - 00:31:45:09

But yeah,  
so in terms of like the job market,

00:31:45:14 - 00:31:49:08

especially again in big urban centers,  
there are a lot of people

00:31:49:08 - 00:31:51:13

and there are a lot of people  
looking for jobs.

00:31:51:13 - 00:31:56:07

So you kind of apply in this,

you know, instead of being 50 candidates

00:31:56:07 - 00:32:01:04

now there's like a thousand of you,  
so harder to kind of get a job.

00:32:01:04 - 00:32:04:04

And then especially if you're  
kind of starting from the bottom,

00:32:04:05 - 00:32:08:09

it may be harder for you  
to kind of get somewhere in the top.

00:32:08:15 - 00:32:12:15

And then it might be a bit of a kind of  
like a rude awakening for,

00:32:13:03 - 00:32:15:02

if you used to have a job

00:32:15:02 - 00:32:18:09

in your home country  
where you were on a fairly high level

00:32:18:15 - 00:32:21:10

and now moving to a new country,  
you have to kind of start

00:32:21:10 - 00:32:25:07

sometimes completely at the bottom  
or completely shift paths.

00:32:26:14 - 00:32:27:14

So that's the challenge.

00:32:27:14 - 00:32:30:14

And then competition more generally.

00:32:31:01 - 00:32:34:14

So again, just for different services,

00:32:35:03 - 00:32:39:01

sometimes putting your kids in school  
can be challenging because there may

00:32:39:02 - 00:32:42:02

all the spots may be full  
and other things like that.

00:32:42:04 - 00:32:45:04

And then the third one I would say is

00:32:45:15 - 00:32:49:05

in some ways fitting in,  
which might seem to be a bit,

00:32:50:07 - 00:32:54:05

I guess, contrary to like things  
I've been saying throughout the interview.

00:32:54:05 - 00:32:57:01

But I think

00:32:57:01 - 00:33:00:10

even since we moved,  
the immigrant population has grown

00:33:01:00 - 00:33:04:08

a very like a very considerable way.

00:33:04:15 - 00:33:08:06

And I would say not only has it grown  
in the size

00:33:08:06 - 00:33:12:03

of the immigrant population,  
but also in its diversity.

00:33:12:14 - 00:33:16:02

And that's not to say that  
that's a bad thing by any means,

00:33:16:10 - 00:33:19:09

but it just means that there's

00:33:19:09 - 00:33:22:06

a lot more different cultures  
intermingling.

00:33:22:06 - 00:33:26:07

So Canada is,  
I would say, way less homogenous

00:33:26:07 - 00:33:29:08

than it was then when even  
we moved there 20 years ago.

00:33:30:11 - 00:33:32:03

So it's about kind of

00:33:32:03 - 00:33:35:03

navigating that sometimes  
and being able to.

00:33:35:04 - 00:33:38:06

So it's like now like, you know,  
as a Russian person now, you're not only

00:33:38:06 - 00:33:41:10

getting along with Canadian people,  
now you have to get along with

00:33:41:15 - 00:33:46:13

maybe Asian people and African  
people and South American people.

00:33:46:13 - 00:33:51:05

So it's being able  
to, again, be open minded and acceptance.

00:33:51:05 - 00:33:55:00

So not only are you trying to fit in  
in this new country,

00:33:55:06 - 00:33:58:05

but then there's all of these other  
cultural bubbles

00:33:58:05 - 00:34:01:01

coexisting that you have to  
now be aware of.

00:34:01:01 - 00:34:04:00

I think more so than when we had moved.

00:34:04:00 - 00:34:06:09

But yeah, I would say  
those are like the main three.

00:34:06:09 - 00:34:10:13

So the high cost of living,  
the competitive is particularly in the job

00:34:10:13 - 00:34:15:10

market and, fitting in  
in an increasingly diverse population.

00:34:18:04 - 00:34:20:01

Yeah, I would say

00:34:20:01 - 00:34:22:12

I mean, just kind of the high level stuff.

00:34:22:12 - 00:34:24:10

I think

00:34:24:10 - 00:34:29:09

people essentially have the same goals  
for immigrating as we did.

00:34:30:01 - 00:34:33:10

Or I mean,  
some of the goals may have shifted.

00:34:33:10 - 00:34:36:11

Obviously not everybody immigrated  
for the same reasons,

00:34:36:11 - 00:34:39:11

but I think there's still quite  
a few immigrants today,

00:34:39:13 - 00:34:43:00

that move because they're in search  
of a better life.

00:34:43:02 - 00:34:46:02

Whatever reason that may be,  
whether it's just because

00:34:46:05 - 00:34:48:09

your home country was not that great.

00:34:48:09 - 00:34:52:00

Nowadays the political climate  
has obviously shifted.

00:34:52:00 - 00:34:55:05

A lot of people are trying to move  
or immigrate because there's

00:34:55:09 - 00:34:58:07

a political conflict  
going on in their country.

00:34:58:07 - 00:35:02:13

But I would say overall, it's in search  
for a better quality of life in search

00:35:02:13 - 00:35:07:09

of more freedom and better opportunities,  
which is why we left.

00:35:08:08 - 00:35:09:05

And then I think a lot of

00:35:09:05 - 00:35:12:11

similarity is also with the challenges  
and hardships people face.

00:35:13:00 - 00:35:16:01

We've actually with the,

00:35:16:01 - 00:35:19:03

I guess, the Ukrainian conflict  
going on overseas.

00:35:19:07 - 00:35:22:08

My parents have recently met  
quite a few,

00:35:22:08 - 00:35:25:10

Ukrainian immigrants  
in my group in general.

00:35:25:15 - 00:35:28:15

And like they,

00:35:29:03 - 00:35:33:05

they face much of the same challenges  
and hardships that we faced when we moved.

00:35:33:05 - 00:35:36:10

So everything  
from not speaking the language to not

00:35:36:10 - 00:35:38:07

maybe having a lot of funds,

00:35:38:07 - 00:35:42:09

navigating a completely different country  
with a completely different lifestyle.

00:35:42:14 - 00:35:47:07

So I would say that  
that really has never changed.

00:35:49:00 - 00:35:51:06

The only changes might be like the access

00:35:51:06 - 00:35:56:04

to information  
with the globalization of different things

00:35:56:04 - 00:35:59:04

and the presence  
and the widespread of the internet.

00:36:00:03 - 00:36:04:11

But yeah, other than that, I'd say

same goals and same challenges.

00:36:06:03 - 00:36:08:06

I definitely I'm kind of happy

00:36:08:06 - 00:36:13:06

to be part of this project  
because, I've never really,

00:36:13:06 - 00:36:16:13

I guess,  
contemplated my immigration journey.

00:36:17:04 - 00:36:19:15

And in a lot of ways, like,

00:36:19:15 - 00:36:24:01

I wouldn't say that my immigration  
experience occupies

00:36:24:01 - 00:36:25:10

like a huge part of my life.

00:36:25:10 - 00:36:29:00

Like it's not really something  
I think about to do often.

00:36:30:06 - 00:36:33:06

And I don't consider that to be like a,

00:36:34:03 - 00:36:37:03

a very necessarily a part of my identity

00:36:37:03 - 00:36:40:03

that I necessarily feel

the need to highlight to people.

00:36:40:07 - 00:36:44:07

But it was nice to kind of participate

in this and to,

00:36:45:01 - 00:36:48:10

I guess, think how,

I guess how far we've come and how

00:36:48:12 - 00:36:50:13

how much different

my life could have been.

00:36:50:13 - 00:36:55:09

And it makes me really grateful and,

yeah, I'm just,

00:36:56:01 - 00:36:58:00

kind of looking back to ways

that I've been able

00:36:58:00 - 00:37:01:07

to help, even, like at the museum  
when when I was an educator

00:37:01:07 - 00:37:05:13

and would meet sometimes  
some of those little kids that also move

00:37:05:13 - 00:37:08:13

and experience immigration like I did.

00:37:09:04 - 00:37:12:10

So it just makes me better equipped to  
and kind of better

00:37:12:10 - 00:37:16:00

motivated to,  
to help people who have been through that.

00:37:16:15 - 00:37:19:12

So yeah, it's a it's a

00:37:19:12 - 00:37:23:04

it was a very nice  
kind of project to participate in.

00:37:23:04 - 00:37:28:13

And I kind of look forward to seeing  
everybody else's contributions as well.