

00:00:01:18 - 00:00:03:12

My name is Brent Hannam.

00:00:03:12 - 00:00:05:17

I'm 50,

00:00:05:17 - 00:00:07:03

from New Zealand originally.

00:00:07:03 - 00:00:11:16

And my occupation is

I work offshore in an oil rig.

00:00:12:05 - 00:00:15:05

We, I run the remote

access and rescue team,

00:00:16:21 - 00:00:19:21

and, Yeah, I mean, fun fact,

00:00:21:01 - 00:00:24:09

I actually was in a firefighter calendar once

00:00:24:09 - 00:00:28:26

Before coming to New Zealand,

I was a firefighter, and, to raise money

00:00:28:26 - 00:00:29:19

for child cancer

00:00:29:19 - 00:00:32:20

We did the calendar so,  
it's pretty cool.

00:00:34:19 - 00:00:34:27

Yeah.

00:00:34:27 - 00:00:37:27

So from New Zealand originally

00:00:38:06 - 00:00:42:10

And, I met my wife, in New Zealand.

00:00:42:16 - 00:00:45:16

She is Canadian from Mississauga

00:00:46:02 - 00:00:50:11

And that sort of made us choose

00:00:50:11 - 00:00:53:20

Canada in the sense  
that I mean, she did like New Zealand.

00:00:53:20 - 00:00:55:18

She wanted to move there.

00:00:55:18 - 00:00:59:09

I wanted to move to Canada

and, in the end,

00:00:59:09 - 00:01:04:04

I came here for a little bit  
to do some things with the fire service

00:01:04:17 - 00:01:06:25

And then when we got back  
to New Zealand, we.

00:01:06:25 - 00:01:09:03

Decided, where do we stay?

00:01:09:03 - 00:01:12:03

And so we decided to be back here.

00:01:14:09 - 00:01:16:17

2007.

00:01:16:17 - 00:01:19:17

Is when we came here,

00:01:20:01 - 00:01:21:23

you know, coming to Burlington.

00:01:21:23 - 00:01:27:19

It was all to do with the fire department,  
which is why we chose Burlington.

00:01:27:19 - 00:01:30:06

We looked at Burlington  
and we looked at Milton,

00:01:31:06 - 00:01:32:00

because they both

00:01:32:00 - 00:01:35:02

have composite fire departments,  
and I wanted to get back on the fire.

00:01:36:15 - 00:01:38:03

Burlington was the bigger city

00:01:38:03 - 00:01:41:03

and the bigger fire department

00:01:41:04 - 00:01:43:11

so that was a big,

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

aspect of why we chose Burlington.

00:01:46:17 - 00:01:48:29

The other side to it was it,

00:01:48:29 - 00:01:51:14

you know, in 2007,

00:01:51:14 - 00:01:54:16

Burlington was,  
you know, in the developmental stage,

00:01:54:16 - 00:01:55:25

if you want to say so.

00:01:55:25 - 00:01:58:05

There was a lot of opportunity here.

00:01:58:05 - 00:02:00:07

Burlington is central to

00:02:00:07 - 00:02:03:16

everything that I need for work, you know, with the industrial side.

00:02:03:16 - 00:02:06:12

Toronto is obviously there.

00:02:06:12 - 00:02:08:19

So, it's it's  
in the middle of everything.

00:02:08:19 - 00:02:11:19

And then the lake, you know,

00:02:11:21 - 00:02:15:02

coming from New Zealand,  
being on the ocean, the lake,

00:02:16:11 - 00:02:19:11

not so much an ocean,  
but it's it's a big body of water.

00:02:19:15 - 00:02:22:07

And, you know, that's sort of

00:02:22:07 - 00:02:23:27

why we chose here

00:02:24:06 - 00:02:25:18

Hopes and expectations.

00:02:25:18 - 00:02:28:04

That was to get onto fire, right?

00:02:28:04 - 00:02:29:14

That was the big push.

00:02:29:14 - 00:02:32:14

Because being on fire service back home

00:02:32:15 - 00:02:35:15

Obviously, I wanted to carry it on here.

00:02:36:07 - 00:02:40:11

That was the big goal, but, but  
then things took a different path, right?

00:02:40:12 - 00:02:44:06

I found work in another industry that,

00:02:45:11 - 00:02:48:13

was just financially a better option.

00:02:48:23 - 00:02:52:05

So that's that's why I ended up  
going to oil and gas versus

00:02:52:23 - 00:02:55:23

fire. So.

00:02:57:22 - 00:02:58:12

To be honest,

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

it wasn't, it it wasn't overly hard.

00:03:02:21 - 00:03:05:24

I mean, financially,  
we had to prove we had the funds,

00:03:07:11 - 00:03:08:00

quite a

00:03:08:00 - 00:03:11:29

substantial amount of money to live off

if I didn't find work.

00:03:13:17 - 00:03:16:17

Because I didn't

I didn't get a work visa straight away.

00:03:17:23 - 00:03:19:00

So, yeah,

00:03:19:00 - 00:03:22:21

we had to prove that

we had the means to survive, if I could work

00:03:22:27 - 00:03:26:28

It, but, the whole process

00:03:27:13 - 00:03:29:29

didn't take long, but,

00:03:29:29 - 00:03:32:16

I know it has taken long for some people.

00:03:32:16 - 00:03:35:15

I guess I was lucky,

and it didn't take me long to,

00:03:36:19 - 00:03:39:19

When I say not long I think maybe

00:03:39:27 - 00:03:42:27

six months from when I submitted it  
to when,

00:03:44:02 - 00:03:46:21

Immigration Canada, said okay

00:03:46:21 - 00:03:48:24

00:03:48:24 - 00:03:51:19

you can come into Canada.

00:03:51:19 - 00:03:51:25

Yeah.

00:03:51:25 - 00:03:55:13

It's, you know,  
it wasn't a hard process, you know?

00:03:56:11 - 00:03:58:26

It was it was pretty good, to be honest.

00:03:58:26 - 00:04:01:12

Very stress free, actually.

00:04:01:12 - 00:04:04:10

I know it hasn't been for others,  
but it was good for me, too.

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

Yeah.

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

I mean, for her like that, for her,

00:04:08:02 - 00:04:12:13

it was proving that the whole relationship  
was true, right?

00:04:12:13 - 00:04:17:08

Like I wasn't just coming over here and  
the goal was to marry her,

00:04:17:08 - 00:04:20:08

get Canadian citizenship,  
and then off I'd go somewhere else.

00:04:22:02 - 00:04:24:08

But we weren't even planning marriage,  
to be honest.

00:04:24:08 - 00:04:29:24

Like, at that point, I mean, I'd only just  
met her maybe, I'd say a year and a bit.

00:04:30:04 - 00:04:33:04

And like, prior to that,

00:04:33:11 - 00:04:36:11

so, no, it's,

00:04:37:07 - 00:04:39:28

and for her, it was just,

00:04:39:28 - 00:04:41:11

you know,

there's a lot of reference checks

00:04:41:11 - 00:04:44:24

and things like that from the perspective

and, and of course, mine.

00:04:44:24 - 00:04:47:19

But it was just proving

that the relationship was there.

00:04:47:19 - 00:04:51:04

It seemed to be a big thing for immigration

00:04:51:25 - 00:04:54:23

When I first met my wife,

00:04:54:23 - 00:04:59:20

I, I was working on the fire department

and I was on a night shift,

00:05:00:13 - 00:05:03:27

and I was on the medical unit,  
and we got a call to her

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

Right.

00:05:04:09 - 00:05:07:09

She was on an aircraft  
coming into New Zealand,

00:05:07:12 - 00:05:10:25

and, she was tagged as a possible drug runner

00:05:10:26 - 00:05:15:29

because of symptoms  
that she was showing on the aircraft.

00:05:16:13 - 00:05:19:25

So obviously she wasn't a drug runner,  
but what she

00:05:20:05 - 00:05:24:24

what the medical condition was,  
was she was in Australia on holiday.

00:05:24:24 - 00:05:26:18

She traveled around South Pacific.

00:05:26:18 - 00:05:29:18

She got bitten by a mosquito  
and the mosquito,

00:05:31:20 - 00:05:33:12

you know, was infected with

00:05:33:12 - 00:05:36:12

this virus called Barmah Forest Virus

00:05:36:13 - 00:05:37:19

You don't have it here in Canada.

00:05:37:19 - 00:05:39:27

There's a handful of people with it  
that caught it

00:05:39:27 - 00:05:40:17

outside of Canada.

00:05:40:17 - 00:05:43:17

So anyway, she had this virus.

00:05:43:20 - 00:05:47:18

And part of the symptoms was,  
you know, profuse sweating.

00:05:48:28 - 00:05:51:28

Her eyes were bloodshot.

00:05:52:07 - 00:05:53:27

Really just...

00:05:53:27 - 00:05:56:21

She felt terrible onboard the plane.

00:05:56:21 - 00:05:59:21

But to the aircrew,  
they thought that she had,

00:06:01:03 - 00:06:04:27

you know, drugs inside her, and they burst,  
and they were showing symptoms.

00:06:05:11 - 00:06:07:00

So we got called to here.

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

We took her off the aircraft, and  
then we ended up taking her to a hospital.

00:06:11:25 - 00:06:13:17

Of course she didn't want to.

00:06:13:17 - 00:06:15:20

She didn't want to cancel the trip  
and go to a hospital.

00:06:15:20 - 00:06:18:18

She wanted because she was going  
from New Zealand to Hawaii,

00:06:18:18 - 00:06:21:07

but, we put a stop to that,  
took her to hospital.

00:06:21:07 - 00:06:24:07

She was admitted for a couple of weeks  
in New Zealand.

00:06:24:24 - 00:06:29:06

So that was the start of the relationship,  
right.

00:06:29:08 - 00:06:33:03

Because when she got out of hospital,  
I was back at work and I just happened

00:06:33:03 - 00:06:37:17

to be walking through the airport  
and she come through the door, right.

00:06:37:19 - 00:06:40:19

So, so, you know, how are you feeling?

00:06:40:27 - 00:06:42:19

And, she was fine.

00:06:42:19 - 00:06:48:09

And then, she dropped the card off,  
a thank you card at the fire station

00:06:49:00 - 00:06:52:29

and said, if you're ever in Canada, you  
know, here's my email and phone number.

00:06:53:04 - 00:06:54:02

Look me up.

00:06:54:02 - 00:06:57:19

And I just happened to be coming to Canada  
actually to Niagara Falls

00:06:57:19 - 00:06:58:27

and Windsor

00:06:58:27 - 00:07:02:22

I was doing some firefighter  
competitions there.

00:07:04:06 - 00:07:07:11

you know, coming to Canada basically  
phoned around and said, okay, well, I'm

00:07:07:11 - 00:07:11:24

going to these cities if you want to come

and watch the competitions.

00:07:11:24 - 00:07:13:05

And she did.

00:07:13:05 - 00:07:16:20

And then afterwards,  
she came back to New Zealand with me.

00:07:16:20 - 00:07:19:20

So I had to prove to the immigration

00:07:19:20 - 00:07:21:29

that that was true.

00:07:21:29 - 00:07:26:19

So I had to get the records  
from the fire service to say that. Yes.

00:07:26:20 - 00:07:29:19

You know, that's how we met. So,

00:07:31:02 - 00:07:34:22

right back to that day,  
I had to prove to the immigration side.

00:07:34:22 - 00:07:36:28

So I gave them copies of everything.

00:07:36:28 - 00:07:40:21

The medical records for the fire service,  
the ambulance

00:07:41:08 - 00:07:44:08

hospital. Yes.

00:07:44:09 - 00:07:48:07

There was quite a bit involved that decided  
it was valid, you know.

00:07:48:07 - 00:07:50:07

So I was thinking  
maybe just a couple of pictures of,

00:07:50:07 - 00:07:53:07

you guys know, but the whole story about how you met

00:07:53:10 - 00:07:55:00

Yeah, it was everything.

00:07:55:00 - 00:07:57:09

They were pretty,  
pretty thorough, right? You?

00:07:57:19 - 00:08:00:08

Canada is, you know, Burlington,

00:08:00:08 - 00:08:01:29

Toronto,

00:08:01:29 - 00:08:04:02

Toronto is such a big city.

00:08:04:02 - 00:08:07:14

I, I'm not overly keen on big cities  
like that.

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

Burlington is nice and reasonably small.

00:08:11:03 - 00:08:14:13

So coming here, I founded,

00:08:14:13 - 00:08:18:04

pretty similar to New Zealand,  
you know, population wise and,

00:08:19:06 - 00:08:21:26

you know, traffic wise,

00:08:21:26 - 00:08:25:18

it wasn't too much of a, of an issue  
really to,

00:08:25:18 - 00:08:27:03

to come here from that perspective.

00:08:27:03 - 00:08:31:02

But what I found different was the foods,

00:08:31:19 - 00:08:34:18

right, foods like, I like to eat.

00:08:34:18 - 00:08:39:05

So, you know, it was one of those things  
where I couldn't work.

00:08:39:05 - 00:08:42:02

So I spent a lot of time in Starbucks

00:08:42:02 - 00:08:44:25

and on Brant Street there.

00:08:44:25 - 00:08:46:17

And I was just studying, studying

00:08:46:17 - 00:08:49:21

for the fire service to try and get  
on the fire service and and.

00:08:49:21 - 00:08:53:10

Yeah, it to me, there's just so much here  
that that even though

00:08:53:10 - 00:08:56:10

population wise it's similar, but,

00:08:56:13 - 00:08:59:28

you know, it's the little things  
that are different.

00:08:59:28 - 00:09:02:12

What's so different?

00:09:02:12 - 00:09:04:24

I can use Starbucks as an example

00:09:04:24 - 00:09:08:15

even though Starbucks universally  
if I said the way is Starbucks.

00:09:08:15 - 00:09:11:05

But they're all different  
wherever you go, right? So

00:09:12:05 - 00:09:13:18

in New Zealand

00:09:13:18 - 00:09:16:18

we just have, you know,  
the coffee tastes different.

00:09:17:24 - 00:09:19:08

The food is different.

00:09:19:08 - 00:09:24:21

You know, back home we have like different scones, different biscuits and cookies.

00:09:24:23 - 00:09:27:27

And so here it was, it's Canadian

00:09:27:27 - 00:09:30:28

and it's Canadian-ized to match the population.

00:09:30:28 - 00:09:32:21

So yeah.

00:09:32:21 - 00:09:34:11

And like I say I like to eat.

00:09:34:11 - 00:09:37:11

So I was sampling lots of stuff.

00:09:37:26 - 00:09:41:20

Liek for me specifically, the work side of it

00:09:43:11 - 00:09:46:11

You know, we don't have in New Zealand,

00:09:46:19 - 00:09:50:16

an industry specific to rescue,  
like private rescue.

00:09:50:20 - 00:09:53:12

We don't have that,

00:09:53:12 - 00:09:55:08

with Canada, we do.

00:09:55:08 - 00:09:59:11

So I found that,

00:09:59:11 - 00:10:03:11

you know, interesting because like,  
that opened up all the doors for me.

00:10:03:11 - 00:10:06:16

You know,  
like I say, I was trying to get on fire,

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

but that that there opened up avenues

00:10:10:16 - 00:10:14:02

to different industries across Canada,  
which is what I'm doing now,

00:10:15:03 - 00:10:18:04

and that it's not how it is  
back in New Zealand.

00:10:18:04 - 00:10:21:04

So that to me, that was surprising.

00:10:22:01 - 00:10:25:01

But, in a good way

00:10:25:03 - 00:10:26:03

and to anybody

00:10:26:03 - 00:10:29:03

it's probably irrelevant

00:10:29:04 - 00:10:31:04

because they don't work in it but

00:10:31:04 - 00:10:33:05

It is a pretty interesting.

00:10:33:05 - 00:10:35:11

Facet to work in. In Canada.

00:10:35:11 - 00:10:36:15

There's a lot of opportunity.

00:10:37:22 - 00:10:38:26

Can you explain.

00:10:38:26 - 00:10:43:04

What the difference between private rescue  
is compared to other is?

00:10:43:11 - 00:10:47:29

Okay, so private

rescue, for instance, if you look across

00:10:47:29 - 00:10:49:28

the harbor, there

00:10:49:28 - 00:10:53:07

in the bay,

you have all that industry, right?

00:10:53:22 - 00:10:57:03

You know, you got U.S. Steel,

you got Columbia Chemicals over there,

00:10:57:03 - 00:11:00:03

Dofasco, they all have,

00:11:01:01 - 00:11:03:15

most of them,

the big ones will have their own

00:11:03:15 - 00:11:06:15

private fire services and security.

00:11:06:20 - 00:11:09:05

You know, Hamilton obviously

00:11:09:05 - 00:11:12:09

has Hamilton Fire Department  
that oversees everything.

00:11:12:09 - 00:11:15:10

But those those individual companies,

00:11:15:29 - 00:11:18:20

they just purely on the size that they are

00:11:18:20 - 00:11:21:19

and the has it's and they have onsite

00:11:21:19 - 00:11:25:01

they bring in private contractors

00:11:25:01 - 00:11:28:07

to provide a service  
which is rescue service.

00:11:28:18 - 00:11:31:19

So, you know, like for instance,  
today U.S. Steel,

00:11:31:19 - 00:11:34:19

there's probably work  
going on in confined spaces or at height

00:11:34:21 - 00:11:35:01

00:11:36:25 - 00:11:37:27

you can't rely on the

00:11:37:27 - 00:11:40:27

fire department to do the rescues

00:11:40:27 - 00:11:43:27

prompt because, you know, Hamilton Fire's  
a busy fire department.

00:11:43:29 - 00:11:45:08

They are out and about.

00:11:45:08 - 00:11:50:05

So the initial response is the private  
side to the the the rescue service.

00:11:50:14 - 00:11:52:22

And then of course, Hamilton  
come in and take over.

00:11:52:22 - 00:11:53:10

And so,

00:11:53:10 - 00:11:58:17

so it's like private first and then yeah,  
it just provides a faster response time.

00:11:58:18 - 00:11:58:26

Right.

00:11:58:26 - 00:12:02:10

Because if I'm sitting in this room  
and the work's happened

00:12:02:10 - 00:12:06:03

over there, obviously I can get there  
quicker than Hamilton

00:12:06:03 - 00:12:09:03

Fire or any fire department, I'm just using them as an example.

00:12:11:03 - 00:12:14:04

They, they obviously still respond  
because they have overall command

00:12:14:05 - 00:12:14:19

00:12:14:19 - 00:12:18:20

But just that initial to help  
get the ball rolling,

00:12:19:17 - 00:12:22:10

it's the private side  
to it that is the industry.

00:12:23:13 - 00:12:25:14

Pretty interesting.

00:12:25:14 - 00:12:28:12

Are there prerequisite that a certain country

00:12:28:12 - 00:12:32:02

or place needs to have private services  
before, you.

00:12:32:07 - 00:12:35:07

Know, it's all based on local regulations.

00:12:35:09 - 00:12:35:18

Right.

00:12:35:18 - 00:12:39:20

So Ministry of Labor for Ontario,  
they put in the regulations

00:12:39:20 - 00:12:43:11

for in particular,  
confined spaces is the big one.

00:12:43:13 - 00:12:48:05

You know, you can't go in a confined space  
without having a means of rescue.

00:12:48:05 - 00:12:52:05

And that could be

you've hired private individuals

00:12:52:05 - 00:12:55:05

and companies to to carry out the rescue.

00:12:55:20 - 00:12:58:23

Or it could be

they have their own people trained up.

00:12:59:24 - 00:13:03:14

They've got to have something

you just can't go into a confined space

00:13:03:14 - 00:13:06:14

and hope it goes well.

00:13:07:07 - 00:13:08:13

I miss the beaches.

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

You know, I miss the ocean.

00:13:12:20 - 00:13:15:11

Even though I work on the ocean, it's

not the same.

00:13:15:11 - 00:13:17:22

Oceans are different...

00:13:17:22 - 00:13:19:01

I mean, just like Burlington Beach.

00:13:19:01 - 00:13:22:01

Burlington beach. I love it. I visit.

00:13:22:05 - 00:13:24:01

It looks just like

00:13:24:01 - 00:13:27:17

a quiet ocean, no waves

00:13:28:13 - 00:13:30:03

But, no, New Zealand

00:13:30:03 - 00:13:33:00

I mean, I miss the beaches.

I miss the ocean.

00:13:33:00 - 00:13:35:01

I miss the mountains.

00:13:35:01 - 00:13:36:10

Yeah.

00:13:36:10 - 00:13:38:05

It's, Yeah.

00:13:38:05 - 00:13:40:07

And it's not as busy.

00:13:40:07 - 00:13:43:07

You know,

New Zealand's just more like big.

00:13:44:11 - 00:13:47:27

It's only a small population of people,

5 million people

00:13:47:28 - 00:13:49:24

It's that small.

00:13:49:24 - 00:13:51:15

Not as hectic

00:13:52:18 - 00:13:56:06

I think for me, it was like

you got to keep busy.

00:13:56:28 - 00:13:57:07

Right.

00:13:57:07 - 00:14:00:07

If if you're not busy,

00:14:00:16 - 00:14:02:22

you start getting idle

00:14:02:22 - 00:14:05:22

And then things can take a turn

00:14:06:15 - 00:14:08:22

you know, for the worse from that point.

00:14:08:22 - 00:14:13:28

So for me, it was all about trying to keep  
busy, trying to keep the skills up.

00:14:13:28 - 00:14:16:14

Right. Because ultimately  
my goal was to get on fire.

00:14:16:14 - 00:14:20:29

So I had to maintain those skills  
to, to apply for fire.

00:14:21:21 - 00:14:25:16

And, you know, that's the other side to  
it is Canada has so much training devoted

00:14:26:06 - 00:14:30:03

and throughout all trades but  
firefighters in particular.

00:14:30:17 - 00:14:33:15

So many courses you can do to upskill.

00:14:33:15 - 00:14:36:15

So I had,

00:14:36:28 - 00:14:38:16

enjoyed my time doing that.

00:14:38:16 - 00:14:41:03

And like I say, it

all opened up other doors to

00:14:42:09 - 00:14:45:01

different industries.

00:14:45:01 - 00:14:47:03

Yeah, it's. Been pretty good.

00:14:47:03 - 00:14:50:21

Is it always like continuous  
training courses that they offer?

00:14:50:22 - 00:14:52:00

Yeah. It is. Yeah.

00:14:52:00 - 00:14:53:22

Like they all have expiries, right?

00:14:53:22 - 00:14:57:11

Some expire a year, in a year,  
like first aid

00:14:57:11 - 00:15:01:25

But, others are sort of three years,  
but it's continuous.

00:15:03:27 - 00:15:06:18

I think it,

00:15:06:18 - 00:15:09:02

I think it has, like

00:15:09:02 - 00:15:12:02

one thing I noticed about Canada and

00:15:12:05 - 00:15:15:14

and I'm only speaking for the people  
that have been around in the trades

00:15:16:26 - 00:15:21:25

is they are a very,

00:15:21:27 - 00:15:24:27

Motivated by the trade - tradespeople.

00:15:24:28 - 00:15:27:20

You know, I've worked in Alberta a lot.

00:15:27:20 - 00:15:29:27

And then of course, offshore now.

00:15:29:27 - 00:15:32:19

Well, but the tradespeople,

00:15:32:19 - 00:15:36:02

they are forever upskilling  
their certificates.

00:15:36:25 - 00:15:38:10

You know, they don't stop it.

00:15:38:10 - 00:15:41:10

And to me it  
it's, it's pretty impressive to see.

00:15:41:18 - 00:15:44:16

They don't get just  
they don't just get sort of static

00:15:44:16 - 00:15:48:17

in a job, in a role, and stay at that level.

00:15:48:17 - 00:15:53:14

They are the forever upskilling  
and that that to me was pretty impressive

00:15:53:14 - 00:15:55:14

because I never really saw that back home  
in New Zealand.

00:15:55:14 - 00:15:57:22

That,  
you know, in the fire service and they

00:15:59:15 - 00:16:02:15

New Zealand's fire  
service is a little different to Canada.

00:16:02:24 - 00:16:07:07

But with a little bit behind  
if you want to say traditionally.

00:16:07:07 - 00:16:11:03

And you guys follow the Americans,  
which we were following the British.

00:16:11:28 - 00:16:15:03

So the fire service is a different,  
if that makes sense.

00:16:15:09 - 00:16:17:10

Yeah, we have great trucks, but.

00:16:17:10 - 00:16:19:03

It's,

00:16:19:03 - 00:16:20:28

different procedures and things like that.

00:16:20:28 - 00:16:25:13

So it's a big learning curve  
adjusting to the Canadian system.

00:16:26:01 - 00:16:29:01

It was

00:16:29:03 - 00:16:31:13

you know, like

00:16:31:13 - 00:16:32:29

but I think it's anything but.

00:16:32:29 - 00:16:36:23

It doesn't matter what job you're doing  
if if you're if you're told one way

00:16:37:04 - 00:16:40:06

and then you go to another workplace  
and they do it

00:16:40:06 - 00:16:43:06

differently,  
you're going to have to redo it anyway.

00:16:43:10 - 00:16:45:15

It doesn't make that one any.

00:16:45:15 - 00:16:48:28

You know, it wasn't wrong how they did it,  
but this company has

00:16:48:28 - 00:16:53:01

a different role in this than - it's  
one of those things you adapt.

00:16:56:22 - 00:16:59:15

I, I would just just with what

00:16:59:15 - 00:17:01:24

My wife's family is. Right.

00:17:01:24 - 00:17:03:27

So, like I say,

00:17:03:27 - 00:17:05:27

they have very...

00:17:05:27 - 00:17:07:08

to me

00:17:07:08 - 00:17:08:18

It's a Canadian thing.

00:17:08:18 - 00:17:12:24

It is just

Christmas is is really involved.

00:17:14:13 - 00:17:17:00

You know,

and like I say, even birthdays - I find

00:17:17:00 - 00:17:18:12

Birthdays here.

00:17:18:12 - 00:17:21:11

But see this could just be my family back  
home.

00:17:21:20 - 00:17:23:25

We maybe we just were lowkey

00:17:23:25 - 00:17:27:09

Here, everything is up here

00:17:27:28 - 00:17:33:13

So that, you know, is it the New Zealand  
sort of where we chill type thing in here.

00:17:33:13 - 00:17:35:24

Everybody is more...

00:17:36:25 - 00:17:37:11

I don't know.

00:17:37:11 - 00:17:40:02

involved like.

00:17:40:02 - 00:17:44:04

That's, that's what I but I  
yeah I'm, I don't mind it I like it right.

00:17:44:05 - 00:17:47:16

Because it's different to what what  
we experienced back home.

00:17:50:08 - 00:17:51:21

I think they're very similar.

00:17:51:21 - 00:17:55:27

Like, you know, like it like I say,  
I mean in English,

00:17:55:27 - 00:17:58:26

obviously predominant language  
for both countries.

00:17:59:25 - 00:18:02:12

And I mean, at the end of the day,  
if you just go back

00:18:02:12 - 00:18:04:17

a couple of hundred years,

00:18:04:17 - 00:18:06:23

the ships that were coming here,

00:18:06:23 - 00:18:09:13

they were going to New Zealand  
and Australia too.

00:18:09:13 - 00:18:13:26

And so the same people that were coming  
this way went down further.

00:18:14:24 - 00:18:16:28

I mean, ultimately, like

00:18:16:28 - 00:18:19:29

I've got this little old Bible, right, from 1804

00:18:20:19 - 00:18:23:22

And then it is I forget what he is.

00:18:23:22 - 00:18:26:29

He's like my four times  
great granddad, I guess.

00:18:28:07 - 00:18:31:07

But he settled in Saint Catharines, right.

00:18:32:17 - 00:18:34:20

So, you know, the letters I have

00:18:34:20 - 00:18:37:20

show the boat ended up in, Nova Scotia.

00:18:37:21 - 00:18:39:16

Then he made his way to St. Catharines

00:18:39:16 - 00:18:40:12

And then

00:18:40:12 - 00:18:43:12

I don't know why he didn't stay there,  
but then he went from there to New Zealand

00:18:43:23 - 00:18:48:23

So those people, they will  
they will bring in the same traditions

00:18:48:23 - 00:18:53:28

from England, Ireland, Scotland to here  
and then on to New Zealand.

00:18:53:28 - 00:18:56:28

And it and it has just we sort of.

00:18:57:02 - 00:18:59:11

built up at the same speed. So.

00:19:03:13 - 00:19:05:02

You know.

00:19:05:02 - 00:19:06:18

Organizations and things like that.

00:19:06:18 - 00:19:09:18

It's for me,

it is hard to be part of because

00:19:10:17 - 00:19:12:29

I'm away for six months of the year.

00:19:12:29 - 00:19:13:17

Right.

00:19:13:17 - 00:19:16:24

And, you know, organizations require  
some sort of commitment.

00:19:17:17 - 00:19:21:00

And, you know,

and if you go back to when I first came

00:19:21:00 - 00:19:24:00

to Burlington, I joined the volunteer  
fire department network.

00:19:25:06 - 00:19:28:25

But when I was working away in Alberta,

00:19:28:25 - 00:19:33:15

I never met the, percentages  
that were required to stay

00:19:34:17 - 00:19:36:01

with the fire department.

00:19:36:01 - 00:19:39:05

So, you know,

I couldn't carry that at all.

00:19:39:09 - 00:19:42:06

I mean, it was either work or

00:19:42:06 - 00:19:43:04

Try and make the calls.

00:19:43:04 - 00:19:46:04

And, of course, I had

I was working out there

00:19:46:19 - 00:19:49:19

ten days on, ten days off, so.

00:19:49:29 - 00:19:51:29

And it was at Saint.

00:19:51:29 - 00:19:53:08

John's, Newfoundland.

00:19:53:08 - 00:19:55:18

I'm working 21 on 21 off. So

00:19:56:24 - 00:19:58:20

it's hard to commit.

00:19:58:20 - 00:20:03:17

You know, local organizations  
that I, that I do enjoy

00:20:03:17 - 00:20:04:13

Really.

00:20:04:13 - 00:20:07:13

It's, the Burlington Historical Society.

00:20:07:22 - 00:20:08:22

Right.

00:20:08:22 - 00:20:12:17

I mean, my wife would just call me a geek  
but it's one of those things

00:20:12:17 - 00:20:15:24

where, like,

I love the history, and that's anytime I,

00:20:16:06 - 00:20:18:28

not just Burlington

wherever I travel to in Canada.

00:20:18:28 - 00:20:23:02

I always buy a book about what  
the local history is just to read it

00:20:23:02 - 00:20:28:02

right, and then go around,  
see the things that are in the books.

00:20:28:22 - 00:20:31:28

So I do like that  
side of Burlington,

00:20:33:16 - 00:20:36:16

and that the organization, what they do.

00:20:36:28 - 00:20:38:03

Yes. That's nice.

00:20:38:22 - 00:20:41:00

Resources

00:20:41:00 - 00:20:44:00

We have, like,

00:20:44:02 - 00:20:46:13

you know, for,  
for locally local resources.

00:20:46:13 - 00:20:50:22

I think for me, it was, you know,  
and I know that sounds pretty,

00:20:51:25 - 00:20:54:29

pretty bad  
but just everything was job specific.

00:20:54:29 - 00:20:57:26

When I got here, I had to get this.

00:20:57:26 - 00:21:00:26

I had to get on to this job. So

00:21:01:27 - 00:21:04:02

all your time is spent,

00:21:04:02 - 00:21:06:20

you know, trying to reach those goals.

00:21:06:20 - 00:21:08:06

I guess.

00:21:08:06 - 00:21:11:06

But, resources wise, the,

00:21:11:13 - 00:21:15:10

the fire departments here in Canada,  
even though Canada is so big,

00:21:16:04 - 00:21:19:11

everybody is connected somehow, you know,

00:21:19:12 - 00:21:23:05

so the fire departments,  
the firefighters are a great resource

00:21:23:22 - 00:21:28:07

to to just help with any questions about,  
you know, trying to get on or,

00:21:28:17 - 00:21:31:27

skills, you know, what skills  
you need to, to upskill to get.

00:21:32:18 - 00:21:34:12

I found that side to it really good.

00:21:34:12 - 00:21:36:27

But I know that boring that's just job  
specific.

00:21:36:27 - 00:21:39:27

That that to me

was one of the biggest helps.

00:21:40:09 - 00:21:42:25

You know, New Zealand's not like that.

00:21:42:25 - 00:21:44:08

I mean maybe it is now.

00:21:44:08 - 00:21:48:15

But back in the day  
it wasn't when I lived. So,

00:21:49:14 - 00:21:50:00

is it more.

00:21:50:00 - 00:21:51:04

Word of mouth or

00:21:51:04 - 00:21:55:15

are there like organizations that you join  
and then you just like, I don't.

00:21:55:25 - 00:21:58:25

Know, I think it's more  
just word of mouth, right?

00:21:59:00 - 00:22:00:24

Yeah.

00:22:00:24 - 00:22:02:12

Organizations, I mean,

00:22:02:12 - 00:22:06:27

those firefighting competitions

that I was doing for Fire Fit, you know,

00:22:07:24 - 00:22:11:08

even though you have the big overall

fraternity of firefighters

00:22:12:14 - 00:22:14:10

that the firefighter competitions

00:22:14:10 - 00:22:17:11

narrowed it down

to just like minded people as well,

00:22:17:22 - 00:22:21:29

you know, in any school, I mean, road

rescue is a small thing as well.

00:22:22:11 - 00:22:23:14

We all know each other.

00:22:23:14 - 00:22:25:00

It's it's one of those things.

00:22:25:00 - 00:22:28:00

And I would say that's, you know,

00:22:28:19 - 00:22:30:20

anything any any job specific.

00:22:30:20 - 00:22:33:20

I mean, you could say lifeguards  
on a beach and I know Burlington doesn't. But

00:22:35:04 - 00:22:39:22

whether you were a lifeguard here  
or in Toronto, it's a small group.

00:22:39:22 - 00:22:44:02

Of people that word of mouth would be,  
you know, be the better option

00:22:44:28 - 00:22:49:09

And then like, like you're talking  
about home resources returning to to home.

00:22:49:09 - 00:22:49:19

And that,

00:22:52:21 - 00:22:55:29

you know, the only thing that's been  
helpful is Facebook.

00:22:56:03 - 00:23:00:01

And I know that's terrible  
because Facebook is terrible, but it one of

00:23:00:01 - 00:23:04:29

those things that communication wise,  
like I say, I've got I've got six.

00:23:04:29 - 00:23:09:10

sisters. To talk to them  
in all the different places

00:23:09:10 - 00:23:12:28

that they are is  
I mean, it's so helpful to just be able

00:23:13:11 - 00:23:16:11

to, you know, when you need to phone  
whatever.

00:23:17:06 - 00:23:17:29

Pretty amazing.

00:23:17:29 - 00:23:20:13

So yeah. Okay.

00:23:23:07 - 00:23:26:07

I would I describe.

00:23:26:25 - 00:23:28:23

I, I don't know, I think that you.

00:23:28:23 - 00:23:32:04

You've really got to get out and about,  
right?

00:23:32:04 - 00:23:36:01

Like I'm forever down here,  
whether it's at the beach

00:23:36:01 - 00:23:39:00

where I ride my bike along that path,

00:23:39:02 - 00:23:42:19

or I walk the dog and you.

00:23:43:07 - 00:23:45:25

Everybody seems to be pretty friendly,  
right?

00:23:45:25 - 00:23:48:20

Like, it doesn't matter where you go.

00:23:48:20 - 00:23:52:24

You're always running into somebody down  
here, right?

00:23:52:25 - 00:23:57:01

Like, Burlington is a big city,

but it doesn't seem like you know,

00:23:57:01 - 00:24:00:01

like population wise, that,  
you know, there's a lot of people.

00:24:00:27 - 00:24:03:17

And I look at it like it's hardly  
anybody walking around.

00:24:03:17 - 00:24:06:25

There's couple of people, but,  
you know, it's it's

00:24:06:25 - 00:24:10:09

one of those things  
that you can run into somebody

00:24:11:20 - 00:24:12:04

everywhere.

00:24:12:04 - 00:24:14:20

In Burlington and everybody's pretty good.

00:24:14:20 - 00:24:17:19

So yeah, it is a nice place.

00:24:17:27 - 00:24:22:01

But I find like lots of places in Canada

like that, like working in Saint John's,

00:24:23:08 - 00:24:26:07

Saint John's is just,  
you know, again, it's

00:24:27:04 - 00:24:29:05

I think it's a Canadian thing.

00:24:29:05 - 00:24:32:25

You know, Canadians,  
I find them pretty free

00:24:32:25 - 00:24:37:22

I think that's a tough one because I think

00:24:38:23 - 00:24:41:28

so much depends on the person.

00:24:42:26 - 00:24:45:26

You know, like  
I just happened to be lucky.

00:24:48:05 - 00:24:51:05

For me, it was a it was a stress free,

00:24:53:14 - 00:24:54:08

situation.

00:24:54:08 - 00:24:57:22

To immigrate here. and like,  
I like I've seen before,

00:24:57:24 - 00:25:01:04

I know for some people it's not stress  
free in the slightest.

00:25:02:00 - 00:25:03:01

Right. So

00:25:04:03 - 00:25:04:29

it's it's one

00:25:04:29 - 00:25:08:01

of those things you just go to and,  
you know,

00:25:08:01 - 00:25:11:01

I say you just gotta try and hang in there  
and work through it.

00:25:12:16 - 00:25:15:04

But I know for some people it's different,

00:25:15:04 - 00:25:18:04

you know,

I mean, and for me, it, it wasn't.

00:25:18:09 - 00:25:21:09

And then and it sort of makes me feel bad.

00:25:25:04 - 00:25:28:04

Well, I mean, jobs

00:25:28:17 - 00:25:29:05

you know.

00:25:29:05 - 00:25:32:10

Jobs and and housing, obviously

00:25:32:10 - 00:25:35:10

the big main ones for Canada

00:25:35:19 - 00:25:36:07

it's in the news

00:25:36:07 - 00:25:39:07

All the time.

00:25:40:07 - 00:25:41:07

You know.

00:25:41:07 - 00:25:43:07

It seems to be a lot of work out there

00:25:43:07 - 00:25:46:07

But the, the trouble is the, the,

the cost of living,

00:25:47:00 - 00:25:50:00

right, you know, to

00:25:50:01 - 00:25:51:18

to survive you. Yes.

00:25:51:18 - 00:25:52:15

You can get a job,

00:25:52:15 - 00:25:56:29

but if the job's not paying you  
well enough, you're going to struggle in,

00:25:58:12 - 00:26:01:12

in cities where the cost of living is

00:26:02:02 - 00:26:02:24

getting up there.

00:26:02:24 - 00:26:05:24

And, you know, I mean,

00:26:06:08 - 00:26:08:24

Burlington being in the middle of,  
you know,

00:26:08:24 - 00:26:11:24

of all these other cities surrounding it,

00:26:12:20 - 00:26:16:04

naturally, the cost of living here  
is, is obviously going to be higher.

00:26:16:08 - 00:26:19:08

Let's say Saint John's, Newfoundland.

00:26:21:07 - 00:26:23:17

So yeah, struggle wise

00:26:23:17 - 00:26:27:01

that I think is  
is going to be one of the biggest things.

00:26:27:01 - 00:26:32:03

But I also think you've really got to like  
Canada has a lot of opportunities

00:26:32:11 - 00:26:37:23

for jobs that you may not see yourself  
like, ever have worked in. like there's no way

00:26:37:29 - 00:26:41:28

If you had asked me in 2006  
when I was looking at coming here

00:26:42:14 - 00:26:45:05

and I could make a living,

00:26:45:05 - 00:26:48:05

you know, climbing a rope

00:26:48:19 - 00:26:50:18

Who would even think that you can

00:26:50:18 - 00:26:53:18

climb a rope

and make a living doing that. But

00:26:54:23 - 00:26:55:12

here we are in

00:26:55:12 - 00:26:58:14

Canada,

and you could do it in New Zealand, too.

00:26:58:14 - 00:27:01:16

But Canada is so big that,

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

you have more opportunity here, right?

00:27:05:08 - 00:27:08:06

So I think you've got to sort of get, look,

00:27:08:06 - 00:27:11:03

you know, look outside your field

00:27:11:03 - 00:27:14:03

and there's always more opportunity.

00:27:18:24 - 00:27:20:02

I I'm again,

00:27:20:02 - 00:27:23:15

it's it's one of those things where I like  
like I've come from New Zealand.

00:27:24:00 - 00:27:28:05

New Zealand is basically a little mini  
Canada or Mini Australia.

00:27:28:24 - 00:27:31:20

It's not Turkey, right?

00:27:31:20 - 00:27:34:20

It's not Iran or Iraq.

00:27:36:06 - 00:27:37:26

If you're coming from the South,

00:27:37:26 - 00:27:40:26

I think you have an easier path.

00:27:41:15 - 00:27:44:09

Then coming to the opposite right.

00:27:44:09 - 00:27:47:08

So, I think there's any similarities.

00:27:47:08 - 00:27:48:08

To be honest, it's

00:27:50:06 - 00:27:53:09

common that I use the word privilege,  
but then.

00:27:53:09 - 00:27:55:05

That seems more privilege coming my.

00:27:55:05 - 00:27:58:05

Way and the other way.