

Building Relationships Between Immigrant and Indigenous Communities: Thoughts and Considerations

Presented by Ashima Sumaru, Migrant Routes Coordinator, Centre for Race and Culture
asumaru@cfrac.com

How does your family's migration story fit into the history of Canada?

“We need to view Canada as a country based on the displacement of the indigenous peoples, alongside intentional recruitment of white English and European peoples to create a specific population and cultural traditions. This is our history.”

Nupur Gogia and Bonnie Slade, *About Canada Immigration*, (Blackpoint, NS: Fernwood Publishing, 2001), p. 18.

- The basic way of life in English-speaking areas was established by hundreds of thousands of **English, Welsh, Scottish** and **Irish** settlers, soldiers and migrants from the 1600s to the 20th century. Generations of pioneers and builders of British origins, as well as other groups, invested and endured hardship in laying the foundations of our country. This helps explain why Anglophones (English speakers) are generally referred to as *English Canadians*.
- **Becoming Canadian**
Some Canadians immigrate from places where they have experienced warfare or conflict. Such experiences do not justify bringing to Canada violent, extreme or hateful prejudices. In becoming Canadian, newcomers are expected to embrace democratic principles such as the rule of law.

Discover Canada. Citizenship & Immigration Canada. Updated 14 March 2011

“Sharing ideas between the Filipino and Inuit community is indeed not too difficult. The cultures are closer than most people think and communicating with each other goes much deeper than the written and spoken word. Our similarities are more obvious than our differences, and it makes for a wonderful blend of East and West in the Far North.”

Harris-Galia, Rhose. “Arctic Bayanahan,” in *Cultivating Canada*. Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 2011, p.200.

"If you have come here to help me, then you are wasting your time...But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

-Lila Watson