

2012-2013

DONOR REPORT

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

For the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the year 2012-2013 has been another of tremendous growth and opportunity. This was made possible through the ongoing and generous support of our many partners, donors and patrons. A sincere thank you to all whose contributions continue to enable us to collect, share and pay tribute to the Canadian immigration story.

This year, with the support of our individual donors and corporate sponsors, we have offered new and inspirational exhibitions, engaging activities for all ages, interactive educational workshops and outreach initiatives.

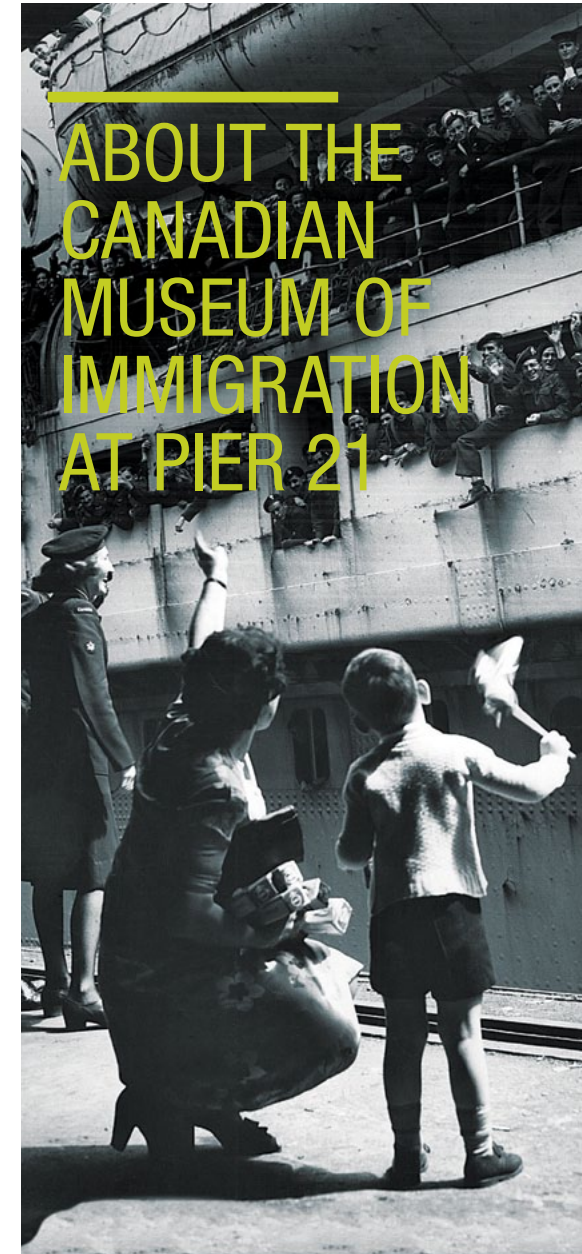
Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to provide compelling participatory programming and educational initiatives that explore the common themes of the immigrant experience, as well as the immeasurable contributions of so many who have chosen to make Canada their home.

With the establishment of the Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary Fund, in memory of one of the Museum's greatest supporters, we will be able to ensure that youth from across Canada have the opportunity to experience firsthand a part of our collective heritage and identity.

On behalf of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our donors and supporters.

Sincerely,

Tung Chan, Chairperson



ABOUT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21

Lieut. Richard Graham Arless / Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-192969NPC

Canada has been profoundly shaped by immigration. The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 aims to inspire and enable Canadians to explore their relationships with those migrations. We envision opening up that conversation on a national scale.

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 collects, shares and pays tribute to the Canadian immigration story. The Museum is situated at Pier 21, the National Historic Site that served as the gateway to Canada for one million immigrants between 1928 and 1971. Arriving by ocean liner, immigrants, refugees, war brides and evacuee children first set foot here before settling and building new lives in communities across the country. The gateway also served as the departure point for 500,000 Canadian military service personnel during the Second World War.

Building on this history, and reaching beyond the Pier 21 years and location, the Museum aims to share the stories and experiences of all immigrants to Canada, past to present day. Atlantic Canada's only national museum highlights the vital role immigration has played in the building of our country and the contributions of immigrants to Canada's culture, economy and way of life.

RECOGNIZING

OUR PATRONS

A Tribute to Ruth M. Goldbloom, O.C., O.N.S. /6

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A TRIBUTE TO RUTH M. GOLDBLOOM, O.C., O.N.S.



Photo by Danny Dechtiar

Sharing in Ruth's dream for Canada

Ruth Goldbloom's passionate leadership and heartfelt commitment to Pier 21 is inspirational. Ruth stimulated \$9 million in donations for the original restoration of Pier 21. As Chair of the Pier 21 Foundation, she spearheaded the \$7 million **Nation Builders** campaign to provide ongoing resources to Pier 21, maintaining its place in the hearts of all Canadians. Ruth served as a board member and Chair of the Pier 21 Society and was a Trustee of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 until she passed away in August 2012.

The **Ruth Goldbloom Educational Bursary Fund** was established in Ruth's honour, recognizing her passion for Pier 21 and Canada, and her longstanding commitment to making education accessible to everyone.

Generous donors from across Canada have contributed over \$60,000 to the Fund since its creation in fall 2012. They are helping to ensure that young people from across the country have the opportunity to experience firsthand a vital part of Canada's heritage—our immigration history—and share in Ruth's dream for a better Canada.



“ Ruth was a champion for the Museum, from its restoration in 1999 through its journey to becoming a national museum and beyond. Her spirit will forever be part of Pier 21. ”

— John E. Oliver, Inaugural Chairperson

Ruth M. Goldbloom, O.C., O.N.S. celebrates our seven Nation Builders at a special dedication ceremony in November 2009. Photo by Danny Dechtiar

RALPH AND ROSE CHIDO



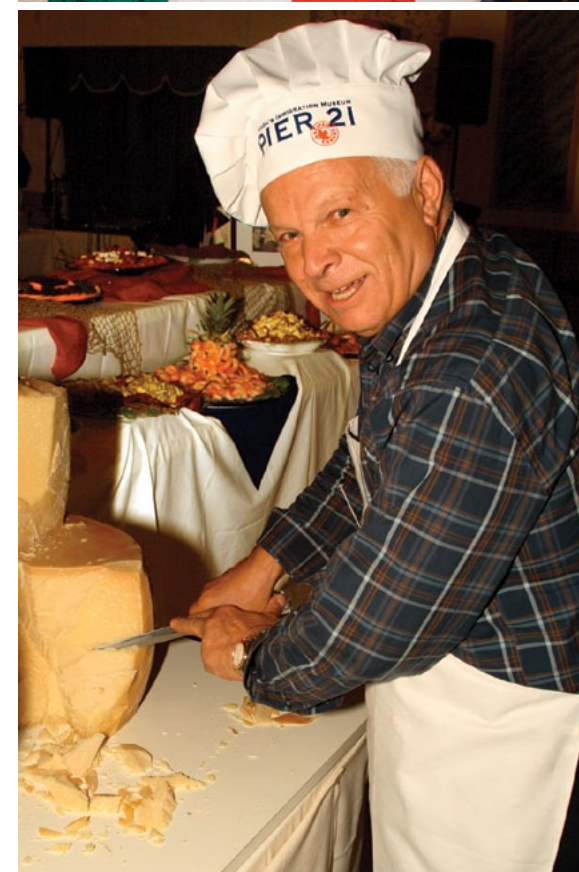
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Sharing our legacy

Ralph and Rose Chiodo are two very special Museum supporters. Both took their first steps on Canadian soil at Pier 21, which sparked a significant and lasting connection to this space, and to the commitment of sharing the Canadian immigration story.

On May 11, 1953, Rosa (Rose) Vespa and her family emigrated from Italy to Canada through Pier 21. On March 24, 1957, Ralph Chiodo did the same. Together with their families, they made Canada their home. Ralph and Rose met in Etobicoke, Ontario, where they built a life together. This is where they married in 1969, raised their four children and continue to reside. However, they never forgot their roots or their start in Canada. They believe strongly in the importance of sharing and preserving the immigration experiences of the many newcomers who have shaped our country.

In 2008, the Museum's Ralph and Rose Chiodo Harbourside Gallery was named in honour of the Chiodo family's contribution to Canada and continued support of Pier 21. Over the years, the Gallery has become a cultural hub of the Museum, playing host to numerous exhibitions on themes related to immigration, cultural diversity, cultural heritage and identity, as well a multitude of activities for visitors.



Ralph also successfully chaired seven fruitful **Welcome Home to Canada Festa** fundraisers in Toronto, in support of the Museum. Leading a committee of volunteers, he worked tirelessly to ensure that *Festa* was a continued success, year after year. In total, *Festa* raised over \$750,000 in support of the Museum.

A heartfelt thank you to Ralph and Rose Chiodo and their family for their true passion for and commitment to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21! We are grateful for your ongoing support.

“When we first landed, this gentleman approached my mother and said, ‘Senora, you are going to be in the train for two days. And on the train there is no food.’ He indicated a store, within the warehouse at Pier 21. He said to my mother, ‘Go to that store and pick up a loaf of bread and some canned meat,’ and proceeded to give my mother the money. It’s something I’ll never forget.”

— Ralph Chiodo, Supporter and Trustee
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

WELCOME
HOME TO
CANADA
PRESENTED
BY TD BANK
GROUP



'Welcome Home to Canada' sign, as viewed by Czechoslovakian refugee Bohumir Ribek upon his arrival at Pier 21, 1950. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (D12013.1028.1).

Demonstrating our commitment to diversity

Welcoming newcomers to Canada has always been a significant part of Pier 21's rich heritage. Immigrants arriving by ocean liner were once greeted with a large harbourside sign reading "Welcome Home to Canada."

Today, the Museum's *Welcome Home to Canada* (WHTC) program presented by TD Bank Group is an employability and integration program. Through WHTC, newcomers gain significant Canadian work experience and enhance their employment opportunities. This program demonstrates that the Museum, with the support of TD Bank Group, is not

only preserving the stories of newcomers to Canada but helping to shape those stories.

Since 2004, the WHTC program has offered a helping hand to newcomers making their start in Canada. The program provides six-month work terms at the Museum where participants have the opportunity to engage with colleagues, visitors and partner organizations. At the same time, they gain valuable work experience and have opportunities for training and mentorship.

Through the strong leadership and support of our corporate and community partners, we are able to



© Ullly Bleil



assist newcomers overcome barriers to employment and help them find valuable work. By continuing to invest in newcomers through the WHTC program presented by TD Bank Group, together we are ensuring that the role of immigration in strengthening Canada will continue to grow.

A sincere thank you to TD Bank Group for their ongoing support, which continues to make the *Welcome Home to Canada* program possible!

“ When we first heard about the Welcome Home to Canada program, we immediately identified the great potential it holds for newcomers making their first steps in Halifax. We knew it could make a significant contribution in helping us build our network and enrich our Canadian work experience. Those hopes became a reality and in this case, the reality exceeded the dream. ”

— Danny and Moriya Dechtiar
former *Welcome Home to Canada* participants

SPECIAL EVENT

FUNDRAISERS

Breakfast with a Fascinating Canadian /14
California Wine Dinner/ 16

BREAKFAST WITH A FASCINATING CANADIAN



Celebrating newcomer contributions

The Museum's *Breakfast with a Fascinating Canadian* has become a signature event in the Halifax community. Attendees share a meal and hear from a Canadian with a special personal or professional connection to the Canadian immigration story.

The Museum hosted two truly inspiring *Fascinating Canadian* speakers this year in the Museum's Kenneth C. Rowe Heritage Hall. Both events were made possible through the generous support of our presenting sponsor, the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, and our supporting sponsor, HSBC Bank Canada.

In April, Chief Constable Jim Chu of the Vancouver Police Department engaged the audience as he reflected on the role of immigration in creating strong communities and building a stronger Canada. At November's Breakfast, Wadih M. Fares, C.M., P. Eng., FEC., D.Comm., President and CEO of WM Fares Group, shared his personal immigration story and his perspectives on the value of immigration in building an enterprising and dynamic society.

Thanks to such dedicated Museum supporters, both fundraisers were a success, collectively raising over \$50,000. This helps ensure that the Museum can continue to extend its national outreach and to offer interactive programming and exhibitions for visitors, onsite and online.



“Pier 21 is who we are. I mean, when I go to Pier 21 I remember the first day I came to this country...I believe in Pier 21 to be the icon that will make us better Canadians, the icon that will recognize the contributions of immigrants to the culture, to the economy and to the way of life in Canada.”

— Wadih M. Fares (fourth from right)
C.M., P. Eng., FEC., D.Comm., President and CEO of WM Fares Group

CALIFORNIA WINE DINNER



Raising a glass in support

Like a fine wine, the *California Wine Dinner* just gets better with age. This year's fundraiser, featuring wines from Stags' Leap wine estate, was one of the most successful to date. Thanks to the support of our Gold Sponsors, Scotiabank, McInnes Cooper and NSLC, and our generous patrons in attendance, the dinner raised over \$100,000 for the Museum.

The evening would not have been possible without the support of our silver sponsors: Blackrock, BMO Nesbitt Burns, Cabot Links, Eastlink, Ernst & Young, Fox Harb'r, Kinross Gold Corporation, Man Investments, ScotiaMcLeod, RBC, Russell Investments and TC Media.

A special thank you goes out to our dedicated committee members whose tireless efforts ensured the success of the event, in addition to the generosity of our live auction and raffle donors, and RCR Hospitality Group for preparing the mouth-watering meal.

Cheers to all of our patrons, whose support allows us to continue to expand our programming and educational initiatives.



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IMPACT

HIGHLIGHTS

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LEARNING AT THE MUSEUM

Engaging youth in educational activities that explore the immigration journey and what it means to be Canadian fosters a culture of respect for diversity, multiculturalism and social inclusion. By supporting the Museum, you are encouraging youth to celebrate a plurality of beliefs and embrace tolerance for others.



Photo by Azam Chadeganipour

CULTURAL AWARENESS RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION WORKSHOP



Shaping tomorrow's leaders, today

With the support of our donors, we are able to offer educational workshops that create opportunities for hands-on learning that highlight topics affecting students today. On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Museum hosted its first *Cultural Awareness Relationship Education* workshop. Throughout the day, students in grades four to 12 collaborated to find solutions to ethnic-based violence and bullying.

Students participated in activity stations on discrimination in immigration history, cultural competence, identity and anti-bullying. They also heard

from engaging keynote speaker Matthew Cimone, CEO of *Esther's Echo*, who speaks and works with young people in hopes of inspiring them to find purpose and identity by leading through service to others.

Bullying is an issue that can face all students, however new immigrants, ethnic minorities and language learners are at a statistically increased risk of being bullied. Through this workshop, students gained the practical skills to address ethnic-based violence and bullying and to shape positive relationships at school and in our communities.



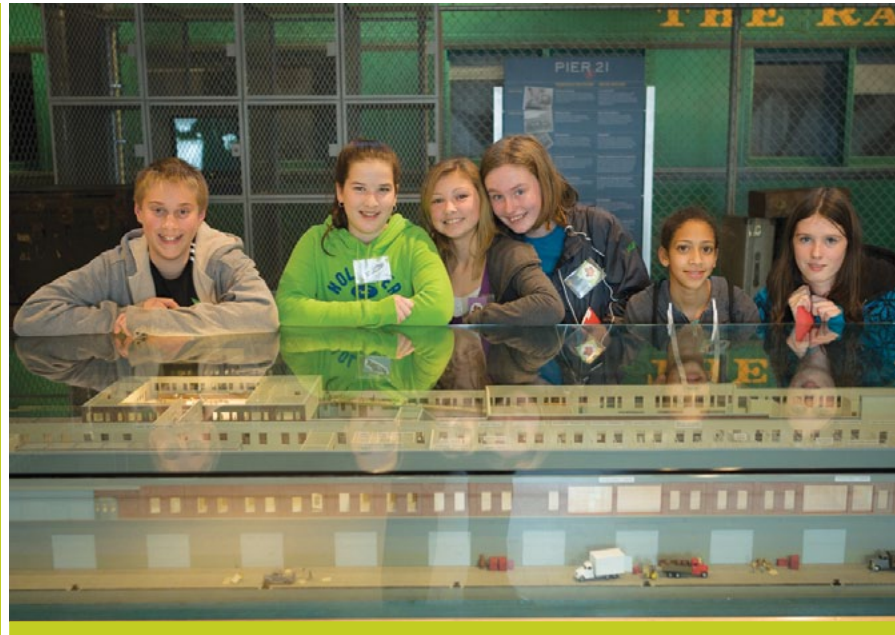
“ We’ve had a really great time here today. It’s really interactive and I think the messages are very positive. And keeping it really positive is great for this age.

— Jane Scott
Gorsebrook Junior High, Halifax

You shouldn’t be bullied by other people or other people shouldn’t bully you because of your race or what you believe in.

— Student participant
Halifax

EDUCATION AT THE MUSEUM



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Bringing history to life

Learners of all ages, from preschool to university age, engage each and every day with the Museum's exciting educational offerings. Animated guided tours bring history to life. Fascinating immigration stories are woven into tours, allowing young people to connect with the experiences of newcomers to Canada. Our enthusiastic interpreters take students back to one of Canada's peak immigration periods, between 1928 and 1971. Through the Museum's Landed Immigrant Program, learners experience firsthand what it was like to immigrate through Pier 21.

Our educational activities and resources are developed based on exhibition content, curriculum outcomes and our expansive story collection. Students enjoy taking part in educational workshops exploring topics related to immigration, identity, history, citizenship and diversity. Workshops allow for learning in an historic, interactive environment.

EDUCATION ONLINE



Comisso family on board M/V Saturnia, May 1956. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (D2013.1044.1).

Expanding cultural horizons

Learning through the Museum takes place well beyond the confines of our historic walls. Through online resources, Canadians across the country are able to engage with a variety of educational offerings related to our immigration history. This includes our online Culture Trunks.

Culture Trunks foster knowledge about a specific country's immigration to Canada and each serves as a wonderful introduction to our broader archives. The Trunks contain a variety of photos, documents, stories, quotes, articles, links and resources.

Online visitors can dive into the contents of The Hungarian Trunk, made possible through the support of Tom Weisz, in honour of his father Arthur Weisz, and The Netherlands Trunk, made possible through the funding of Adrianus (Andy) Faas.

This year, we also launched **The Italian Trunk** with the generous support of the **IC Savings Foundation**. Rich with stories of exciting journeys overseas and of settling in a new land, The Italian Trunk reveals many personal accounts of newcomers arriving to and living in Canada.

With the help of our donors, we are able to provide opportunities for online visitors to participate in a uniquely historical and cultural exploration of our collections.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Your dedicated contributions ensure that Canadians are engaging with us, and each other, in every part of the country over topics of immigration, cultural heritage and identity. You are helping expose communities to diverse cultural practices, enriching conversations and educating thousands of people about the relevance of immigration as part of our collective Canadian history.



2, 3, 4, 5 by Nicole Landry

FOCUS ON YOUTH



Connecting with culture

Inspired by the themes of our exhibition *Shaping Canada: Exploring Our Cultural Landscapes*, the Museum's summer youth photography program, *Focus on Youth*, was born. *Shaping Canada* featured vibrant contemporary portrait photography by Naomi Harris and highlighted how Canadian culture is shaped by immigration through case studies around key themes including faith, food, family, recreation and neighbourhood.

Focus on Youth brought together youth from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs in Halifax. Together, they learned about the art of photography and explored their own culture through photographs taken around the Museum and in their neighbourhoods. The youths' works were on display for the public during Halifax's *Nocturne Art at Night*, inspiring others to consider how they define culture in their own backyard.

With the support of our donors, we are offering unique opportunities for participatory learning in our communities, bringing diverse youth together to question and learn about Canadian culture.

LAWRENCE HILL ENGAGES ON IDENTITY



Creating community conversations

Your support allows us to foster community conversations with Canadians about timely and compelling topics such as identity and multiculturalism. This winter's temporary exhibition, *Position As Desired/ Exploring African Canadian Identity: Photographs from the Wedge Collection*, inspired two author readings with bestselling Canadian author Lawrence Hill.

Speaking at the Museum, the renowned author engaged with audiences on the topic of racial identity and inspired all those in attendance to delve further into our collective history and to reflect on their personal conceptions of identity.

With the backing of our patrons, we are providing opportunities for discussion on topics of importance to Canadians, sparking a host of stimulating conversations that are continued well beyond our doorstep.

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP TEST PREPARATION COURSE



Supporting newcomers in achieving their dreams

Obtaining Canadian citizenship is a significant milestone in the lives of many newcomers. The Museum is honoured to play even a small role in supporting newcomers in achieving this dream, through our Canadian Citizenship Test Preparation Course.

With the encouragement of our Museum educators, participants prepare for the Canadian citizenship test in a supportive learning environment. Facilitated learning and conversations about who we are as Canadians, our values and history, help foster strong connections between participants and prepare them for the next step in their immigration journey.

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (DI2013.1027.1).



Photo by Azam Chadeganipour



“Canada allowed me to become a Canadian citizen, gifted me a future, one of freedom of speech and religion, the opportunity to make choices, allowing me to determine my future. I am eternally grateful to Canada for all of these gifts and privileges. I recognize that I, as a Canadian citizen, have duties and responsibilities to Canada.”

— Ausma Levalds

At just eight years old, Ausma Levalds of Latvia was the 50,000th displaced person welcomed into Canada after the Second World War. She arrived at Pier 21 in 1949.

ENGAGING WITH HISTORY

The Museum offers opportunities for visitors of all ages, onsite and across Canada, to engage with history. Through our Scotiabank Family History Centre, we are helping Canadians uncover their own family roots and supporting important research. Through the collection and preservation of individual immigration stories, we are able to share our collective story of a nation built on immigration.

By supporting the Museum, you are helping to ensure that today's Canadians, and future generations, are able to access a source of inspiration, learning and enjoyment—the historical memory of a nation.



© Library and Archives Canada

SCOTIABANK FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE



Exploring family roots

The Museum's Scotiabank Family History Centre is a special place where family roots are discovered and connections are made. The Centre reaches beyond the years of 1928 to 1971 with information on topics including migration, nautical history, waves of immigration to Canada, ethnic groups and genealogy. It has immigration records from 1925 to 1935 on microfilm and staff has access to arrival sources going back to 1865.

Every day, staff members who are passionate about genealogical research help onsite and online visitors, from across Canada and abroad, research their roots.

*“ You
helped me
greatly researching
my grandparents on my
mother's side. You were very
resourceful...I'm so pleased for
what you did for me...You gave
me the drive to dig further
and do more research on my
family history.*

— R. Kurt Neiman
Newmarket, Ontario

*I was deeply
touched by the
information you were
able to retrieve, it filled in a
certain 'void' in my life. With
the Halifax newspaper articles
you went well 'beyond the call
of duty' and it was much
appreciated.*

— John D. Goldsmith
Montauroux, France

”

Copy from an original Passenger List from the R.M.S. *Scythia*

S. "Scythia"

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM



Preserving the memories of our nation

Documenting, preserving and sharing Canada's immigration story is at the heart of what we do. As part of the Museum's ongoing Oral History Program, people's firsthand immigration experiences and memories are recorded through in-depth oral history interviews led by Museum historians. These recorded stories form part of the country's historical memory and provide an opportunity to listen to how individuals remember and make sense of their immigration experiences.

In 2012, our Oral History team undertook a cross-Canada Oral History collection trip. They connected with Canadians and documented the oral histories of immigrants from diverse communities—from Halifax to the Acadian peninsula of New Brunswick, to Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and interior British Columbia.

Your continued support allows these histories to be preserved, so that they can live on as part of the Museum and be shared with Canadians, through exhibitions and soon online, for generations to come.



Mary Majka, oral history participant, at the Museum during her 60th year in Canada

“The most important thing in all this is that there is a tribute paid by us to this country when we are thankful and we acknowledge the fact that we were able to come here, to grow roots into this country, to feel that this is our country, our home. And also let all those Canadians with whom we were friends for so many years know how valuable this fact is, that you can be accepted in this place.”

— Mary Majka, Oral History participant

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 gratefully acknowledges all who have donated to the Museum in 2012-2013.

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