



Interviewed: Darrel Hotz

Oral History Clip Title: Being Raised in South Africa

Theme: Canadian Identity

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(Darrel)

I mean I think of myself of being South African, I don't think of myself as being Canadian. I mean I'm sort of a combination, even though I've been here for many years and I was raised in South Africa and I mean it was all of my formative years were there. So, a lot of what I am today is because of being brought up in South Africa rather than being a young adult in Canada. So, it's very difficult to, to draw the distinction between them. I mean South Africans, you know, they emphasized a lot more emphasis on family life, a lot more emphasis on you know helping other people and being just more generally concerned and you know, less say superficial. It's not a bad word to use.

(Interviewer)

So how do...Darrel, how do you feel about having come to, today, how do you feel about having come to Canada?

(Darrel)

Well there are two parts to that, I mean leaving South Africa was a, was a hard choice to make. I mean it wasn't my choice but you know just as a family, it was very difficult to, to leave South Africa. On the other side I mean we've all had a very good life in Canada. It's safe, you know it's very safe which is wonderful. You don't have a lot of the concerns that you had in South Africa for the future. I mean economically, you could do very well here if you, you know are determined to do well. So, it's a very good country to live in. I wouldn't have any qualms about, if somebody was to phone me up and say we're thinking about moving to Canada, should we? You know I wouldn't say no to anybody. I mean obviously the, the weather is not what we grew up with and that's, that's the one factor but I mean it's relatively a minor factor. I don't have anything particular, anything particularly bad to say about being in Canada. I mean, I've been to Australia and I've seen the lifestyle that my friends have there and it's much more similar to the South African lifestyle. Like Sydney is very much like Johannesburg and the people are very much more...like the South Africans even the non-Jewish Australians or the Jewish non-South African Australians are very similar to South Africans. Rather than you know, Canadians who tend to be very similar to Americans. But...I mean overall I wouldn't want to redo things.

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