

Interviewed: Chips & Paul Klein
Oral History Clip Title: Always a stranger
Theme: Canadian Identity
Interviewer: Lisa Newman
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(Paul)

Most of the time, maybe even now, when you leave your own country and move somewhere else I think you have a sense you don't really belong anywhere. When I go to Israel, I have a strong sense that maybe I should be over here in Israel [laughing]. I still feel like I'm a stranger in Canada. As much as I love the country. I've been here a long time. I'm not sure...I'm not sure exactly. I mean I love it. You know I feel I fit in, its...I feel quite at home

(Interviewer)

Yes.

(Paul)

But somehow, I've left home and I haven't quite arrived somewhere else. That's how I feel. [Turning to Chips], I don't know how you feel.

(Chips)

No, I'm fully Canadian. When I'm slogging through the snow and brushing the snow off my car before I can go anywhere, OH I feel Canadian. I'll tell you a funny little incident. When we took out our Canadian citizenship, we had to be in the country for three years, and it was three times three hundred and sixty-five days. If you left the country for two days, you had to add them on on the end. And our little one, our daughter, at that stage was six years old and we passed our exams, and we were going to have the ceremony where we would be given our Canadian citizenship. And the judge who was doing this asked if anybody would prefer to say the oath of allegiance in French. And our little six-year-old [raising her hand] put up her hand, and the judge was very sweet, looked down at her and said, "Why would you like to do it in French?" and she said "Because I go to French emergency school" [smiling]. And I think at that moment I felt Canadian. So the judge was very sweet, she said, "Well, why don't you just follow your parents." So, right there and then I said, we're Canadian [chuckling].