



Interviewed: Neville and Ruth Sischy
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Theme: Contribution to Canada
Interviewer: Miriam Borden
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(Ruth)

I started in early childhood education, but I've moved into a different sort of area of early childhood education. I've [sic] When our youngest was [sic] started school I wanted more than what I was doing and I started to look for other alternatives and I was lucky to land in a career that's been very fulfilling for me and that is I run programs for the school board, for the Toronto District School Board that [sic] The programs are located in newcomer populations and it's working with newcomer families, helping them to transition to schools. So the programs are inviting families in with their babies up to the age of six, but it's in the school environment and it's working with the family to ease them into new cultures and new life and to help the children learn and grow and, you know, understand what Canadian schools have been about. So that's been a very...a lovely job for me. I've been lucky to have it.

(Interviewer)

You understand firsthand.

(Ruth)

Yeah.

(Neville)

We had it easy.

(Ruth)

Compared to what I deal with, absolutely. But you do have an empathy and you do have a common starting point for conversations because you know you're dealing with the same emotions of sadness and leaving family behind and wanting the best for your children and having to negotiate your way through systems that you're not familiar with and learning about those systems and not understanding what recess is all about. You know, what does the bell mean and where do we go? And, you know, we're working with families from across the world who have been in refugee camps and have been in sort of very different life situations, but those basic human needs and conditions are exactly the same.

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