



Interviewed: Neville and Ruth Sischy
Oral History Clip Title: Two Very Distinct Lives
Theme: Canadian Identity
Interviewer: Miriam Borden
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(Neville)

Well, I certainly feel Canadian today. I wanted to feel Canadian from the moment I arrived.

(Ruth)

Yeah.

(Neville)

But when did I really feel Canadian? Maybe when I was taking my kids to school, perhaps. That kind of integration.

(Ruth)

I definitely feel Canadian, and so grateful for that, particularly in today's climate, with what's going on in the States, and it's funny, cause one of my—

(Neville)

In the States?

(Ruth)

Yeah.

(Neville)

Not versus South Africa?

(Ruth)

Well, no. I'll get there. But it's interesting cause our oldest kid said to [sic] said to me the other day, when, after the election had happened, and he said, "I never thought I would really say that I'm so grateful to be Canadian, but I truly feel that right now." And I think our kids [sic] It's funny, our kids are absolute Canadian. I mean, you know, through and through, their only [sic] They were born here. But somehow they also think they're South African, particularly our daughters. They think they got this little South African edge.

(Neville)

[laughs]

OJASALP.ORG



(Ruth)

And they constantly say, you know, that they [sic] that people think they're South African. And they're nowhere [sic] They're absolutely not South African. I think your question was when did I feel Canadian.

(Neville)

Yeah.

(Ruth)

I definitely feel Canadian. I miss Africa. I miss the smells and the expansive sky and the experiences. But what I recognize is what I miss- is not really Africa as much as I miss those childhood experiences in Africa. 'Cause I had very [sic] two very distinct lives. I had my beautiful childhood life and then I've had my adult life. So I've had a very clear-cut distinction, you know. It wasn't as if we had an established home with our kids in South Africa that we uprooted and came here and had to reestablish here. We made our home together as unit here. So that's been really successful for us in terms of immigration. Because for me, my adult life started here. And my childhood was South Africa.

OJASALP.ORG