

STRANGERS BECOMING US

Table Of Contents

Introduction	2
Program 1: Challenges	3
Program 2: Immigrants	6
Program 3: Refugees	10
Program 4: Demographics	13
Program 5: Canadian Immigration History	16
Program 6: Where do Immigrants Live?	18
Program 7: Schools.	22
Program 8: Family Life	25
Program 9: Multiculturalism	28
Program 10: Citizenship	30



INTRODUCTION

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

Hipsters, Flipsters, we give you the international transglobal
conglomerate of music!

Hi, my name is **ASHLEY** and my family came from Greece and Scotland.

My name is **LAYLA** and my family came from Turkey and Germany.

My name is **ANAM**, my family came from Pakistan.

Hi, my name is **CHANEL** and you're listening to "Strangers Becoming Us"

CHORUS

"STRANGERS BECOMING US."

Hello, I'm **MORTON BEISER**. You know, they say that music is the universal language. It talks to all of us, no matter where we're from or what language we speak. Take the music we're listening to right now. It's from Africa, but you don't have to speak an African language to know that it's got a danceable beat.

DANCE INTERLUDE

That music is coming from a multicultural radio station in Toronto. But you know, with a twist of the dial I can head down to a lot of other stations. I can hear bossa novas from Brazil, Son music from Cuba, fado from Portugal.

FADO MUSIC ENDS

It's because of immigration that we have all this great music. Over the past 30 years Canada has opened its doors to cultures, religions, languages, art forms from all over the world. Mosques are springing up where donut stores used to be, and Caribbean Roti Huts can be found right beside Canadian Tire Stores! Our immigration and refugee policies have affected every aspect of Canadian life -- from our schools, to the way we dress, to the way we dance.

YET ANOTHER DANCE INTERLUDE

Now these changes worry some Canadians. They think the changes are too great and too fast. Other people like the change. They say Canada is becoming more interesting. They say we're better able to keep up with today's fast changing world. In this series of programs, we're going to find out why some people are against immigration and others in favour of it. We'll also find out what it's like for people who are coming to what, for them, is a strange place -- This country we call Canada.

DANCE MUSIC ENDS BASKETBALL DRIBBLING



P R O G R A M 1 - C H A L L E N G E S

In some ways Canada is like a great big basketball team. The team plays best when all the different positions are filled with people best equipped for a job. You know, it's all well and good to have people who are good at shooting baskets, but we need people who are good at setting up the winning shots...

JOHN

Hi my name is John. I play power forward.

JAMIE

Hi my name is Jamie and I play short forward.

MATT

My name is Matt. I play point guard.

MORTON BEISER

It's the same thing with a country. We need doctors, lawyers, university professors and computer experts. And a lot of these people are now coming here from other countries.

People from different cultures are joining the Canadian team all the time - almost 200,000 of them every year. They're driving taxis and zambonis. They're fighting crime. And they're winning elections. They're business people. They're journalists and they're carpenters, they're TV anchor people. They're kindergarten teachers. They're nurses. They're parents and grandparents. And many of them are kids.

CARLA ROSARIO

I like it so much here - the people are great.

MORTON BEISER

This is Carla Rosario. She got here from Peru, not too long ago. And I caught up with her in a coffee shop in Toronto.

CARLA ROSARIO

I mean, if a person, if a student wants to do something in life, here in Canada everything is possible. You can do anything. Like you can reach to the top, you can be anything you like. If you put just that much effort and if you believe in yourself and you believe in others, you just can do anything.

MORTON BEISER

Did you hear a little sadness in Carla's voice? Sure she's optimistic, but there are problems too. Even if you make it on to the team (and that isn't easy!), you have to have courage. There are a lot of new skills you have to learn if you want to live here and play on Canada's team. Kids who come here as immigrants or refugees, they face a lot of challenges.

NEMAN JAJAKIC

I think some kids who are born in Canada have led like peaceful life. They haven't like experienced how painful it can be.

MORTON BEISER

This is Neman Jajakic. He's 12 years old and he came to Canada as a refugee from Serbia.



NEMAN JAJAKIC

Once you experience something like a war, I mean I was only two, three years old. I mean I didn't understand most of it. But when you see corpses, you know, being hauled away, you kind of get the feeling and it kind of sticks in your mind forever and ever.

MORTON BEISER

Picture it. Your country is at war and you haven't known a day when you weren't scared.

HELICOPTER SOUNDS

MORTON BEISER: Were you scared all the time?

SRI LANKAN KIDS: -- Yes, since I was born until I came to Canada I was scared the rest of my life.
-- Since I was like 2 1/2 till I was like 4 1/2, I was really scared.

MORTON BEISER

Every time you hear a plane or a helicopter you run for cover. Maybe you lose friends, or even parents during the war. Suddenly you find yourself thousands of miles from home, in a new country with a new climate. You're happy your life isn't in constant danger anymore but it's hard to forget what you went through before you got here. And then there are other problems. You're sad because you had to leave your friends and relatives behind. You haven't got any friends, and you don't know the language. We'll learn more about immigrants and refugees in a future program but for now it's enough to know that they're both important members of the team.

DRIBBLING, BASKETBALL SOUNDS

Let's talk about another challenge. For many kids who come to Canada today, whether they come as immigrants or refugees, learning to speak English or French is a big problem at first. Listen again to Neman:

NEMAN JAJAKIC

I was afraid that you know that some kids would make fun of me and would punch me and hit me. I was also afraid of you know getting a bad mark on my report card, because you know I didn't understand the language. You know and it's also very frightening when you know the teacher asks you something. And all you know is to understand your name. You know you're being called on, but you don't know for what. In two weeks, all I knew was how to say my name and I have to go to the bathroom. That's about it.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

MORTON BEISER

We're all newcomers in a sense. With the exception of First Nations Canadians, all of our families came from somewhere else to get here. You might say Canada is a nation of immigrants -- it's just that some of us have been here a little longer than others. Right now, kids who come to live in this country have a lot to overcome. Most of them do. And some become very successful. Carla Rosario, whom you heard from earlier, she learned to speak English very quickly and she's now getting top marks in her school. She's also involved in a lot of school activities and somehow she finds time to volunteer in a hospital on weekends. I asked Carla: What advice do you have for other new Canadians?

CARLA ROSARIO

Basically, just persevere. Just be strong. Believe in yourself; believe in your morals. And have your mind set



to something and just don't let it go. Don't let it go.

MORTON BEISER

And what about people who were born here? What can YOU do to help immigrant and refugee kids who are coming here to live? I asked Neman if he had any advice.

NEMAN JAJAKIC

Definitely not be racist, that's that's number one. But then like try to you know learn about their culture, learn about their language. I personally felt really uptight when I came to Canada. I was very afraid. It's it's much easier when you have a friend that can help you out.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

I'm **MORTON BEISER** and this has been STRANGERS BECOMING US, PART ONE. Next time we'll take a closer look at why Canada wants immigrants and why we offer to protect refugees. Join me then.

My name is **NEMAN** and I'm from Kragujevac and I hope to become a lawyer because I like solving problems.

My name is **VISHANTI** and I'm from India and my career is to be a doctor. My friends say I'm too quiet to be a lawyer but I still do want to be a lawyer. I want to go to all parts of the world and like try to help them with all the diseases they have.

My name is **ALEX** and I'm from former Yugoslavia. I would like to be one of the first Yugoslavian Canadian basketball players.

My name is **DAJNA** and I'm from Sri Lanka. My unique thing would be writing, because I love writing and poems and essays and everything.

My name is **ANA RADUNOVIC** and I am from former Yugoslavia and I would like to be the first Serbian Premier to Canada.

MUSIC, DRIBBLING, ENDS

