

Meet Your Neighbours!



Meet

**Tetiana
Eismont**

Born in

Ukraine

Moved here in

2016

Our family's immigration story began 4 years ago, in April 2014, when my husband Oleksandr went to work in Canada as a general laborer at Red Deer meat factory "Olymel". That was a hard time for Ukrainian history and economy due to numerous Russian military incursions into Ukrainian territory and an armed conflict between the Ukrainian government and the Russia-backed separatists forces at the eastern regions of the country. At that time, my biggest wish was to join my husband with the kids in Canada as soon as possible. So in summer, I applied for a temporary work permit at the same meat factory, but my visa was rejected twice. Despite my failures, I continued to believe that one day we would move to Canada with the kids, it was just a matter of time. And finally, in December 2015, right on the New Year's Eve, we got our visa confirmations! In a month's time, my husband was picking us up at the Calgary airport, and we headed to Red Deer to start a new page in our life story.

In spite of my big desire to move to Canada, on arriving, I faced the immigration stress and strong feeling of isolation since I neither had any friends or acquaintances in Canada, nor any driving experience. But my first task was to help our children adjust to a new school and surrounding in general. I realized that I had to start my career from scratch but I didn't know what to start with. At some hard moment I recalled my father's words: "The doors open for those who knock", and it was my motivation to actions. Back in Ukraine, I had 17 years of ESL teaching experience with different age groups – from kids to seniors. But most of all, I enjoyed teaching adults, so while completing some newcomers' papers at the local immigration center, I found out there were ESL classes for permanent residents and refugees, and I decided to try my luck there. I created a resume and a cover letter and emailed it to the ESL manager, also I brought my papers to the reception desk in person even though there were no vacancies at that time. But I believed – the doors open for those who knock, so I patiently waited and repeatedly emailed my resume and left numerous voice mails to the ESL manager about my strong desire to work at that company. And in 2 months, I was finally invited to the job interview for the position of a part time ESL Instructor for evening classes. That was a success! Then, in 5 months, I was offered a full time position of the LINC Instructor, and that's my current job which I enjoy and appreciate very much. I am sure, the doors opened for me because I didn't give up to knock, and I never will, but that will be another good story in our family life book...

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Meet

**Abi
Ogunjimi**

Born in

Nigeria

Moved here in

2010

I am happy that I got a change I was looking for when I migrated to Canada as a Federal Skilled Immigrant more than 10 years ago. A change for a better life for myself, my spouse and children. Though the journey was rough at the beginning, hard work and dedication paid off at the end. There is a freedom to dream big in Canada, freedom that could be achieved based on purely merit rather than social status

Though it is very cold here, it is beautiful and the people are warm and welcoming, and I find Red Deer to be a nice and peaceful city where everyone is friendly and caring.

I am presently working as an Engineer with a Petrochemical company in Red Deer where I live with my family.