

## 'Where I'm from' Essay

"How did our family end up here in Canada?" I asked my mom. From this, she talked about her parents. Imagine traveling from a place like Italy and coming by boat and train for two weeks, that's how my grandparents arrived here. All I know is I have family here in Canada and Italy. My nonno, which is grandpa in Italian lived in Cansano which is in L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region. My nonna, which is grandma in Italian lived in Pescocostanzo which is in L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy. My nonno was in Canada for a little, then went back to Italy to marry my nonna in Pescocostanzo, Italy. Afterwards, they then came here to Canada. My family has been here for a while, and my parents were both born here in Canada, but their parents were born in Italy. My nonno and nonna chose to be here because of already having other family here and making it easier. Overall, the way they came here was interesting since it was different than today. Though I wonder what they did when they got here and what it was like to get ready for a trip to another country.

### **Body Paragraph #1:**

Knowing my grandparents are from two small towns in L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy, they travelled all the way from there to here in British Columbia. Their hometowns are very close to each other and are both very small with old Italian houses. The time it took them to travel from there to here was roughly two weeks by boat and train in whatever weather conditions there were. Luckily, my nonno has been to Canada before they both arrived together and had a better idea of what it was like. My nonno had family here, and that helped along with

knowing what to do because they could still be in contact with family close by. They were able to get jobs, that of course only paid around few dollars because that was how it was at the time. They were able to get around okay, but they weren't the best at speaking English. Overall, it was different at the time they came, so could they find good jobs, was it easy to get around?

### **Body Paragraph #2:**

Going from Italy to Canada was a substantial change especially because of the weather. In Italy its very hot in the summer and more humid and snows a lot in the winter, but in Canada its mostly cold and rainy and sunny at times. My grandparents were able to get jobs, my nonno worked on the train tracks, and my nonna worked in a warehouse. It wasn't that hard to find a job, but the pay was a lot different than today especially because inflation has raised the cost of everything. Even the price of houses, "Your grandparents paid around fifteen thousand dollars for a house here in Canada" This was roughly the cost when they arrived here. They came to Canada in the mid-sixties around 1964. I am fairly sure they had ways to keep in touch with their family in Italy. With all that, even though my mom doesn't know everything, she knows more than I about her parents and with that there must have been ways of communication they could use.

### **Body Paragraph #3:**

Now that there is a lot more technology, my nonna is able to communicate on phone with family. Before she had to use poor phone lines which were bad, she would have had to yell to who she was speaking to. So it was hard to communicate, but now it is a lot easier. It has

been a while since when they first arrived. There is a lot of family in Italy, I met my nonna's sister and a lot more family I had never met before. When I went to Italy over the summer, I met almost everyone and then learned how much family I have. When in Italy, I visited the places my grandparents were born, and their hometowns were very nice. I have learned more than I knew before from interviewing my mom, however is there more to learn?

### **Conclusion:**

My nonno and nonna came to Canada around 1964 and were not great at speaking English. My nonno worked on the railway on tracks when he came here. My nonna worked in a factory, either a suitcase factory or a chicken factory first. They were doing okay at the time and having to travel here by boat and train which took around two weeks. My nonno is gone now, but my nonna has visited her family in Italy which was a trip over the summer last year which was around six weeks. It was nice to meet family I have not met before and see who my nonna would have stayed with if she did not leave Italy. Lastly, "I think grandpa had some family here already, so they just chose to be here" is what my mom said as a reason why they came here. There has been a good amount of information I gathered, and it was interesting to learn more from my family.