

“This Is My Story...”

Building Bridges Through Storytelling

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P2P 2022 Virtual Workshop Series – April 19, 2022



Why Stories?

“I learned that you should always tell your stories, even if you are shy. It helps you by laughing and someone can learn about your experiences.”

- Jorge, 11-years old

“Coming here each week and telling stories is my healing time.”

- Participant in current Storytelling Circle

Agenda

- Living Library Program
- Newcomer Radio Group
- Storytelling Circle
- *Building A Home* Children's Book



[www.nccpeterborough.ca/
livinglibrary](http://www.nccpeterborough.ca/livinglibrary)

Launched in September 2018 in response to an identified community need.

The Living Library has since grown into a multi-modal storytelling & public education program.

Draws influence from the Human Library Organisation in Denmark.

Living Library

Goal: We aim to share human stories of immigration and integration by highlighting diverse and compelling stories of transition, settlement and belonging.

Featured Speakers with diverse stories available for public speaking engagements.

Program is offered for free.

Participants are paid a small honorarium for their time



The Living Library



15

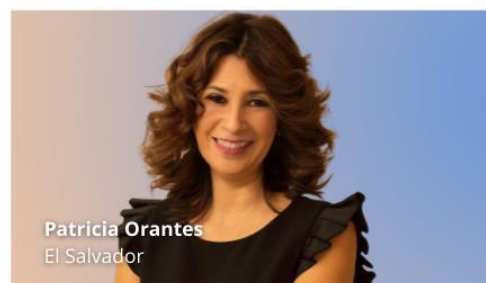
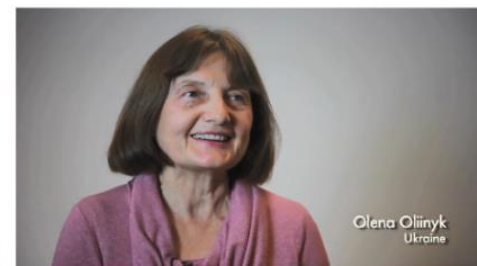
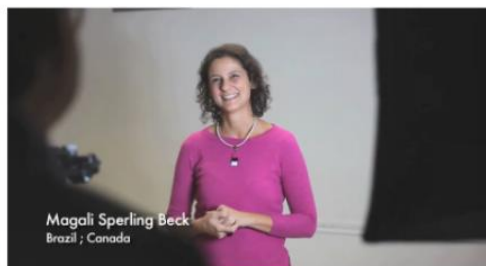
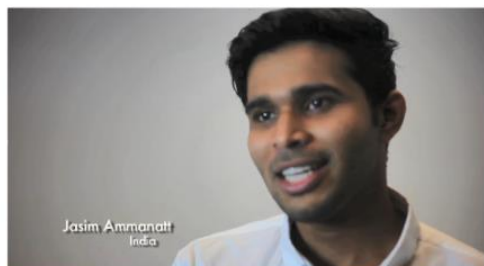
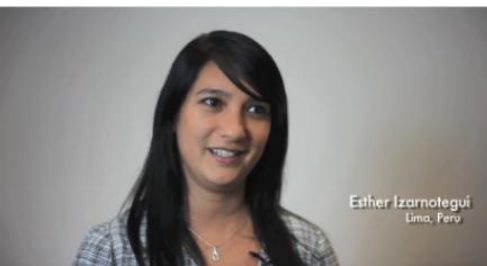
Speakers

50

Speaking Engagements

1100+

People Have Attended



Living Library – COVID hits!!

Pre-COVID: 22 engagements in one year

Less demand and capacity for virtual visits in the initial months of the pandemic

Pivot:

- Virtual Speaking Engagements (17)
- Podcast Series (1000+ listens)
 - Season 1 (2020) – 7 episodes
 - Season 2 (2021) – 5 episodes
- Video Series (10 videos)



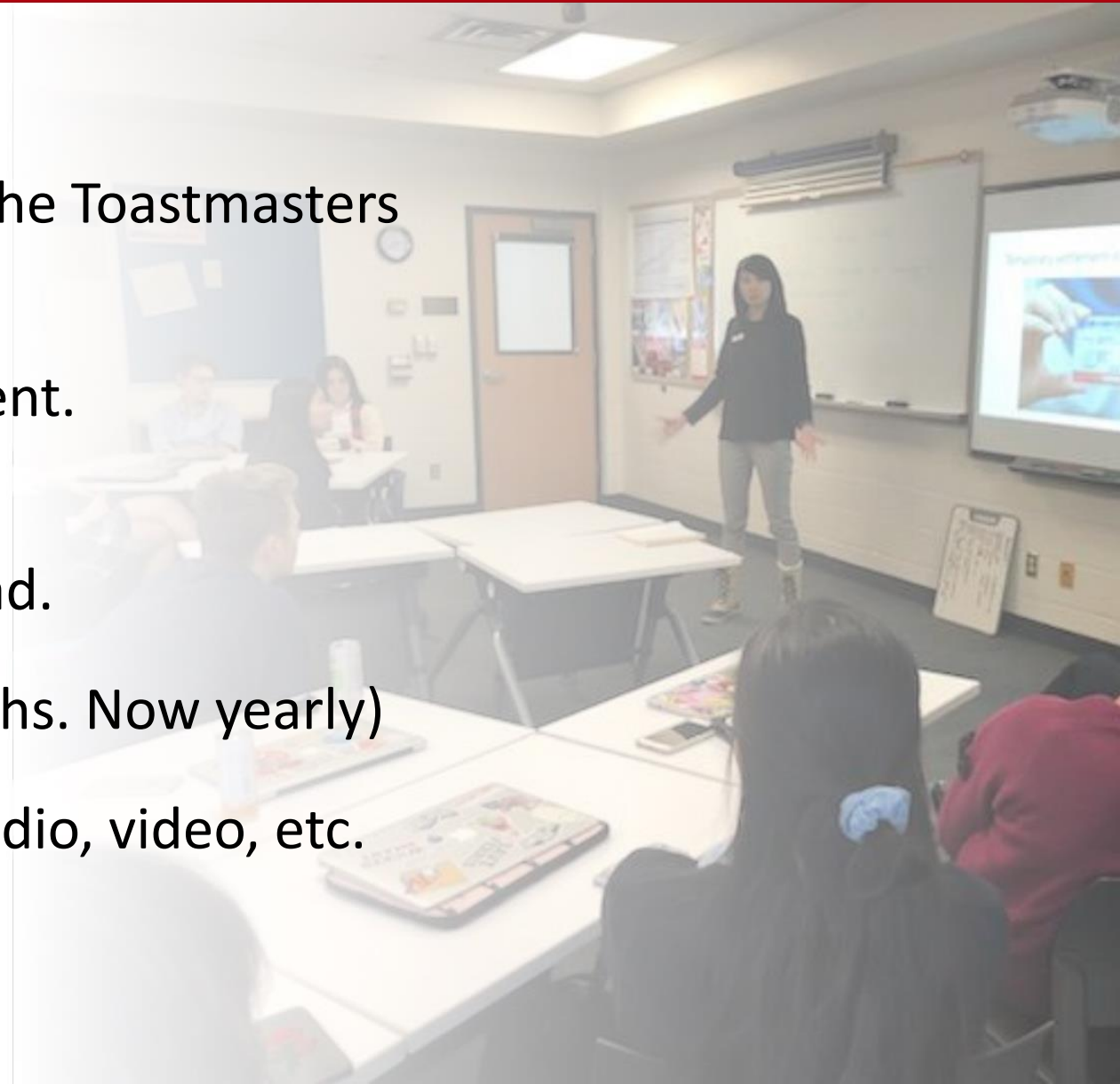
LISTEN TO THE
LIVING LIBRARY
PODCAST

BOOK A
LIVING LIBRARY
SPEAKER

WATCH OUR
LIVING LIBRARY
VIDEO SERIES

Living Library - How

1. Start small – recruit 3 to 5 speakers
2. Offer Training – partner for groups like the Toastmasters Club to offer public speaking training
3. Support Speakers with Story Development. Gather bios, headshots, story title
4. Promote. Bookings through program lead.
5. Refresh speakers. (Initially every 5 months. Now yearly)
6. Grow from here. Explore avenues like radio, video, etc.



Living Library - Outcomes

Majority of speakers have Intermediate English

- Experiential Opportunity
- Participants learn new vocabulary through conversations

Opportunity to be seen & heard.

For many, it is the first time public speaking

Opportunity for community to learn and challenge stereotypes



“I have worn many shoes, but storyteller was never one of them. When I started, I wondered what I had to say. I soon discovered that I have a lot to share and that people want to listen. This program gave me the confidence to learn and use these skills.”

- Abhishek Udawat



[www.nccpeterborough.ca/
newcomer-radio-group](http://www.nccpeterborough.ca/newcomer-radio-group)

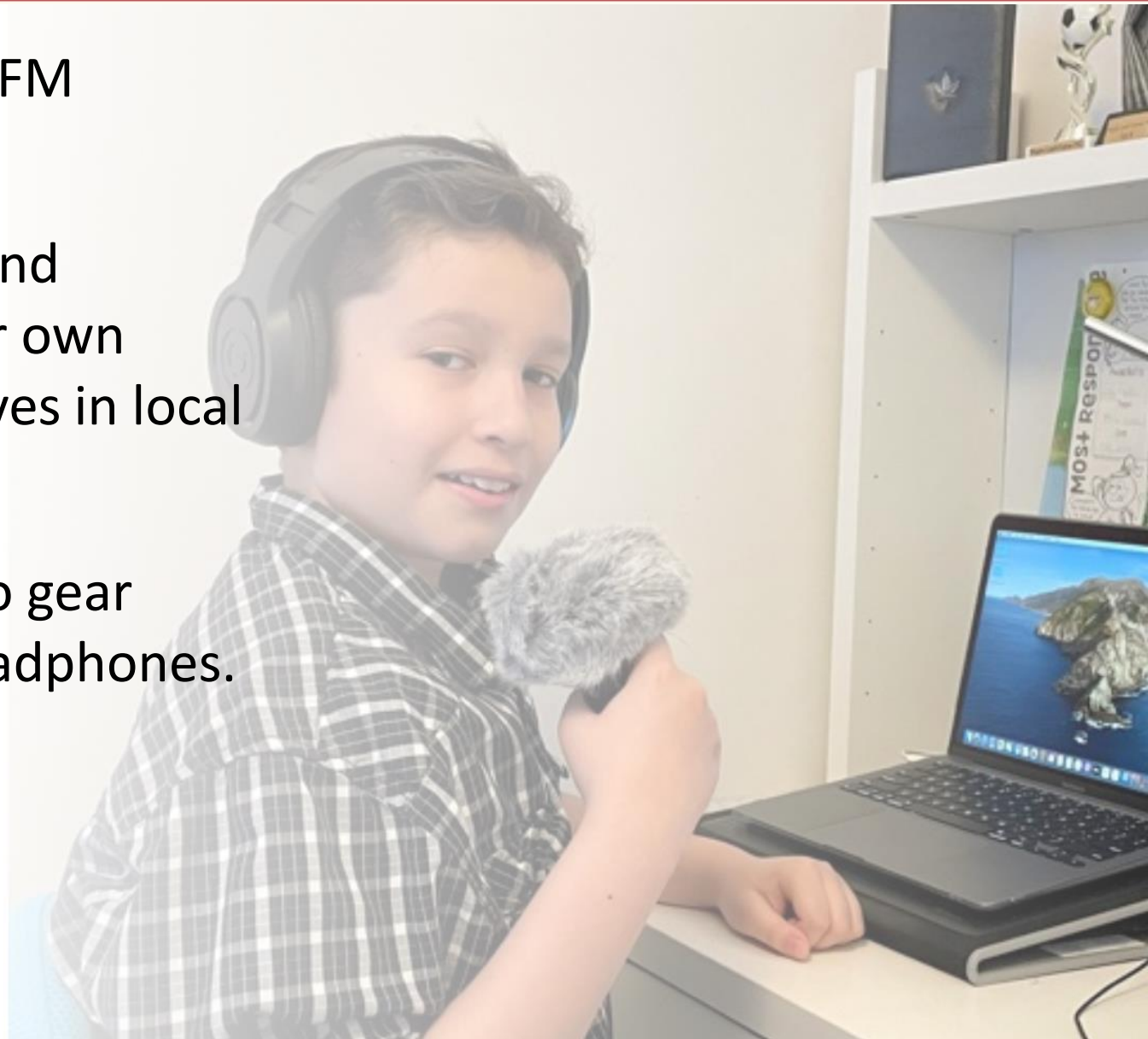
Newcomer Radio Group

Partnership with Trent Radio – CFFF 92.7FM
Facilitated entirely virtually via Zoom

Goal: to support newcomers with skills and opportunities to tell their stories on their own terms and diversify voices and perspectives in local media and arts.

Each participant was provided with audio gear including a professional recorder and headphones. These were theirs to keep.

Winter 2021 cohort – 5 participants
Spring 2021 cohort – 6 participants



Current Iteration – Storytelling Circle

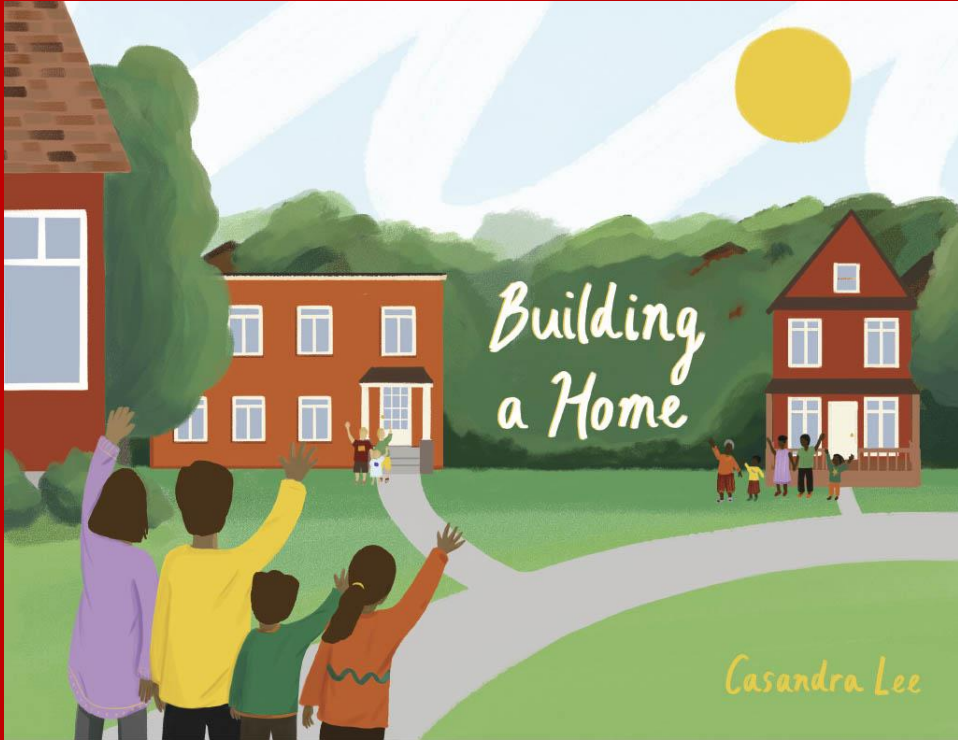
In partnership with Theatre for Good

In-person

6 weeks of hands-on training in storytelling where participants are guided through reflection and story development through arts-based approaches

At the conclusion of the program, participants will share their stories through an art-based medium





[www.nccpeterborough.ca/
buildingahome](http://www.nccpeterborough.ca/buildingahome)

“Welcome to Canada. You might be sad about moving to Canada, but it is actually great, and we’ll tell you why...”

- Jorge, 11-years old

Building A Home

Building A Home takes us on the journeys of six newcomer children who are now living, playing, and going to school in Nogojiwanong-Peterborough.

Written & Illustrated by Casandra Lee

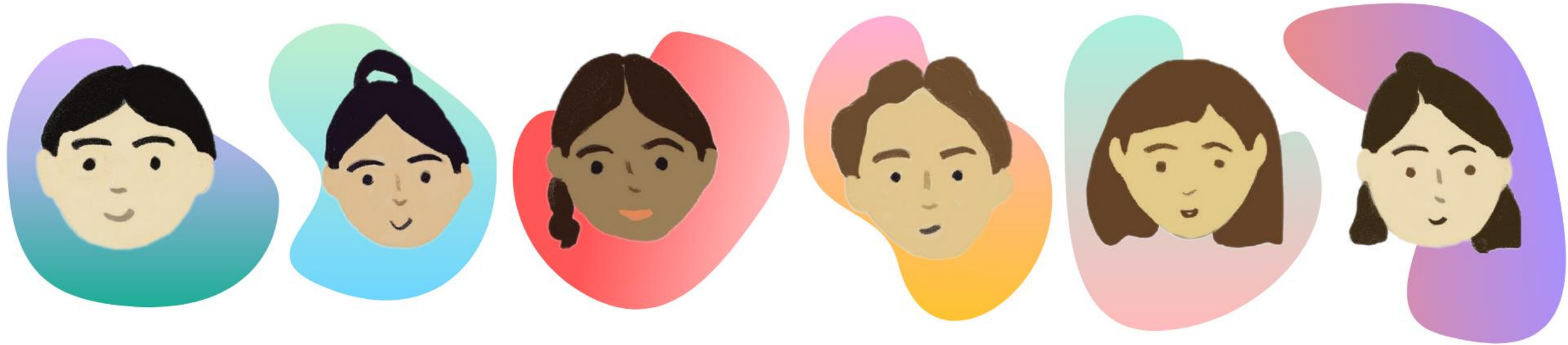
Commissioned by the New Canadians Centre

Suitable for ages 5 to 12

Guidance suggested for under 5



Building A Home



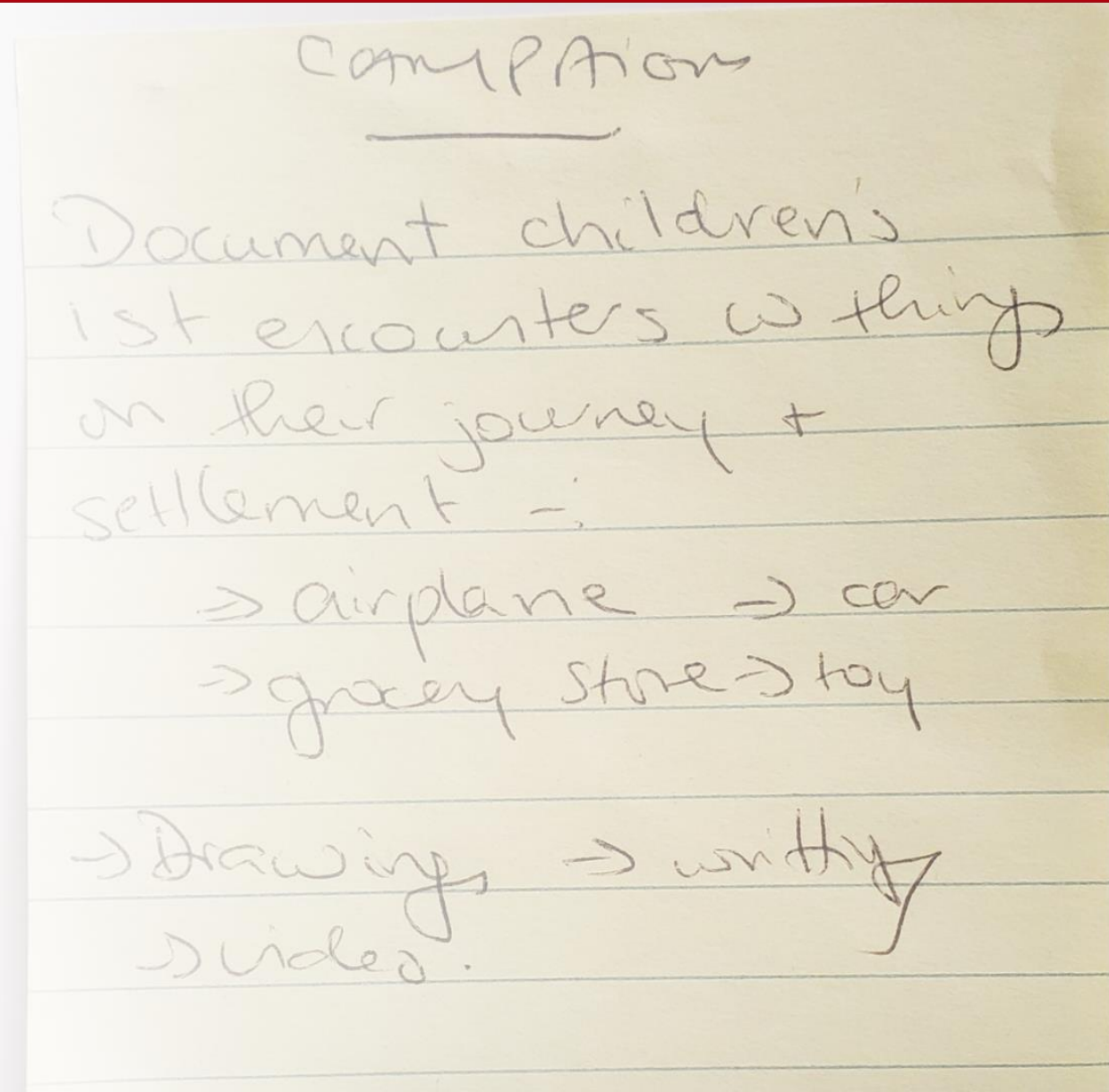
Inspired by the stories of six children from Syria, Kazakhstan, Mexico, and Pakistan ages 6 to 12 and living in Nogojiwanong-Peterborough between six months to six years

Building A Home – How it's created

PHASE 1 – Research & Development

- Literature review & best practices
- Contract development
- Participant recruitment
- Session development
- Grant Application (United Way)

September to November 2020

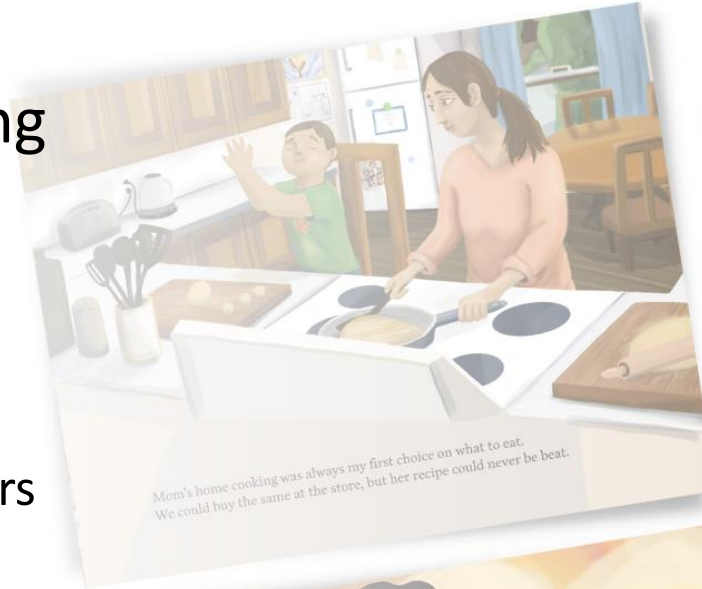


Building A Home – How it's created

PHASE 3 – Design & Testing

- Story Development & Illustrating
- Draft 1 & 2
- Testing
 - Participants
 - Other newcomers
 - Teachers & Early Childhood Educators
 - Community members
- Draft 3 & Sample Print
- Final

January to April 2021 – Design
May & June 2021 – Feedback
July 2021 - Final



Building A Home – How it's created

PHASE 4 – Production & Launch

- Translations (6)
- Translation designs
- Launch
- Pre-Orders
- Printing
- Reading Tour

August 2021 – Translations

End of September 2021 - Launch

Fall 2021 – Pre-orders open for 500 free copies



Building A Home – How it's created

PHASE 5 – Distribution & Growth

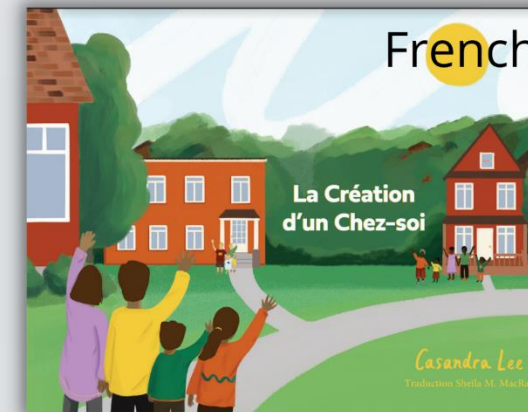
- Distribution of 500 free copies
 - Newcomers
 - Community members
 - Schools
 - Family & Child Centres
 - Community centres & agencies
- Reading Tour
- Teaching Curriculum
- Open for sale

Winter 2022 to current





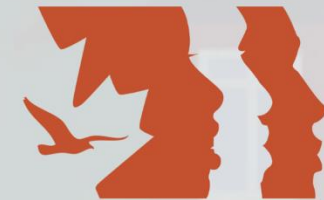
AVAILABLE IN
SEVEN
LANGUAGES



READ NOW

Written & Illustrated by
Casandra Lee

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With generous support from



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**David Goyette and Victoria
Pearce Arts Fund**

nccpeterborough.ca/buildingahome



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