

## **The immigration story of Guoqiang Chen**

Nowadays, it is much more convenient for people to immigrate into other countries compared with the former years. Guoqiang Chen and his family immigrated to Canada in the late twenty-century from Guang Dong, China, and during the initial years, they actually had a really tough time because of the exotic life, which is quite different from that they had in China.

The most common challenge they faced with when they first came to Canada was the diversity of the language and culture just like other immigrants. Just imagine that you came to an unfamiliar country, where the lifestyle was quite different from your home country and there is no doubt that you will feel anxious. Just like that, Guoqiang and his family felt very anxious when they first came to Canada. Everything were new for them, they had to force themselves to adapt to the absolutely new life. Of course, this was quite difficult for them in the initial years.

The biggest problem they faced with was to find a job that would support the whole life of his family. Because his poor English, it was quite difficult for him to find a good-salary job. However, with the help of his relative, Guoqiang found a job in the meat procession company. Every weekday he had to work in the cold processing workshop, and after working there for five years, his bones always feel sore because of the cold. Latterly, he found a job in a restaurant, and he had to work for more than ten hours everyday with only having the slender income. Even that, he still kept holding on, and in order to support the whole family, Guoqiang's wife also found a job in the clothing factory. They both worked very hard with the hope of having a better life.

Guoqiang and his wife have two daughters, who also faced with challenges during the initial immigration years. Because of the language and culture differences, they found themselves difficult to blend in the school life just like the native students. The former school years were really tough for both of the two girls; they did not have any friends who they can play with and talk with. What's more, the study was also quite difficult for them to understand, because all of that was taught in English. In order to adapt the school life, learning English well was very important for them.

However, thankfully, things began to turn to be good after the initial hard years. In the year of 2001, with the hope to provide a better life for himself and his family, Guoqiang opened his first own Chinese restaurant. It was not easy to run a restaurant, especially a Chinese restaurant in a foreign country. It was not enough to attract only the Chinese customers; they had to learn about the native people's taste preferences in order to attract the native customers. Although Guoqiang and his wife had to work even harder in order to run the restaurant, all the hard effort paid off, and their living level became much more better. What's more, after many years' adaption of the exotic life, not only Guoqiang and his wife, but also their two daughters all successfully blended in the natives.

Although during the subsequent years, many things happened, such as the 2008 financial crisis, which made the operation of his restaurant even harder, however, Guoqiang and his wife tried their best to keep running the restaurant. With the hope of living a better life, nothing could overwhelm Guoqiang and his wife. Nowadays, Guoqiang and his family have a quite good life, both of his daughters all graduated from the university, and found well-paid jobs in different companies. What's more, both of his two daughters have married and live a happy life. Without the pressure of raising two children, Guoqiang and his wife now do not need to work so hard like

they did in the former years. They can have more time to enjoy their own life, for example, just a month ago, they travelled to the New York, and stayed there for one week to enjoy their vocation.

Except from Guoqiang, there are also many other immigrants who have the similar stories just like Guoqiang does. The hard life did not overwhelm them, but instead, made them stronger. The good life of Guoqiang and other immigrants does not come from good luck, but is the result of their hardworking and persistence.

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