

Ken: Did you endure some of the discrimination and did that affect. I mean you speak very proudly about, you know from Canada <yeah, yeah> But you were specifically Chinese from Canada and, and what was your life like in Toronto with that, that level of discrimination? <yeah, well they> People around you?

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Well, uh to tell you the truth in Toronto there wasn't much depth. out there discrimination isn't that deep. <as opposed to?> Yeah, yeah not like Victoria. Victoria was really deep seeded <do you think some of that was the time? Do you think?> I think that it's because the progress that Toronto has made, has uh Toronto is, is far, far ahead of Victoria in many ways you know. they have overcome a lot discrimination already in, in, Toronto. A lot of the Chinese who graduate from university they say, 'don't, don't work here in the west. go, go east, go east go to Toronto Go, Go to the east and then you really get somewhere.' You know they always say that, you know, this is [?] So I think that the momentum in Toronto is far ahead of the momentum in, in the West. Because I think the concentration of Chinese is more, the people <in Toronto?> Yeah, I-in the West, in the the west its more. See they come they come through the doorway from the west coast to the east coast. And people who settled in the west are, are more progressive in their thoughts. It seems more progressive. But the pockets of these newcomers you know, especially the women who are newcomers and, and their husband tend to keep them in, in, in their own home. You know sometimes the husbands won't even allow the women to go out and I, I remember I have to go and talk to the husband concerning being helpful you know to them to, to ask them permission to bring they, their wives to the Church. To attend our, our meeting you know. Sometimes, I knew two or three like that and there are some that we, we went into the home with Ms. Near to, to help take her to the medical. To see the medical, uh to the doctor because in those days there are no Chinese doctors not very many you know. <This is back in 19> That in 19, the forties <Okay> In the forties and in, in the fifties you know. In this uh but in time there were more doctors as they graduate in university. In, in, in medicine but in those days there weren't very uh many so they all have to go to Canadian doctors and then Ms. Near was there to interpret for them. Or to get their medication and how to, to make sure they take the right medication, right medication at the right time and not to mix them up you know and so they. The women uh were beginning to get a handle on taking good care of themselves yeah.

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Ken: But life in Toronto was, I mean you didn't directly experience any did? <No I, I didn't experience any> Compared to what you grew up with

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Yeah, yeah I did. I, I in fact I was welcomed. There was one case at court. where, where, uh, um the adversary clients said that I should just quit and go back to China. I stood up and I said, 'I'm born in Canada. I'm just as much a Canadian as you are.' [laughs] <what was this persons response?> Yeah, the person response, he was just a client I was uh, I was trying to get custody of his children because they were neglected you know and abused <this is when you were a social worker?> Yes when I was a social and of course when you're in that adversarial role, <someone is going to say something> yeah they, I even have my uh telephone uh unlisted because I have <right> because I have to pay to unlit it, because other people will, calling me you know and, and, and, and um you know very unpleasant phone calls so I have unlisted number. But anyway in those days that adversarial role is a very difficult role to undertake.