



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Research Project: Hearts of Freedom

Presented to:
The Management Committee
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ABSTRACT

This is the first Hearts of Freedom Annual Report. It covers the activities for the first two years of the project from April 2018 to March 2020, which saw the establishment of the project and the execution of the data gathering phase for this research project. It also outlines some of the next steps as we move to the production phase, with the emphasis on transforming the interviews into a multi-media record of this important chapter in Canada's immigration history.

Efforts in Year 1 were focused on getting the project off the ground, recruiting and training teams and getting the necessary tools and resources in place. A Research Committee and a Management Committee were established to provide operational and strategic direction for the Project Team. Video and computer equipment were purchased to professionally record and store the raw video data. The Carleton University Research Ethics Board reviewed and approved the ethical framework and guidelines which we prepared to manage the interview process. Finally, interviews began on February 2nd, 2019 in Ottawa.

In Year 2, resources were directed to conducting more interviews. The Community and City Coordinators reached out and engaged individuals who graciously agreed to share their experiences of their journey to Canada. This involved the smooth planning and coordination of travel schedules and interview timetables for three separate interview teams and the transport, assembling and dismantling of video recording equipment in interview rooms. Throughout it all, the Community and City Coordinators and the interview teams centered their attention on greeting and making the individuals comfortable in all settings. As of March 31, 2020, they successfully completed 169 interviews covering 12 cities.

This Annual Report is divided into seven major sections: Project Activities; The Interviews; Presentations; Outcomes; Marketing and Media Coverage; Funding; and, Concluding Observations.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Governance

A five-member Research Committee oversees all aspects of the project and provides direction to the activities undertaken by the project staff. It is comprised of an experienced team including: two Professors Emeriti from Carleton University's School of Social Work; a former Immigration Canada Director of International Liaison; a former Senior Coordinator of the Indochinese Task Force from 1979 to 1980; and an Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution at Menno Simons College (a College of Canadian Mennonite University) at the University of Winnipeg.

The Research Committee met on thirteen occasions in Ottawa (and via teleconference /videoconference) on: September 14, 2018; October 23, 2018; December 5, 2018; January 14, 2019; February 15, 2019; March 15, 2019; April 13, 2019; June 5, 2019; October 17, 2019; November 26, 2019; December 3, 2019; January 22, 2020; and March 25, 2020.

An eighteen-member Management Committee provides community input and oversees the strategic direction of the project. The Management Committee includes: the five members of the Research Committee; former senior Canadian immigration officials; representatives from Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese associations; representatives from The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the Canadian Museum of History, and the Canadian Immigration Historical Society; and the Head of Archives and Collections at Carleton University. The Management Committee met on eight occasions in Ottawa (and via teleconference / videoconference) on: September 14, 2018; December 5, 2018; January 30, 2019; March 22, 2019; May 3, 2019; August 20, 2019; October 30, 2019; and December 3, 2019. We have another management committee planned via the internet in early April 2020.

Ethics

The project received clearance from the Carleton University Ethics Board (A) on December 14, 2018. The approved consent forms, interview guides and recruitment materials have been translated and are being used by the community interview teams. The project submitted an annual report to the Carleton University Ethics Board on its first year of activities in December 2019 and received a renewal letter of Ethics clearance for another year.

We subsequently notified the Ethics Board in the fall of 2019 of our wish to conduct interviews in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Halifax and received agreement to proceed with them.

On March 19, 2020, we received notification that interviews with human subjects should be suspended immediately as a result of the continuing spread of the COVID-19 virus. Allan Moscovitch spoke with the Coordinator of the Ethics Board on the morning of March 19, 2020 indicating that we had a team in the field conducting three more interviews in Vancouver that day. The team was scheduled to return to Ottawa on March 20th. It was agreed that they should finish the interviews that day and then return as scheduled. The team was sent a text message reminding them to take all possible precautions before, during and after the interviews. Scheduled interviews in Halifax had already been cancelled earlier in the week due to the expected spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Website

Although the development of the text for the website was affected by the delay in starting the interviews, a professional high-quality interactive project website has been developed over the past 15 months. It serves two major purposes: it is a central interactive resource tool for the project staff to share project information including interview schedules, interview data, and a focal access point to review and capture content highlights from the videos; and, the website posts public access information such as background information on the project, a sample of the video interviews, copies of the student background papers, links to relevant news items, and links to event presentations by the team. Photos of events involving members of the Research Committee, the Management Committee and Project Team members have also been posted to the website.

The Media Coordinator, with the assistance of members of the Research Committee, has developed an interactive chronology of the events which led to the flight from the countries of Southeast Asia (the former Indochina). In addition, he created a brief video, narrated by a member of the Research Committee, on the history of the events leading up to and including the flight of refugees. This video has been used at several events at which members of the Research Committee and the Project Team have presented on the Hearts of Freedom project. It is accessible on the Hearts of Freedom website.

The website was officially launched at the International Metropolis Conference which took place in Ottawa on June 14-18, 2019 as part of a kiosk display for the project. The display involved a live feed of the website on a monitor, highlighting sample interviews and other features of the project. The Media Coordinator, other staff and volunteers interacted with the majority of the 1,000 participants who stopped by the kiosk for information about the project. Visitors were provided small postcard-sized bilingual information cards that provide background information about the project as well as contact information.

Training

- **October 20-21, 2018:** a two-day training session was held at Carleton University to engage in team building. The purpose of the training session was two-fold: provide an overview of the goals and expectations of the project; and provide the Community Teams with the practical skills necessary to conduct interviews and to operate the camera and lighting/sound equipment to properly record the video interviews. The workshop was attended by 10 of 11 staff, all five members of the Research Committee and by Sheila Petzold, the documentary film maker who will join us in the third year of the project. Stephane Martelly, from Concordia University's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, presented on the principles of oral history interviewing and the ability to facilitate effective storytelling. Karl Roeder, an acclaimed videographer, presented the technical basics of running the camera, preparing and enhancing the lighting, and smoothly recording the interview. Mike Molloy and Peter Duschinsky, members of the Research Committee and co-authors of *Running on Empty: Canada and the Indochinese Refugees, 1975-1980*, a book on the history of the refugees coming to Canada, provided a brief overview of the history of Canada's involvement in what was then referred to as the Indochinese refugee crisis.
- **January 6, 2019:** a half-day workshop was held at Carleton to review the various forms that were approved by the Carleton University Research Ethics Board on December 14, 2018. Sheila Petzold, a documentary filmmaker, worked with the Interviewers on interviewing techniques and skills while the Research Committee met with the Community Coordinators to discuss the recruitment of interviewees and the content of the consent forms. All eleven staff of the Project Team attended.
- **January 31, 2019:** Sheila Petzold and Karl Roeder held a workshop with the video teams during which they decided that the Carleton University Dunton Tower 6th

floor interview room was too small to work for our interviews. They decided to use the adjacent seminar room for the interviews, putting down markers on the floor to show the videographers where the lighting screens and lights would have to be set up to get the most out of the room. Karl Roeder brought a range of screens and lights with him with which to experiment. This proved to be central to the organization of the interviews. Once a decision was made on what to use, we then had to buy some additional lights and screens to make the interviews happen. Since that time, the teams have used the same basic set up for subsequent interviews.

- **April 14, 2019:** the Research Committee and all eleven staff of the Project Team met in a one-day Training Workshop to take stock of the interviews to date. The team was encouraged to share best practices and lessons learned from the interviews undertaken at Carleton University during February and March 2019. This information was used to set up the logistics and prepare the Community Teams as they traveled to conduct interviews in other cities.
- **October 30, 2019:** the first Transcription Workshop was held at Carleton University. Led by the Media Coordinator, the purpose was to provide technical information on how to log onto the website, to access the restricted database of video interviews, how to retrieve individual videos, and the steps required to listen to, and transcribe, the relevant sections of the videos. The compilation of the highlights will be used by the Research Committee for data analysis in the preparation of the book and the documentary film. The workshop was attended by three members of the Research Committee, the Project Coordinator, the Media Coordinator and five community and student volunteers who have undertaken to assist in the review of the video interviews.
- **November 29, 2019:** a second Transcription Workshop was held to present a revised online form and process to assist with the capture, recording and documentation of the highlighted material from each video. Two members of the Research Committee and three community and student volunteers participated in this workshop.
- Throughout the month of **December 2019**, the Media Coordinator conducted individual online tutorials on the transcription process with volunteers as required.

THE INTERVIEWS

The Team

The following Project Team members were hired initially and participated in the data gathering activities:

- a bilingual Project Coordinator.
- a trilingual Media Coordinator/Web Designer.
- three community teams (Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese) that conducted field interviews, each comprised of one Community Coordinator, one Community Interviewer, and one Camera Operator.
- In addition, one of the interviewers was asked to assume the role of Coordinator for the sponsors and the government, private and non-profit staff members who had assisted refugees who came to Canada.

Of the eleven staff, nine are themselves members of one of the three South East Asian communities that are the subject of this research project. Subsequently, in year two, City Coordinators were hired in each of Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Halifax. These additional six staff all came from the three South East Asian Communities. (See Annex B)

The project team works out of three offices that Carleton University has assigned to the project on the 6th Floor of the Dunton Tower. In addition, we have the use of a seminar room and a classroom for Ottawa-based community interviews, training workshops and for meetings of the Research and Management Committees. We purchased a high-quality video camera, microphone, lighting, tripods and cables, and lighting screens, along with a scanner, a desktop computer, a laptop, an external 16 terabyte drive on which to securely store the completed video interviews, and 18 high capacity SD cards for use with the video camera.

Method

The project suffered a later start than anticipated as there was a delay in completing the financial spreadsheets necessary to commence the flow of funds to the project, and a delay to allow for reviews of documents (telephone script, background information, letter of invitation and consent form) by the Carleton University Research Ethics Board (CUREB). We did not receive the CUREB letter of approval until December 14, 2018. The

timing was unfortunate as it was not appropriate to approach potential interviewees over the Christmas holiday period. It was therefore not until early January 2019 before the Community Teams could start to coordinate and schedule interviews. As a result of these delays, the interviewing only started during the weekend of February 2-3, 2019.

The first community interviews were conducted in Ottawa during the weekend of February 2-3, 2019, and as of March 31, 2020 we have completed 169 video interviews with interviewees from the following cities: Ottawa/Gatineau; Montréal; Toronto/Newmarket; Hamilton; Kitchener/Waterloo; Winnipeg; Edmonton; Calgary; and Vancouver. The breakdown by ethnic community is as follows: 84 Vietnamese; 30 Cambodian; 28 Laotian; and 27 sponsors/government officials. Interviews were conducted in five languages: 117 in English; 33 in French; 7 in Cambodian; 1 in Laotian; and 11 in Vietnamese. The gender breakdown of the interviewees is as follows: 109 males; and 60 females. (Annex C)

The Community Coordinators were tasked with finding and recruiting potential interview subjects in the Ottawa/Gatineau, Montréal and Toronto areas, arranging an interview schedule, and finding venues for the interview teams to conduct interviews. We also employed a separate coordinator who was responsible for finding interview subjects from among sponsors and staff who worked on assisting refugees in Ottawa/Gatineau, Montréal and Toronto.

City Coordinators completed the same functions in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver (2) and Halifax. In Winnipeg, we employed a City Coordinator who had the assistance of a Research Committee member to find interview subjects. In Edmonton we employed a City Coordinator who had the assistance of a very active member of the Vietnamese community to help her find interview subjects. In Calgary, we employed a City Coordinator based in Ottawa who had the assistance of a Management Committee member located in the city. Our coordinator travelled to Calgary and joined the team during the period of the interviews in the city. In Vancouver, we decided to employ two city coordinators, one to work on finding Vietnamese refugees and another to work on finding Cambodian, Laotian, and sponsor interviewees. Finally, in Halifax we employed a City Coordinator who worked to establish a group of interview subjects and then had to postpone the interviews.

The Coordinators were instrumental in assisting with on-the-ground logistics such as helping the interview teams find suitable interviewing locations, and accommodation for the travelling interview teams. They were also present to greet interview subjects to help

put them at ease and they ensured that the consent forms were understood and were properly signed and dated.

Once the interviews were completed, the Media Co-ordinator conducted a technical quality review of the individual videos and uploaded them to the internal interview database. The Research Committee has begun work on the transcription of each video interview. A member of the Research Committee leads a small Transcription team which is tasked with reviewing the videos to document and highlight key words, key themes and significant events for the purposes of data analysis by the Research Committee. This team is primarily comprised of community and student volunteers, as well as some staff who volunteer their spare time to conduct these reviews. The Media Co-ordinator is co-ordinating the use of, as well as the training with, software which is available from Google to review each interview.

The process for the review and documentation of each interview is time-intensive and involves many volunteer hours, sometimes as many as between 4 and 8 hours per video, depending on the complexity of the issues. The number of interviews to be reviewed and the availability of volunteers with spare time to conduct these reviews have led to a slower pace of review than we had hoped. We now expect to take several months at the beginning of the third year to complete the review of interviews before proceeding to put the book and the documentary together.

Each interviewer is responsible for the preparation of a brief biography of the interview subject in either English or French. Once the biography is completed it is then translated and posted with the interview on the project website.

We made a commitment in our agreement with Canadian Heritage and with our interview subjects to provide each person interviewed with a gift in appreciation of their participation. We decided to commission a local ceramic artist, Bruce Jones, to make small bowls, vases and mugs, each stamped on the bottom from the Hearts of Freedom project, and each individually boxed by the artist. Participants had their choice of a mug, vase or a bowl from the project.

PRESENTATIONS

Responding to demands from community organizations and academic associations for more information about the project, we have made several presentations to groups and at conferences which have facilitated our goal to make as many people as possible aware of the project, the information we are gathering, and how this information can inform researchers, government officials, academics and community representatives.

Here is a list of the presentations we have made:

- **February 10, 2019:** Two members of the Research Committee (Allan Moscovitch, Peter Duschinsky), one member of the Management Committee (Luong Le Phan), the Vietnamese Community Coordinator and Interview Team attended the Ottawa Vietnamese New Year Event to promote the project at a display table. Several hundred people attended.
- **April 13, 2019:** The Cambodian Community Coordinator attended a special celebration for the New Year that was sponsored by the Cambodian Association. Approximately 450 people attended this event at St Anthony Hall in Ottawa.
- **April 14, 2019:** The Cambodian Community Coordinator attended a separate event for the New Year at the Mondul Ottawa Khmer Buddhist Monastery. Approximately 250 people attended this event.
- **May 29, 2019:** Peter Duschinsky, Mike Molloy, Allan Moscovitch and Mondy Lim made a presentation to approximately 80 staff at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in Ottawa. During the presentation we mentioned that we were searching for a location for interviews in Toronto. As a result, senior staff of the Department found a seminar room in the Toronto office of the Department where we were able to conduct several interviews.
- **June 20, 2019:** Members of the Research Committee, the Media Coordinator and some volunteers were available at a table at the University of Ottawa sponsored one-day conference to celebrate World Refugee Day entitled *Humanizing*

Migration: Rights, Refuge and Responsibilities. Allan Moscovitch met briefly with the Minister responsible for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and provided him with documentation on the project.

- **June 24-28, 2019:** Members of the Research Committee, staff and volunteers were available at a kiosk which was a part of the International Metropolis Conference, held in Ottawa. We were there to celebrate the conference theme of *The Promise of Migration*. We played our video at the kiosk which attracted participants from across Canada and from other countries. At the kiosk, we had community volunteers talk with visitors about the project and hand out information cards.
- **October 29, 2019:** Colleen Lundy and Allan Moscovitch participated in an Oral History Workshop that was organized by the *Local Engagement Refugee Research Network*. The audience was comprised of people working in oral history and discussions centered on the theme of “Who are the interviews for?”
- **October 30, 2019:** Two members of the Research Committee discussed the project with researchers from Concordia University who are working on a book chapter comparing different oral history initiatives with the Cambodian diaspora in Canada and the USA.
- **January 17-18 and February 2, 2020:** two members of the Research Committee (Allan Moscovitch, Peter Duschinsky), volunteers, three Vietnamese members of the Management Committee (Tri Hoang, Kien Le, Luong Le Phan) and some Coordinators attended the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebrations in Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal. Approximately 1,000 persons attended the event in Edmonton, 800 persons in Ottawa, 5,000 persons in Toronto, and 2,000 persons in Montréal.
- **February 11, 2020:** three members of the Research Committee and the Media Coordinator made a presentation to the UNHCR Conference on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways that was held in Ottawa at the Shaw Centre.
- **March 18, 2020:** three members of the Research Committee and the Media Coordinator were scheduled for a public presentation on “Preserving and Learning

from the Past: Hearts of Freedom – Refugee Policies, Programs, and Integration of Southeast Asian Refugees in Canada” at Canadian Mennonite University. This presentation was cancelled due to COVID-19 and may be rescheduled later.

- **March 19-21, 2020:** the 22nd Metropolis Conference that had been scheduled for Winnipeg was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be rescheduled for the Fall of 2020. The Conference had agreed to include a major workshop on the Hearts of Freedom project. We were expecting to have four speakers at this conference workshop.

OUTCOMES

Immediate outcomes

The interviews have been the core focus of activity for the project to date, not only from a logistics perspective, but also the instrumental role they have played in advancing the goals of the project, as they served as the first instance of community outreach and involvement in the project. Over the two-year period covered in this Report and as of March 31, 2020 we have completed: 169 video interviews with interviewees from: Ottawa/Gatineau; Montréal; Toronto/Newmarket; Hamilton; Kitchener/Waterloo; Winnipeg; Edmonton; Calgary; and Vancouver.

The outcome of the interviews conducted to date is two-fold. First, and most importantly they have provided an opportunity for refugees from the three countries of South East Asia to tell their stories and to have those stories recorded for the benefit of younger members of their communities, for those generations to come, and for the general public now and in the future. Second, many of the interviews have already been placed on the website where people from around the globe have had the opportunity to see them and to understand the experiences of the refugees known as the boat people, who came to Canada under difficult circumstances during the years from 1975 to 1985.

We have found that there is overwhelming support among the members of the South East Asian communities who came to Canada as refugees and among those Canadians who assisted them. There is a willingness to participate in the interviews. Our success in finding participants is due in large part to the dedication of the Coordinators and the Interview teams, and the special efforts of many members of the Management Committee

to make the project better known and to recruit participants. As a result, interest about the project has grown.

The importance that the interviewees attribute to the interviews themselves is symbolic of community and family support. These interviews focus on storytelling, retelling important events in their lives. The importance that families place on the interviews is underscored by the fact that some interviewees are accompanied by their adult children to ensure that we can capture the nuances of some events that the refugees feel can only be described using their own language.

We have tried to capture the settlement experiences of refugees to Canada. What has been emphasized to us is that their interactions with individual and community sponsors helped give Canadians the opportunity to express their social values through assisting refugees to integrate. For example, the Mennonite Church's experience in accommodating refugees in the Kitchener/Waterloo area has had a great influence on the community at large in the area.

Through interviews with sponsors, community organizers and government officials we are capturing information that goes beyond the bureaucratic processing of forms. They reveal a humanitarian perspective by officials and agents on the ground that reflects how fundamental Canadian values have shaped immigration, as well as social policy, in this important chapter of Canadian history.

Intermediate outcomes

Interviews

We completed an initial group of interviews in Montréal, Ottawa/Gatineau, and in Toronto/Hamilton/Kitchener. With funds provided by a local donor, we were able to conduct an additional 15 interviews in Winnipeg. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to include in the Winnipeg group of interviews the former Minister of Immigration, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy.

To reach other communities from coast to coast where former refugees are living in Canada in larger numbers, we applied for, and received, additional funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage. These funds permitted us to complete an additional 43 interviews in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, bringing the total number of interviews to 169. Due to the public health measures put in place by the federal and

provincial governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the 10 interviews scheduled in Halifax were cancelled and will be rescheduled to take place at a later date. In addition, we have one other interview which we hope to conduct in Ottawa which had to be postponed, and another one which we hope to conduct at a distance. The Ottawa interviewee is expected to be former Prime Minister Joe Clark. We expect that the final total of interviews should be 181.

Transcriptions and data analysis

The video interviews are the fundamental source that will be used to produce a book, a documentary film, curriculum materials and a museum exhibit in year three of the project. Capturing the best quality images and sounds during the interviews has been crucial to the development of the activities we have planned for development in year three. The goal in reviewing the interviews is to identify stories about the typical experience, and to highlight some of the exceptional experiences that marked the refugee journey.

Background Papers

Five graduate students, three of whom were doctoral students with strong interests in immigration history, were provided student assistantships. They drafted background papers on topics on the migration and resettlement of refugees fleeing from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam who came to Canada during the 1975 -1985 period, on the response of the Canadian print media to the crisis and the arrival of refugees during this period, and on the evolution of Canadian refugee resettlement policy from the end of WWII to the end of the Indochinese refugee program in 1997. These four papers were reviewed by the Research Committee, and they are now posted for public access on the project website. We have listed them in Annex D which accompanies this report. One additional report has been commissioned and we expect that it will be completed very soon.

Partnerships/Networking:

The involvement of representatives from the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the Canadian Museum of History, the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, and the Carleton University Archives and Collections Section from the very start of the project is spurring discussions that will shape the promotion of the project's resources in Year 3. The Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg has a keen interest in South East Asia refugee issues and has offered to be the permanent host for the project website. The Media Coordinator has been working with the Winnipeg Research Committee member and Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) to transfer the website to be hosted at CMU.

MARKETING AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Materials

In the fall of 2018, we developed recruitment materials that subsequently received ethics clearance: email invitations to participate in the research for potential interviewees, and for community association web sites (Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese).

A colourful bilingual standing solo banner was developed to promote the project and provide contact information at the 8 events noted above. We have printed bilingual colourful postcard-sized information cards and approximately 600 cards were distributed at the events and conferences noted above and at small community meetings and gatherings. Approximately 200 additional cards were provided to the Community Coordinators to distribute with individuals in one-on-one meetings and in small social community gatherings (church, feasts, etc).

Social Media

We post basic information about the project and about events on the project Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/heartsoffreedom/>

The website was launched in June 2019 and is operational. It serves a dual purpose: it is a central interactive resource tool for the project staff, secured by a password, to share project information including interview schedules, interview data, and is a focal access point to review and capture content highlights from the videos; and, the website provides public access to project information such as background materials, a sample of the video interviews, copies of the student background papers, links to relevant news items, and links to event presentations by the team. <https://heartsoffreedom.org/>

Our YouTube site provides a direct link for those interested in viewing the video interviews that are posted on the project website.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Hearts+of+Freedom

We have established a Twitter account but at this stage of the project, which is on data gathering, the focus is primarily on the website. However, as we develop deliverables in Year 3, Twitter will be integrated into our communications strategy for dissemination of those products.

Media Coverage

- **July 1, 2019:** in conjunction with the Metropolis Conference, CBC Radio Ottawa decided to interview one of our interview subjects. They chose Rivaux Lay, our Cambodian coordinator. Here is the url for the interview which has also been made available on our website. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/hearts-of-freedom-refugees-oral-history-project-1.5187276>
- **July 1, 2019:** Yahoo.ca news made it their lead story. <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/refugees-record-stories-future-generations-080000534.html>
- **September 23, 2019,** Carleton University featured a story on Hearts of Freedom. It was entitled, *Carleton Preserving Emotional Refugee Stories*. The story can be found at <https://newsroom.carleton.ca/story/preserving-refugee-stories/>
- **October 4, 2019 and December 4, 2019:** Menno Simons College (a College of Canadian Mennonite University) at the University of Winnipeg featured a story on Hearts of Freedom. It was entitled, *Hearts of Freedom: Dr. Stephanie Stobbe and team awarded major funding for nation-wide research*. The story can be found at <https://www.mscollege.ca/about.php?s=blog&id=299> and <https://www.msc.cmu.ca/about.php?s=blog&id=304>

Acknowledgements

- Project website: Our website acknowledges our sponsors and partners at <https://heartsoffreedom.org/funding-and-partnerships/>
- Presentations: At each presentation, we have ensured that all our sponsors have been acknowledged for the financial and other support that they have provided.
- The Project Banner: We printed a project banner for use at presentations and at community events. The banner acknowledges our sponsors.

FUNDING

Our primary funding is from a three-year–contribution agreement provided under the Canada History Fund of the federal Department of Canadian Heritage. This contribution agreement will continue for one more year until the end of the fiscal year March 31, 2021.

In the Spring of 2019, the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provided \$4,800 in research funding to support our preliminary efforts to draw some conclusions from the interviews which we were in the process of conducting. We reported back to IRCC and provided a presentation to senior staff as a condition of the funds. In the Spring of 2020, they have provided us with a similar amount again for the same purposes.

In October 2019 we were able to complete some additional interviews in the city of Winnipeg thanks to \$20,000 provided by a local private foundation, the **DeFehr Foundation**.

In December of 2019 we applied to the **Department of Canadian Heritage** for \$60,000 in supplementary funds to complete additional interviews in four cities across Canada. These cities are Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Halifax. At the end of January 2020, we heard that we were successful in obtaining these funds. In March the Department agreed to allow us to carry some of the funds over into year three.

In December of 2019, we were successful at raising an additional \$29,483 through Carleton University’s crowdfunding site, **Future Funder**. A substantial amount was donated on Giving Tuesday which meant that Carleton University would match those funds. We are grateful to all those who donated to the project.

In March 2020, we received further funding of \$20,000 from the **DeFehr Foundation** that will help fund the documentary film.

Full details on funding are available in Annex A to this report.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

The response from the Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese communities continues to be enthusiastic, as interviewees come to the interviews not only ready to recount their migration journey that brought them to Canada and their settlement experience, but to also share photos, documents and other artefacts that were part of that history. These materials are immediately scanned and added to the project repository. All documents and photos will eventually be lodged with the Carleton University Archives.

A preliminary review reveals the power of the oral interview format. Interviewees express, in their own voice, moments and events that are very moving as they recall the terror and hardship they faced in their country of origin and during their journey of escape. Many experienced harrowing escapes, dangerous migration journeys and time in refugee camps before finally gaining acceptance to Canada. A number who were privately sponsored continue to be in contact with their sponsors.

The success of the project is also credited to the multi-lingual interview teams (interviewer and camera operator). Their expertise has resulted in the professionally recorded interviews.

One of the strengths of the project is the continued dialogue and cooperation between the Management Committee, Research Committee and the Project staff. These meetings with the Management Committee and with Project Staff have facilitated the flow of dialogue and the exchange of ideas that have proven crucial as we move forward with the management of what is a large-scale project. During the first two years of the project we have employed a total of 15 staff on a part time basis and we have been involved in the organization of 169 interviews in 12 locations across the country.

We are grateful for the cooperation of many governmental and community organizations that helped make this project possible. The Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has generously lent us the use of offices in the Toronto area. We have also benefitted from the use of offices at Carleton University and at Menno Simons College of the Canadian Mennonite University. Both Carleton University and Menno Simons College also provided us with interview space. In Surrey, BC we had the assistance of the St. Mathew's Roman Catholic Parish and the City of Surrey Public

Library, Main Branch. In Montréal we had the assistance of the Communauté Catholique Vietnamienne de Montréal and Mr. Bunkorn Yun, President of Key Development, who provided active support for the project. In Edmonton we had the assistance of the Edmonton Viets Association, and In Calgary, The Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Association and The Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Senior Citizens Association. In Toronto, we had the assistance of the Vietnamese Association of Toronto. In Kitchener we had the assistance of the Head office of the Mennonite Central Committee.

FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS**FUNDING – Carleton University****Canadian Heritage- Canada History Fund:**

Source	Total Award	Carleton Overhead	HOF Budget		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2018/19 agreement	\$106,300	\$13,865	\$92,435		
2019/20 agreement	\$151,491	\$19,492		\$131,999	
2019/20 amendment	\$59,965	\$7,821		\$52,144	
2020/21 agreement	\$111,448	\$14,537			\$96,911
			\$92,435	\$184,143	\$96,911
Sub-Total	\$429,204	\$55,715		\$373,489	

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada:

Source	Total Award	Carleton Overhead	HOF Budget
Contract March 2019	\$4,800	\$626	\$4,174
Contract March 2020	\$4,800	\$626	\$4,174
Sub-Total	\$9,600	\$1,252	\$8,348

Carleton University - Future Funder Program:

Source	Total Donation	Carleton Overhead	HOF Budget
Community donations	\$16,529	\$0	\$16,529
Carleton matching funds	\$12,954	\$0	\$12,954
Sub-Total	\$29,483	\$0	\$29,483

TOTAL FUNDING Carleton University:

TOTALS for 2018 / 2021	\$468,287	\$56,967	\$411,320
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FUNDING – Canadian Mennonite University**DeFehr Foundation:**

Source	Total Donation	CMU Overhead	HOF Budget
Donation 2019	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$18,000
Donation 2020	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$18,000
Sub-Total	\$40,000	\$4,000	\$36,000

TOTAL FUNDING - Canadian Mennonite University:

TOTALS for 2019 / 2020	\$40,000	\$4,000	\$36,000
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PARTNERSHIPS:

Canadian Heritage, Canada History Fund

Canadian Immigration Historical Society

Canadian Museum of History

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Cambodian Association Ottawa Valley

Carleton University, Centre for Studies in Poverty and Social Citizenship

DeFehr Foundation

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Lao Association of Ottawa Valley

Menno Simons College, Canadian Mennonite University

Vietnamese Canadian Federation

HEARTS OF FREEDOM TEAMS

Management Committee

Anne Arnott:	Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Xay Bounnapha:	Lao Association of Ottawa Valley
Emily Burton:	Canadian Immigration Museum at Pier 21
Peter Duschinsky:	Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Charlene Elgee:	Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Tri Hoang:	Vietnamese Canadian Federation
Dau-Thi Huynh:	Vietnamese Canadian Federation
Tuyet Lam:	Vietnamese Canadian Federation
Vuthy Lay:	Cambodian Association Ottawa Valley
Kien Le:	Vietnamese Canadian Federation
Luong Le Phan	Vietnamese Canadian Community of Ottawa <i>(until December 2019)</i>
Charlie Lim:	Cambodian Association Ottawa Valley
Colleen Lundy:	Carleton University
Mike Molloy:	Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Allan Moscovitch:	Carleton University
Mai Nguyen:	Vietnamese Canadian Community of Ottawa <i>(as of April 2020)</i>
Laura Sanchini:	Canadian Museum of History
Stephanie Stobbe:	Menno Simons College, Canadian Mennonite University
Chris Trainor:	Carleton University
Minh Nguyen*	Independent Curator (until February 2019)

* The HOF Management Committee wishes to acknowledge the work of Ms. Minh Nguyen and to thank her for her contribution. She was the architect of the new vision and mission of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation's museum project which paved the way for the development and success of the Hearts of Freedom project.

Research Committee

Peter Duschinsky:	Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Colleen Lundy:	Carleton University
Mike Molloy:	Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Allan Moscovitch:	Carleton University
Stephanie Stobbe:	Menno Simons College, Canadian Mennonite University

Project Team

Media Coordinator/ Web Designer: Mondy Lim
Project Coordinator: Ginette Thomas
Accounts: Zoey Feder

Interview Teams

Cambodian Team:	Coordinator:	Rivaux Lay
	Interviewer:	Ran Dawn Long
	Camera Operator:	Richard Dang
Lao Team:	Coordinator:	Som Phouangpraseuth
	Interviewer:	Jean Legault
	Camera Operator:	Meaghan Brackenbury
Vietnamese Team:	Coordinator:	Mai Nguyen
	Interviewer:	Uyen Vu
	Camera Operator:	Hanh Hua
Sponsors and staff:	Coordinator:	Jean Legault

City Coordinators

Calgary	Mai Nguyen
Edmonton	Jen Tran
Halifax	Phuong Nguyen
Vancouver	Stella (Nhung) Davis
	Pam Sharp
Winnipeg	Ari Phanlouvong

OVERVIEW OF INTERVIEWS

	<u>VIETNAMESE</u>	<u>CAMBODIAN</u>	<u>LAOTIAN</u>	<u>GOV'T/SPONSORS</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
OTTAWA						
Completed	16	11	8	5		40
Post-pandemic planning				(J.Clark) 1		1
MONTRÉAL						
Completed	15	8	3	6		32
TORONTO						
Completed	20	8	4	8		40
WINNIPEG						
Completed	4	-	8	3		15
EDMONTON						
Completed	10	1	3	1		15
CALGARY						
Completed	11	1		1		13
Post-pandemic planning				(Flight attendant/) 1		1
VANCOUVER						
Completed	8	1	2	3		14
HALIFAX						
Post-pandemic planning				10		10
TOTALS						
<i>Completed</i>	84	30	28	27		169
<i>%</i>	50	18	16	16		100
<i>Post-pandemic planning</i>						12

GENDER		LANGUAGE OF INTERVIEWS				
M	F	English	French	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Laotian
109	60	117	33	11	7	1
64%	36%	69%	20%	6%	4%	1%

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Duarte, Filipe. *Background Paper on the Archival Media Research: Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail*. Assistant Professor, University of Windsor, January 2020.

Glassco, Clare. *Before the Sun Comes up: The making of Canadian Refugee Policy amidst the Refugee Crisis in Southeast Asia, 1917-1985*. MSW Candidate, Carleton University, April 2020.

Lenet, Jaime. *Cambodian Resettlement in Canada: A literature review*. PhD Candidate, McGill University, May 2019.

McLean, Lisa and Stobbe, Stephanie. *Laotian Resettlement and Integration in Canada: A literature review*. PhD Candidate, George Mason University, and Associate Professor, Menno Simons College of Canadian Mennonite University, May 2019.

McLean, Lisa and Stobbe, Stephanie. *The Evolution of Canadian Settlement Programming from the Mass Resettlement of Indochinese Refugees to Present*. PhD Candidate, George Mason University, and Associate Professor, Menno Simons College of Canadian Mennonite University, April 2020.

All papers can be downloaded from the Hearts of Freedom website at the following link: <https://heartsoffreedom.org/research-papers-literature-reviews/>