M: So when did you first arrive to Canada?

B: End of July 2019

M: Okay, and what was the reason to move to Canada?

B: I want to work abroad and I would like to improve my English and this is one of the only country where I can work with my French Diploma. So I tried to come here.

M: Oh, really? Okay. And before that, were you considering other places as well?

B: Yeah, but Spain, but economical situation was not good for me. So I choose Canada before I would like to go to America, New Zealand, Australia, but I can't work with my French Diploma. I have to go back to school and to play a lot. So Canada, it was easier. So, I chose Canada. I can just come and work with my French Diploma. I am an Osteopath. There is some more and more French Osteopaths in Canada because it's the place where we can work with our French Diploma. I just have to have an association here from my French diploma, but its like a separate subscription. And I'm just going to work with my French diploma. So it's really good because the French schools are really good for Osteopathy than in Canada. I think, maybe not. Better. I don't. Those are better or not. But it's recognized a lot in France so it's easier for us to come in Canada to be French and to say hey, I'm an Osteopath.

M: So how did you get the job like

B: really easy. In fact I have two person in my school who was where working there two years ago during their visa and in January I contact the girl and say hey I my visa which work in Canada work as an Osteopath. And she explained me everything and then she told me we left with my boyfriend in July and we are working in two clinics. So if you want a place, we just have to contact the business and interview with them. And if everything is ok, you have a job. So really easy for me. When I arrived in Canada, I already had the work so and so the interview was like online with FaceTime.

M: And tell me a little bit about your family. So what's your family like and what was their reaction to you?

B: Good reaction. I have two brothers actually and one of my brothers lives in Boston since one year. So, we always are used to live far from the house because of study. Not so far like Canada, Boston, but we leave the house at 18 just for studies so I guess it was difficult for my parents because I was I am the last kid of the family. So now they are alone but really happy for me to to leave what I'm leaving now. So, ready great decision I think.

M: Okay, and what kind of visa Are you on?

B: It’s a working holiday visa. For the French people, It's two years okay. Actually, I don't know if I will stay two years. If everything is going well, I will think about residence permanent in June 20 because it's very long to have the resident permanent but for the moment I don't know if I will stay two years. Everything is going good for the moment. So I think so. But I will see. Okay, day after day.

M: What will like what is the most Sort of why like what will you see like what is what does it depend upon?

B: About the work if everything is going good with the work if I have loads of patients, if I feel good with my work if I feel good in just in the city, if I have friends it's all about the life. Like, you know, I have my friends in France. My family there, so Im really happy to be there. If I can have friends here and like a family me and if I feel comfortable in my life, I think I will stay. Maybe not for all the life but for a while.

M: And do have friends here like I'm community?

B: Yes, it starts. August was really difficult. But now in September, little by little, I meet some people. I, I meet my neighbours I made some friends, for French people, but it's easier for me. I speak English but it's very difficult to have, I think Canadian friends. And there is a lot of people for other country in Toronto. So, you meet people all around the world. I meet some Colombian, Indonesian, Indian people also.

M: How did you learn that this option was available to you about your migration?

B: I think I learned that with people at school I think. Well, because I was always interested to work abroad. My brother did. Working holiday visa going to Australia And he really liked it. So, yeah. At the beginning, I would like to go to Australia because I saw all the pictures and photo and I say, Wow, I want to go there. But it was impossible for me, for my for my work. So I think then I did a lot of search on the internet. And there is a website, a French website already good one to a lot of information about the working holiday visa. And then also on the website of immigration, Canadian, immigration, but more on the other side. I just know that I didn't want to go to Montreal and Quebec because there was too much French people and I don't want to be only with French people and then I didn't decide Toronto. I only decided because I have a work and it was easier for me. So whatever the country, if I speak English it doesn't matter for me but Toronto it's a really good city for what my job but there was a lot of stuff to do. It's not so far from America. There is a good airport if I want to travel so it's a good combination. Actually, I work in two clinics, so I decided to live at the middle. But I am at 25 minutes with the subway as a street car so it's it's not so far and I am a junction triangle. And it's on the line too. And I'm five minutes away from the subway.

M: So how did you find a place to live?

B: In websites. Only websites. I discovered co living. I know that I would like to have roommate, to not live alone at the beginning and to make meeting people easier. Yeah. So I discovered co-living. And I also know that I didn't want to buy a lot of furniture for my apartment. So, it was a really good find because everything is new, and I just have to pay for my food, and everything is included in the price for the apartment. So, it was really good for me, but now I meet my roommate, and it's everything is really good. And maybe we are going to change to pay cheaper, because it's a little expensive, but to start, it was the best decision for me. But now that I met my roommate, maybe we are going to change apartments for another one, less expensive and maybe in the same place, but other apartment.

M: And like in terms of the visa process, how long did it take?

B: I make my subscription in December and I got the answer in January. You just have to go on the website on the immigration website. Yeah. And you just say like that - I want a working holiday visa. What kind of work I have to do and then I just have to wait. It's a randomization. I don't know the word in English. So it’s a draw. So there is lots of people and not so many place. Little by little Canada open more places because they want lots of people to come. This is for France. Yes. If I wanted to go to Australia, I just have to pay and go. But for Canada, It's a draw. So sometimes people are waiting for years and never drawing. And I just made my subscription in December and one months after I get it. So, it was really fast. Lucky draw. So, it's just about chance. It's not about your work that's about your education. So, there is an age it's 35 but You just have to sit and wait you're lucky like me you get it if not you're still waiting. So, I was very lucky. And then after getting my visa we have lots of paper to do like to give information about me, about my family, even my brothers, my job so I have to make medical visits because I have to work with babies and lot of patients so I have to pay expensive for this visits. So, I needed to go to a different province for my visit [medical]. I need to go to Leon for my biometrics, yeah, it was step by step. And I think in April, it was done. I just have to wait for when I want to go, so it was really fast for me. [The draw] Because there was too much people. I think I did in September 19, I did one subscription for Canada. But it's only I think we were around 8000 but its on this day, four place for the last session. So, I did it again in December. And I think if you check now maybe there is still 14,000 people. But now there is not place anymore.

M: Do you want to go anywhere else in the world?

B: Spain, I always want to go there because I used to go there every year for holidays. All right, okay. But sometimes I work there just for friends and, and really open with Osteopathy. And I, I like the weather, well, I like Spain, So I think one day I will try to go there. But first I want to enjoy my visa in Canada. And if I say five years in Canada, it doesn't matter. I still can go to Spain. First I enjoyed Canada and then I will see what I am going to do.

M: Where in France?

B: I'm in Burgundy is five hours by car at the north of Paris. And my study was in Lyon. But before Osteopathy I was in the School of Sports. I have my degree and then I change for Osteopathy. I study for Five years. That's three years of school sports and five years of Osteopathy. Too much.

M: And why not? Why did you not want to work in France?

B: Yes. During one year. And it was really cool for me because I did a replacement of pregnant woman pregnant Osteopath. So I worked for us during six months from January 18 to June 18. And I leave at the end of June for Canada. First I travelled to around America and then I arrived here. I did one week in New York and then I go to Boston to visit my brother's for one month and I really enjoyed it.

M: And you said that you want to improve your English here do you take an English classes or anything?

B: No, only I speak a lot. I watch a lot of movie in English a lot of music. Speaking, speaking with the patient and little by little I am improving my English and I already I know that my English is not perfect, but I already feel that I am better than before. Because at the beginning I was thinking in French and then translating. Now only speaking English not thinking in French. So, I think it's better. Even it's not perfect, little by little I am improving.

M: How do you consider yourself to be a skilled migrant?

B: Courageous?... determinate? Feel Free.. [laughs]. Yeah, I feel that it's about making a decision when you make your decision after you are exciting and you just have to go. So, but since always, I would like to work abroad. It was not so difficult for me. Lot of people say, Oh, you're crazy to go alone and to leave all you have to start again from zero. But I needed that because I can’t stay in France anymore. I was boring. So, I would like to see another country so it was very easy and I don't seem that I need something special in my character. I just wanted to leave it.

M: I suppose before we get started on that I also want to ask you about relationships right? So what about like romantic relationships in your life or being with somebody? Are you looking for a partner here?

B: Umm..Difficult question. I'm not really but if someone is coming and tries to have a relationship with me and then if everything is going well, I'm not against but it's not my my goal. Okay, but I'm 27 so maybe it's gonna happen, Its like a surprise. I was not in France but I am Canada, so it's not, I don’t know. It's not my goal, but I'm not closed to it. I will say that.

M: Can you show me on your drawing the point of initial arrival to your current status. So what I want to see is wait timeti, processing me how long the visa to and also other places that you were considering.

B: So first when I get my visa out like when I decide to get, okay… this is December. So that's the subscription like the entry in the draw... working in it. January 18 Yeah. I think it was end of January. Yes, it was end of January. It was the first session. I don’t know if I go to Paris or Lyon first but it doesn’t matter. Paris for medical visit and Lyon for fingerprints in March, and end of April - final decision, and do you want me to write when I contact Margo to have my job?

M: Yeah. Well, I'll come to that question later. Yeah. And so you arrived in July, right?

B: Yes.

M: That's good. Now, what were the other places that you were thinking before you came?

B: Before Coming in Toronto? So, I think first Spain because its my lovely country and I will write here, like, I was on the point to live in New Zealand. I was I it was difficult for me to find working friends. I only do some replacement but only for a few days. I was with very boring in France and I told to my mother That's okay. I can't find a job in France. I'm losing my time. I always want to work abroad, I can work as an Osteopath in NZ, but I can make my subscription for Canada and waiting for drawing. But in the meantime, I can go to New Zealand to work and to improve my English. So, in it was a Wednesday I was on the point to make subscription for NZ, It's like Australia - just pay and go and I said no, I will do that tomorrow because I want to do that quiet and very. Yeah, just quiet because there was a lot of paper and lot of stuff. I don't want to make any mistake. So I wait for tomorrow and tomorrow, I get an answer for was a work I did in January and she said, Okay, I want you so you're gonna work and start in January. So I said, Oh my God. So I wasn't supposed to leave.

So - America, Australia. Umm, Well it was more Canada but then

M: So Toronto was your fifth choice? It was the last choice?

B: [laughs] Yeah, yeah.

M: Okay, well that worked out. Yeah. So that's good. Alright, so now in terms of next question is about commercial services. Did you use any commercial services to move so I'm talking about agents, lawyer consultants like what are your consultants know? document translations things things that you paid for?

B: No, nothing. No, just was a working holiday visa. For the medical visits, It was around

Maybe…everything because there is x ray, blood stuff and yeah, I think it was around I don't remember exactly but around 200 euros. And it was a working holiday visa and working holiday a visa included fingerprints. I would say, It was in dollar, I think $300. I don’t remember exactly. But I know that little by little it was like more and more so. I paid for flight ticket. But I do Paris and to New York. New York to Boston but it was by bus and then Boston to Toronto…I think it was like maybe 200 euros

M: And tell me about the role of technology in your journey. So, I'm talking about research. I'm talking about even keeping, finding information keeping in touch with family like where does technology come in?

B: since the beginning to make a lot of search. Well, I put that because it was really important for me. It's the website where I find all the information for my working holiday visa, Pviste.net. Yeah, it's like working holiday visa but in French. It's like an extension for the people. It's a really good website and it is for all the working holiday visa. There is like Australia, Canada, NZ. Everything is there, it's really good at the lot of partnership to have some prize. For example, if I did Paris to Toronto, I can use air transact and I have one baggage free. Do you know Skyscanner, A lot, I use it a lot. I will put like that but because it means I during this period I checked pvitste. I checked this website. and now I use a lot of Whatsapp to stay in touch with family and friends ofcourse and Facebook but to find your advice and tips and at the beginning for my apartment.

M: was it helpful - Facebook?

B: For my apartment, not really but to find stuff to do to find some tips, of the bank or for insurance or for the phone, Yes. There is lots of groups – French in Toronto, there is also ‘new in Toronto’, Yes, they are everywhere, Pvtiste in is Canada. These are the main groups. And theres co living but there are lots of agency. So I found one agency and looking on Google for while agency I find another one. That's how I find my apartment.

M: So, social connections friends, family community professional networks and if their their their role in your migration.

B: This was my friend – this was for job. I was in touch with her during all this period from here to here okay. After this I get in touch with my first boss and I think the second boss, it was in, I think it was in May maybe April-May. It was not a real interview it's just about talking and to see our work and to see our thinking about my, my work and just to know me more and our work and deal with the clinic and everything.

M: So I suppose now I will ask you the question again of like how was the word comparing with France to here?

B: So most important problems at its people in Canada are more open minded. In France it's a generic. But in France, for example, you will see each patient only three or four times in a year, but because they are not reimburse a lot. But because in Canada, there is big insurance and I see each patient maybe every two or three weeks, sometimes more. It depends. But I see a lot of patient every two weeks. And at the first time it was very strange for me, because when they say actually, “when should I come back?” I say “oh, come back. Three to Six months”. Like in France I say. And they are like “Oh, okay”. And I saw that were not happy because I think if I say three or six months, they consider that I don't want to be to take care of them. So now, I do like everyone andI just said, “if you want to come back in two or three weeks, it's okay for me”. But for that I have to adapt my practice. I don't do the same. If people come back in two or three weeks, then if they come back in six months, I don't do the same. It's not about techniques, but it's just about how I see my practice now. I adapt myself, for people in Canada. And I think if I go back to France, I have to adapt again for people in France. So it was very different, but I don't prefer France or Canada for that. Its just different I just need to adapt.

M: Social connections?

B: Yeah ofcourse. Okay since the beginning, my best friend because I made 10 years ago and since the beginning to those that I want to work abroad and since the beginning she say, “okay, no problem. You can go and nothings gonna change between us and I've seen we are more close now that Im in Canada, because as a beginning, I saw That okay with the jet lag of six hours. Maybe I'm not gonna be able to write to you every day to answer you every day because of my work because of the jet lag because of my life. And actually, we are all we speak every day with WhatsApp with vocal message. It's easier. And yes, really we are more close now than ever. And, of course my family, and mother. Of course my dad but I don't have the same relationship with him and my brothers. I have two brothers. So the one who lives in Boston Well, we're more… I am close with my two brothers but it was easier for me to speak with Gayle because he’s in Boston and he also left home. So, I will Gayle first. And he was there “just to tell me it's gonna be okay. You can go Yeah, I can do it. Yeah of course because I was alone. Yeah so it's and, and I'm alone and I'm a girl so it's not difficult I seen it was not a program for me. Of course I think about that because I'm a girl but I feel so much insecurity, here than in France. So, I really feel comfortable now with that. And my brother move with his wife and his daughter, so yes, he moves to Boston but he is not alone. If he needs to support he can just go home and he has support. If I need support I have to call my best friend and it is not the same. Im alone. Of course I met some people here but I will not tell them all my problems and my difficulties. So,

M: so like what are the biggest challenges that you face?

B: arriving here to be alone. All the month of August was difficult, because I don't have a lot of patients. So, I didn't work a lot. I stay home and of course I go outside but I go outside because I told myself okay, you have to move and not to stay in. But if I go to the gym, people don't speak because they are in their own routine I did a lot of stuff. I go to the beach, but alone it's not the same. And I have a big apartment and I was alone because my roommate was not there. So yeah, it was to be alone – in every part – work, at home, outside. Now I feel better after one month. I feel better. I feel safe in Toronto more than France because when I was studying in Lyon, if I were as well, I don't wear skirts, but a short.. just a short. I know that I will have some… I don't know the word.. well I can't wear what I want in Lyon. I always was thinking about oh, what's going people say, because I'm wearing wearing a short or a skirt? Because they are crazy. They are not open minded and if a girl has a short, it's means that she wants for example sex. Lyon is a big city, but it's like…. it will be the same in Paris. There is types of people of course, but in Lyon it was very difficult sometime because I go.. I will were short and I know that I will have some words on the streets and everything. When I have insults of some people, it was from one community, but you don't have that in Toronto. I can wear what I want. I can make up as I want, I can go to city in a bikini if I want, I will not have any insults or remarks. If you do that in France, Oh my God. Do you know scum? Like that community? That's it was very strange because sometimes you go in a place and you will not expect you to have some insults and you do. So, if at my parents home, it's a small city, so it was not all the time, just sometimes. But in big city if you go to some place, you know that you are not so safe. I really feel safe here. So for example, I go to a party for And if I have to take the subway at midnight, I was uncomfortable and I was always check behind me. I have to wear my air pods. But without music just to show that people that I can't listen, but actually I listen if something happened. In Toronto, I just came at midnight Thursday, and I feel really safe. No they don’t. May be they want because maybe they miss me. But especially my mom, because I'm very close to my mom. But if my mom knows that I'm up here and if everything is going well, she will never ask me to come back. I have news for all my family maybe every day because we have a group on WhatsApp and it's really easy now with the technology. So it was not like years ago, but they are coming just to visit me to to see how I live, where I live, where I work, and how is the city just to discover my new life. But they are really happy for me so they will not ask me to come back home.

M: Do you give immigration advice to any of your friends or community? Did anybody ask you how you did it?

B: About my working holiday visa? Yes. So the French people of my school especially, and one of the friend of me, because she wants to leave France too, but she want to go to Montreal, but I just explained to her like you have to make a subscription online, you have to pay this. And you can't. You can't find a job before, its only if you're lucky, but it's easier when you are here. And some people like school asked me, How did I get a job and how is the life in Toronto and how I feel. So I give them some advice as they want to come. But first, they have to get the visa in the first place and finish school. just sometime when on Facebook, some people ask if I have the answer, or we tell, but I don't go specially on a group or on a website to give advice. Just if I see on my page on Facebook, if people are asking for some stuff I will say. But not specially.

M: And in terms of like other types of assistance that was available to you when you came here, did you use any sort of community organization or religious organization or like volunteering organization help? They did, did that play a part?

B: No, because I did a lot of stuff before arriving in Toronto. Like for my work, for all my insurance depot mine and receive everything was done before arriving here. For example for my bank of my phone, my mobile phone or something. I did everything on my own. And my boss told me if you need help, you can just ask me. So no I did it all alone.

M: Okay and insurance did you have to pay for insurance?

B: No, it's only my insurance for my work. And for my medical insurance, I keep my French insurance if something happen, and I have to, yes, I have to pay one but it's with my working holiday visa. Oh right, I have to add that. And it's insurance and this insurance is a partner with Pvtiste. Yeah, there was lot of insurance you have to choose between what you're supposed to need. And I took this one because a lot of people take this one and it was better for what I suppose visit here and it was 800 euros for two years. And for exam Oh, I also like this one because if I only stay one years, they reimburse me. But if I took another one you pay more expensive and they didn’t reimburse. And you don't take for two years your insurance, when you arrive on Canada, they didn't give you your visa for two years. Only one year. So you have to get for two years. Then if you only want to stay for one year, you can ask your insurance to return the money back.

M: In terms of your professional networks Tell me like are you friends with people who work? How was the work environment? Are you like how are you finding the professional?

B: I felt really good. But actually, I don't… I work in 2 clinics. One clinic I see is there is there is maybe eight rooms… there is naturopath, massage therapists, acupuncturist, psycho therapies. But if I have a lot of patient and if they have lot of patients, I don't see anyone. I just cross them in the clinic but that's all but everyone is really kind. Sometime we make some after work plans together and the evironment is very good and peaceful and I feel really comfortable. The first time I arrived, my boss said, Okay, we're going to do some shop. I want you to feel comfortable in your room. So we have bought some pictures put on the wall. And I said, Wow it will never appear in France. No. So it was really I feel really comfortable and at my ease. And it's the same in the other. And if I have patient most of the time, I see only my patient. Sometimes I go see my boss if she's not working. But I'm really good and at my ease in the two clinics.

M: And would you move anywhere else? Like would you migrate anywhere now from here like I know that you're maybe in the long run and you do love Spain? Yeah, but that was the that was the other place that you would like to go to?

B: To move and to work there? maybe Netherlands? because I got family in Netherlands and some friends, but I don't speak Dutch but speaking English, so I suppose that my English will be better in few months. So it's not gonna be a problem and ready open minded I goes a lot there…well, not a lot of time but sometimes and people are really kind. And I know that I can feel comfortable there. Except Netherland, in Spain. if I can work in Australia, why not. And for Australia, if I can’t work as an osteopath, maybe I can do something else. Yes. It's not a problem for me to try anything else and maybe just a break of six months or one year to discover something else, to discover another country and a new job, I think still in the care of people but something else. Australia, Netherlands, Spain.

M: Okay, and tell me about your future plans like what's the next steps?

B: Good question. It's only day after day for me. I don't have any pressure about staying or leaving. I just enjoy the moment. I don't want to tell myself Oh, you have to stay two years because your visa is for two years. As a beginning, I think I would put lot of pressure on myself and say, Oh, you have your visa. Some people are still waiting for one. You have to stay two years, and I was ready stressed for that. And now I say okay, you have work. You have an apartment. Everything is going well. If she wants your permanent resident, you can ask in one year and I will see what is going on. So, I can't say really what I will do in one year, maybe I will be still in Canada, maybe not.

M: So with the permanent residents, have you looked at the requirements of that at all?

B: No, I just got some question of French people who are the permanent residence. The only thing I know is sometimes very long to get one sometime it's short. And it's not regarding your work or your age or anything. It just about being lucky. So some people need one year to get ones some of those, It was only three months. And I know that it's a little expensive, but it's only stuff I know.