

## Artistic Statement

# Journey North: A mosaic of newcomer experiences of belonging and Integration

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For many newcomers, landing in Calgary is their first step to a new life in Canada. Whether they are escaping conflict (refugee), finding a new job (skilled worker), or are about to begin studying (international student), they all share one thing in common: that is the desire to belong and integrate into Canadian society. For this creative work, I gathered both negative and positive experiences (general themes) newcomers face in Canada that impact their sense of belonging and integration as a young professional in their local community (Calgary) - from both literature and my personal experiences engaging with the community. I combined both the negative and the positive into a silhouette of a newcomer entering Canada (symbolically represented by the flag in the background) to portray the duality and the cost of being a landed immigrant, where a newcomer must face both realities while simultaneously working towards a sense of belonging and functioning as a young professional. I designed it in such a way that although both positive and negative experiences await a newcomer, it appears that many times, the negatives outweigh the positives; yet this is contrasted by the upward look of the silhouette, which signifies the resilience and perseverance newcomers have in calling Canada their new home.