

# All About the Treaty People in My Community

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My name is Dima Dutchak, and I'm proud to be a new Canadian; a new Ukrainian Canadian! My story of becoming a proud Canadian is a story filled with excitement, adventure, and new beginnings. It's a story that began on March 1, 1891 when my family and I boarded a steamship in Odessa, Ukraine. We travelled with twenty other Ukrainian families bound for the same prairie destination. After six long weeks of sea travel and sea sickness we arrived in Canada; Montreal to be exact.

We were all exhausted from the long journey, yet unbelievably the journey was far from over. As soon as we stepped off the steamship we boarded a train and travelled by rail for a solid week to our next stop; the prairies. Not surprisingly, we were all happy and excited when we finally reached the prairies.

Although we reached the prairies, our journey was not quite over. We were left with one final task and that was locating and reaching our homesteads. Fortunately, there was one Ukrainian family in our group who owned a compass, which guided us to our final destination on the prairies. Reaching this final destination was difficult to say the least. Trekking for miles upon miles across the prairie and its sometimes tough terrain was not easy, especially when carrying heavy trunks filled with family possessions.

