“Why We Came and Why We Stayed” encapsulates the inspiration for this research project into the immigrant process. Visual anthropology methods are used to explore the process of becoming Canadian through the stories of my family as they transform from immigrants into “Canadians.” Research was conducted through filmed interviews resulting in an ethnographic film to be screened following the Spring 2018 Anthropology Student Forum on Wednesday, April 18th.

This research explores the process of immigration and naturalization in becoming a Canadian. It answers the question of how immigration and naturalization can affect the process of identity building for immigrants, and specifically how my family members were affected through their own experience with immigration and naturalization.

What this research accomplishes is the creation of a dialogue surrounding immigration and identity creation through the telling of personal life stories.

In 1967, Hans and Cora Klardie with their two young children, Inta and Ellen, packed up their lives and left behind everything familiar to them in Holland to immigrate to Canada. Since immigration their family has grown, Mara was born two years after their arrival, a couple son-in-laws were added later, and eventually six grandchildren.

I am one of the six grandchildren, and this is my family. Hans is my Opa. Cora is my Oma. Inta and Mara are my Aunts. Ellen is my Mother.

- Ellen Holmes

“Why We Came and Why We Stayed: One Families Tale of Immigration from Holland to Canada”

Danielle Holmes
Anth 492: Senior Project
Department of Anthropology

“Holland is a very nice country to visit and to come from, not to live... This is home, this is home, and there's no doubt about it.”

-Hans on Canada

There were things that made me different that I didn't recognize at the time we were Dutch, it was just who I was. I never actually said 'Ok, this is the Dutch me, and this is the Canadian me' it was just, 'This is me'”

- Ellen

“I think for that whole generation after us, I think it is a happy choice what we made.”

-Hans

Rupi Kaur, Milk & Honey.

Quote is transcribed from the film “Why We Came and Why We Stayed: One Families Tale of Immigration from Holland to Canada”

Acknowledgements
Special thanks to my Professor and Research Supervisor, Dr. Marie Hopwood for her continued support and guidance throughout this project. Thank you to my family/research participants; Hans Klardie, Cora Klardie, Ellen Holmes, and Mara Klardie for their patience and trust.

This project was approved by the Research Ethics Board of Vancouver Island University in January of 2018.

Work Cited