

The canadian dream

OF A SIMPLE LIFE

BY ROMAIN TELLIEZ

Adeline and Florian were not unhappy in France. This young couple, she 28 and he 30 years old, lived in Commercy, in the department of Meuse. They lived close to their family and both had jobs. Adeline is a seamstress and Florian is an agricultural mechanic. They both say they loved their jobs. However, things had crept into their daily lives that made them feel like they were “going in circles.”

They’ve been in Winnipeg for a few months and they’re hosting us in their barely furnished apartment. Just the basics, a table, a bed and a plant named Brenda.

Adeline then says a little more about the reasons for their departure. “I loved my job, in France, I made custom wedding dresses. But I felt that we were both a little locked in our jobs without any room for meaningful growth.”

It is this lack of professional development that pushed Adeline and Florian to start thinking about their future in France. While he admits that he “simply wanted a change,” Adeline adds: “I invested a lot of time and energy in this job, but I don’t think I would ever have gotten a raise, I would have been making minimum wage all my life.”

Adeline and Florian were not unhappy, but they were probably a little tired of the lack of recognition in their professional lives. “People are always surprised by my studies. They can’t imagine that to become a seamstress, I got a degree in fashion design. My profession has no value in France. And then I didn’t really believe my boss’s assurances telling me not to worry and that everything would turn out well.”





photo: Marta Guerrero

FLORIAN ET ADELINE PIERSON

Finally, the seamstress decided not to heed her boss's words and she, the dressmaker, resolved to leave. She contemplated the journey that awaited her.

Above all, they were looking for a place where they could "easily find work." Adeline adds that this was a determining factor in their final choice of country.

Their final choice was Canada, with the impression that here, "Manual work is better recognized and, moreover, here you can work overtime, it's less taxed!"

Then, step by step, they began the process of applying for permanent residence to come to Manitoba, find work and eventually start a family. With great care and diligence, they first went to the Destination Canada trade show, then took the exploratory tour and finally started building their file.

Adeline and Florian arrived in Manitoba unemployed, but thanks to CDEM's programs they felt they had the accompaniment and help they needed. They both quickly found an internship in their respective fields. For five weeks, they take part in the Destination Emploi program, which provides a subsidy to employers who take on interns, with the goal of encouraging employers to hire them. Florian is doing his internship at Enns Brothers. The farm equipment company hires him and generously gives him all of the subsidy money so that he can buy his own tools.

Cutting off and resuming one's life in another country is not an easy thing to do. "It's an investment of time, money and energy," says Adeline. "Upon arrival, there are a lot of expenses: car, tools, equipment, furniture, etc."

Adeline and Florian have managed to escape their little everyday worries in France and they aspire only to a simple life here. "For the moment, it's positive, I work good hours, the city is accessible. We have decent salaries and good working conditions. We discover new things every day. We learn English, one word at a time. We don't make big speeches. We just don't want to feel like immigrants all our lives, we want to blend in, to know what's going on around us."

The young couple thus learns to forge new bonds. They sneak into life having learned from their trade that simplicity is the greatest sophistication. ▀