

## Injera VS Burgers & more from the YIA program

Rose-Eva (hosting):

Hello and welcome to Unheard Youth Voices. We are a podcast created at the Centre for Race and Culture. We're focusing on newcomer youth voices all across Canada, and we're listening to they have to say about identity, migration and belonging. I'm your host Rose-Eva Forgues-Jenkins.

This episode is entitled "Injera versus Burgers and other newcomer conversations". The title comes from the conversation between Mark and Oundal that we heard at the beginning of the show. The line "injera versus burgers" stuck out to me, because it felt like it summed up a lot of the conversations you're about to hear in this episode. We recorded these conversations between newcomer youth at the youth in Arts program in Toronto. We're going to hear all about the different aspects of these youth's lives in their conversations: what living in Toronto is like for them, what they aspire to be in the future, and who their favourite celebrity crush is. We're also going to learn about what life was like before these youth moved to Canada – and how it's different to life in Canada now.

Welcome to Injera versus burgers, and other newcomer conversations on the Unheard Youth podcast. We'll hear more from Mark, Oundal and others from the Youth in Arts Program later on in the show. But first a bit about our choice to go to Toronto.

Talking to folks who live in Toronto was really important for us because not only is it the largest city in Canada, but it's one of the most multicultural cities in the world. The 2016 census shows that 47% of people living in Toronto were born outside of Canada, and 52% of folks living in the city identify as a visible minority

So we know that Toronto is diverse – but what does this diversity look and feel like for folks living in the city? What kind of city are youth experiencing now, and what kind of Toronto will they continue to inherit?

To answer these questions, I took a trip to Toronto and visited the Youth in Arts Program. Here's a bit more about the program taken from the description on their website: "Youth in Arts" – is an after school arts based program for refugees and newcomer youth ages 12-24. This program's objective is to establish community connections through planned weekly activities, promote cross-cultural integration, establish positive peer relationships, enhance knowledge of Canadian history and strengthen cultural diversity. The program is facilitated by Youth Program coordinator Nour Abu-Shabaan.

Here to tell us more, we have Nour and Hannan, one of the youth who regularly attends program. Here is their conversation about the Youth in Arts program

Hannan: Hi. I'm here today with Nour and my name is Hannan and I'm going to be interviewing her about CultureLink.

Nour: Thanks for interviewing me.

Hannan: So, Nour, how long have you been working here?

Nour: I'm about to hit my two years in November.

Hannan: What kind of programs do you teach?

Nour: So, I don't teach any programs. I facilitate them. But the programs that I have done in the past, right now I'm only focusing on Youth and Arts, which you're in, and before, I did something called YRC, which is Youth Recreational Club. So that was before, for all youth, racialized, marginalized, no matter where they're from or they're status. But now I specialize in newcomer youth. Like you!

Hannan: Do you want to change anything about CultureLink?

Nour: I want it to be something bigger. So, I want CultureLink to be something that helps not just newcomers but like everyone in the community. Since it's a charity organization. So, I think it's the one thing I would change, but other than that, I feel that we did such a good job on making such an inclusive, non-discriminatory environment so that whenever youth or anyone comes in here, they don't feel judged no matter what their status is or gender, anything like that. No matter where they're from. So, I think we did such a good job on that. I just want it to be something bigger that hits a whole different audience of people in Toronto. Because I feel like Toronto's so big, it needs more help.

Hannan: Do you think that like the group's got bigger since you've been here or smaller?

Nour: When I first started, there was only two kids in the program. And now there's above 86 people in this program, so it's a really big job. And on average we always have like at least eleven people showing up to the program. Like a whole crew rolling in here at once. It goes like quiet, quiet, quiet then suddenly 3:30 hits and it's like a nation of kids coming in, so that's good. Yeah, it just grew a lot and just it's crazy to see like different ages come through. So, like if I have Grade 11 and 12s here, like a year later they all graduate. I have like a new wave of kids that come in so it's so interesting. And I'm so excited to see you guys grow up. Yeah, it scares me, you guys are growing up so fast.

Hannan: How do you think people found out about CultureLink?

Nour: I was on every social media base outlet. So I was on Instagram, Snapshot, and Facebook and everything, and I made sure that everyone could know about this program.

Hannan: That's all the questions I have for today. Thank you.

Nour: Okay, my turn to ask you questions. What's your full name?

Hannan: Hannan -----

Nour: What grade are you in?

Hannan: Eleven.

Nour: What do you want to do once you finish Grade 12?

Hannan: I want to become a Pediatric Nurse.

Nour: What do you have to do to – do you have to go to University or college or what?

Hannan: You have to go to University.

Nour: What University do you want to go to?

Hannan: As of now, probably Ryerson.

Nour: Yay!!! That's where I go! Okay, were you born in Canada?

Hannan: Yes.

Nour: And where are you from originally?

Hannan: My background is Ethiopia.

Nour: Were your parents born in Canada?

Hannan: No, my parents were born in Ethiopia.

Nour: When did they come to Canada? What year?

Hannan: They came in 1999.

Nour: Do you have a lot of newcomer friends?

Hannan: Yes.

Nour: Do you think that you help them out a lot or have you previously helped them out a lot through any barriers that they had when they first came?

Hannan: I think I helped them out in the past. Like if they ever needed help like writing something on their phone or spelling something, I would help them out.

Nour: That's so nice! Awwhh. Okay, so you have a lot of newcomer friends and you see them in school, right?

Hannan: Yeah.

Nour: When you see them in school, what kind of barriers do you think they go through when they first got to Canada?

Hannan: They feel like they don't fit in yet or like they feel different compared to everyone else that was already here.

Nour: So, they felt like they wouldn't fit in. Do you think that they – for example, have you ever been back home, to visit back home?

Hannan: Yeah.

Nour: When you went back home, did you feel like you fit in?

Hannan: No, not really. Because like I feel like since I was like born here it was different for me there.

Nour: So, you feel like a newcomer when you go back to your parents' home country?

Hannan: Yes.

Nour: Wow. Yeah. That's kind of the same with me. Do you have any interesting stories about you or your friends which something you've experienced as non-Canadians in the country? So for example *[name redacted]* one time he experienced something bad on the TCC because of his skin color. *[name redacted]* one time because he didn't speak English well. So, have you or someone in your crew ever experienced something that was positive or negative?

Hannan: Yes, like I had a friend who went to a job interview and they like, it was a Portuguese bakery, but like she was black and everyone else that worked there was Portuguese and when she went to the interview like the lady was like why didn't you decide to work at that black restaurant beside instead of...

Nour: Ahhh. They just told them like...

Hannan: Yes, she's like, why didn't you try working there? She's like, since you're not Portuguese, we can't really hire you.

Nour: Ahhh!

Hannan: And you don't even speak the language. She's like, but the best we can do is make you clean the place up.

Nour: They experienced this in Toronto. Is this a newcomer person?

Hannan: It is a newcomer, but she came here like maybe seven, eight years ago.

Nour: That's terrible. Did she do anything about that? Or like tell anyone?

Hannan: She just told the lady, like, sorry, I'd rather like not work here. Like I don't want to do any work here and then she just left. But like yeah, she told her family and stuff and they just told her to not go there.

Nour: That's ridiculous. Oh, my god. So, kind of scares me you guys have been through stuff like this. I don't know what else to ask you. I'm so like terrified. Have you guys ever joined any other program other than Youth in Arts? And like collectively gone together?

Hannan: No.

Nour: *[laughs]* Okay. And do you like Youth in Arts?

Hannan: Yes.

Nour: What do you like about Youth in Arts?

Hannan: Everyone here, like I feel everyone's like nice and...

Nour: Would you have previously done art-based activities on your own if it weren't for Youth in Arts?

Hannan: No, not really. Like if it wasn't for like coming here, I wouldn't really be doing this kind of stuff.

Nour: Really?

Rose-Eva hosting: You just heard Hannan and Nour's conversation about the Youth in Arts program. For the next section of the podcast, we're going to hear more conversations that Nour had with the youth.

Nour: Hello, and welcome to our interview about immigration and identity. Today we have Hannan, Diamond, and Diana. So, first, I'm going to start with Diamond. Where are you from?

Diamond: I am originally from Eritrea.

Nour: Were you born in Eritrea?

Diamond: Yes, I was.

Nour: Hannan, where were you born?

Hannan: Canada.

Nour: Diana?

Diana: I was born in Eritrea.

Nour: How was your experience coming to Canada?

Diamond: I was born in Eritrea and then I moved to Uganda, which is in Africa but another country. And then I spent there like five to six years and then I came to Canada.

Nour: That's so cool! And how was your experience, Diana, when you came to Canada?

Diana: Okay, basically, I was born in Eritrea. From Eritrea I went to Sudan. It was like a long trip but it was live eleven months, then I went to Israel. I was there for ten to nine years, then I came to Israel – to Canada.

Nour: So, you came directly from Israel to Canada. So you came to Canada as Israel refugee?

Diana: Yes, you can say that, yeah.

Nour: Do you like Canada more than Israel?

Diana: At the beginning, I didn't like it because I had a little accent more than now and it was hard to find friends. I had one friend and basically, she was my friend until next year. So, the next year, I started speaking more English and more knowing people. Yeah, but basically, I like Israel – I mean, Canada more than Israel because they treat you better than Israel. Yeah.

Nour: How did they treat you in Israel?

Diana: So when I went to school there, I been learning the same subject, the same thing, the same years, until Grade 5. More even – even in Grade 5, I learned the same thing. Then, there was one school that there is like – it's a black school. Everybody from all the countries. There is maybe five to ten kids they're originally Israel – Israeli kids, yeah.

Nour: So you weren't in the same class as everyone else?

Diana: Basically, it's fine when somebody treat you the same thing as other kids because you know that you actually exist in the class. Because when we did homework, the teacher won't call my name. She would think that I didn't do it.

Nour: So, do you like Canada now? Because you told me that before in the beginning, you didn't like it.

Diana: Now I like it. I know more English and I know more people. And I basically love this country because they help me in things that I need and help me in school and there's a program that I go to every Tuesday and Thursday. *[chuckles]*

Nour: That's awesome! The youth worker must be really cool.

Diana: Yeah. It is.

Nour: What grade are you all in now?

Diamond: I'm Grade 9.

Diana: I completed Grade 10. I'm going to be in Grade 11.

Hannan: I'm in Grade 11.

Diamond: I'm in Grade 10, yeah?

Nour: Hannan, were you born in Canada?

Hannan: Yes.

Nour: Are your parents born here?

Hannan: No, my parents were born in Ethiopia.

Nour: When did your parents come to Canada?

Hannan: In 1995, I think.

Nour: How is it like being born Canadian?

Hannan: It's pretty good.

Nour: Are you friends with a lot of newcomers?

Hannan: Yes, like a lot of my friends are people that are newcomers. That weren't born here.

Nour: How did you meet all your newcomer friends?

Hannan: It was mostly through school. Or like this program that I go on Tuesdays and Thursday. CultureLink.

Nour: Nice! Do you ever feel there's a difference between you and other Canadian kids?

Hannan: No. I think like everyone should be treated the same.

Nour: Have you experienced anything that made you feel different?

Hannan: Not me, personally. But I felt like before, kids that were ESL students were treated differently compared to how we were treated.

Nour: How do you think they were treated differently?

Hannan: A school that I used to go to, they made kids like learn the ABC when they already knew it and stuff. Like they'd make them feel really young when like that's not what they should be learning. Like even though they already knew it, they would take them back and teach it to them all over again.

Nour: So, they would send youth that were your age back?

Hannan: Yeah, they would make them like learn what kindergartens or like Grade Ones would learn.

Nour: Even though they already knew that information?

Hannan: Yeah, they already knew it. But they were like since you're a newcomer, you still have to go back and learn that.

Nour: So, Diamond and Diana, did you guys ever have to learn something you already knew when you came to Canada?

Diamond: Yes, so when I came from Eritrea to Uganda, I was in Grade 5 but then I returned to Grade 4, that was like one year. And then, when I came here, I was supposed to be in – well, I'm still in Grade 10 will be mixed but like in the highest classes that is mixed for Grade 9 and Grade 10, so I was pushed back one year. But I'm still like, you know, moving forward, yeah, so...

Nour: And did you ever experience being pushed back even though you knew more?

Diana: So, when I learned English already in Israel, like ABCD and things, so, when I came to Canada, I went in LIP program. It's a program for newcomers. So, I would still learn the same thing. Same math, same English. Same thing.

Nour: Was there any type of test you had to do when you first came to Canada?

Diamond: Yes. I had to do a test in math and English for like to get into for my home school or something, yeah, I had to do that. But it wasn't, you know, it wasn't hard. Because like I already knew English from back Eritrea, too. So...

Nour: What about you, Diana?

Diana: No, I didn't have to take because when I came to Canada, I was Grade 7 and before the high school you don't take, I think. I didn't take. But my sister did take because she, the first year she

came here, she had to be in high school because she was already in Grade 9. She had to take but I didn't.

[Mark and Oundal's conversation]

Nour: Mark, so where are your parents from?

Mark: Okay, so that's a good question. My mom's Ethiopian and my father's Jamaican.

Nour: And where were you born?

Mark: I was born in Jamaica. Yeah. And then I grew up in Ethiopia.

Nour: And when did you come to Canada?

Mark: I came to this country two years ago.

Nour: Okay, cool. And do you like Canada?

Mark: *[laughs]* Of course! Of course!

Nour: You don't have to say for sure that you...

Mark: No, it makes me sad because there was so much fighting in my country and when I came here, it was so amazing. Really, like...

Nour: That's good.

Mark: Yeah, so much gang-related stuff back home, and then when I come here, white people everywhere, so I feel like I'm at home.

Nour: *[laughs]*

Mark: Yeah. I like it in Canada. A lot.

Nour: Do you have siblings?

Mark: Yes, I have two siblings.

Nour: Are they older or younger?

Mark: One's younger, one's older.

Nour: Was the younger one born here?

Mark: Yes, she was. She was.

Nour: She was born here?

Mark: Yes.

Nour: Do you see any differences between you and her?

Mark: Differences?

Nour: Of how you're treated when you're in Canada.

Mark: Not many. We get treated the same.

Nour: Do you guys go to the same school?

Mark: We did. She left my school.

Nour: Where does she go now?

Mark: Now she goes to Oakwood.

Nour: Is it a nicer school or what?

Mark: Is it a nicer school? It's a better school for her and her academic studies so she went there. Okay, how about you, Mr. Oundal?

Oundal: What was the question?

Mark: Are you going to go back and visit your country?

Oundal: Yeah, of course, I'm going next year to visit my family, you know.

Mark: Oh, really? That's what you say every year?

Oundal: *[laughs]*

Mark: That's what you say every year, Oundal.

Oundal: Yeah, but for sure, next year I'm going.

Mark: Okay.

Oundal: To visit my family.

Mark: I'm going to hopefully, for sure, believe you.

Oundal: Yeah.

Mark: Okay.

Oundal: Okay.

Nour: I know. It's different. So different.

Oundal: Yeah, I don't have a story, trust...

Nour: No, but okay, so first of all, what's your name?

Oundal: So, my name is Oundal.

Nour: Okay, and where were you born?

Oundal: I was born in Ethiopia.

Nour: You were born in Ethiopia?

Oundal: Yeah.

Nour: Oh, and when did your parents come to Canada?

Oundal: My parents didn't come here. Only my mom, me and my sister just came. My dad just stayed there. So, we came here eight years ago and yeah, basically, yeah, it's only me, my sister, and my mom that came here. And my uncle was here for like a long time. It was like for four years he was here.

Nour: Oh, really?

Oundal: Yes, so he came here before us. He's the one who sponsored us, actually.

Nour: Oh, he sponsored you guys to come?

Oundal: Yes.

Nour: Okay. Do you ever – have you ever been back home?

Oundal: No. Since I came, no.

Nour: Really?

Oundal: No.

Nour: Do you want to go back?

Oundal: Yes. Well, I'm going like next year, so...

Nour: Are you excited?

Oundal: Yes, very excited.

Nour: What are you most excited about going back home?

Oundal: To meet my old friends, that's first. My family, actually. My school. I want to visit my school.

Nour: Ohhh.

Oundal: Yeah, that's basically it.

Nour: And how – like, so your dad's back home. Are you going to go see him, too?

Oundal: Yeah, of course.

Nour: Do you talk to him a lot?

Oundal: Yes. Every month I call him, we talk on the phone.

Nour: How long are you going to stay?

Oundal: Just the summer. I'm just planning to finish my schoolwork here.

Nour: So, how long are you staying back home for?

Oundal: Like just two months.

Nour: Just two months. Oh.

Oundal: Yeah, like the summer.

Nour: That's a long time.

Oundal: Yes.

Nour: Okay. That's cool. Just for the summer. But next year.

Oundal: Yeah.

Nour: And it's for sure?

Oundal: Next – yes, for sure.

Nour: That's so exciting!

Oundal: Yeah, I'm pretty excited.

Nour: Would you ever move back home?

Oundal: Oh, not right now, but when I grow up, for sure, I want to go back. I want to live there for the rest of my life.

Nour: Really?

Oundal: Yes, because it's so nice. It's a different when you come to Canada like 'cause everything changes. Like even the weather. I don't like the weather. It's too cold.

Nour: *[laughs]* Yeah.

Oundal: Yeah, um, yeah, everything is so nice there. I don't know why.

Nour: Yeah, everything's just easier. Life is easier there.

Oundal: Yeah.

Nour: Simpler. But what do you like about Canada the most?

Oundal: The people, I guess. They're really nice, I guess. Like they're welcoming. Like when I first came here a lot of white people like well, knew my uncle because he was friends with them and they were really nice to me. Like they're the one who taught me English like most of it. Like I wasn't like this when I came here and they're actually the one who taught me English. I didn't go at school for like one year when I came here and then in Grade...

Nour: Mm-hmm. You took one year off, like when you came here?

Oundal: Yes.

Nour: You had to – okay.

Oundal: Yeah. And then after one year I just went to Grade 6. I didn't learn Grade 5. I skipped Grade 5.

Nour: Oh! Wow.

Oundal: Yeah. When I was in Ethiopia, I was in Grade 4. I came here, I skipped one year, so I was in Grade 6.

Nour: No way!

Oundal: Yes.

Nour: Okay.

Oundal: So, I started in Grade 6, basically.

Nour: You skipped Grade 6, so you went – okay, and now what grade are you in?

Oundal: Eleven. I'm in Grade Eleven.

Nour: Oh, my god. What do you want to do after Grade Twelve?

Oundal: Ah. College. College.

Nour: What do you want to go into?

Oundal: Like piloting. I like piloting.

Nour: No! That's so exciting! That's amazing.

Oundal: Yeah. I like driving planes, I guess.

Nour: Wow, it's so amazing to see you guys want to grow. So after you finish that, you would go back home.

Oundal: Yes.

Nour: To Ethiopia?

Oundal: Yeah, and eventually work there.

Nour: You would want to work there as a pilot?

Oundal: Yes.

Nour: That's awesome. So, what would you – what's the difference the most, other than weather um between Canada and Ethiopia, back home? What draws you back home? The most?

Oundal: Mmmm. I have a lot of family back home. It's just, here, it's just my uncle, my sister, my mom and me. Like this is like a lot of families back home that I want to meet and see. So yeah. The food. I like the food, too.

Nour: You don't like Canadian food?

Oundal: Well, it's good but like not as Ethiopian food.

Mark: What?

Rose-Eva hosting: We left off the end of that conversation between with Oundal talking about Ethiopian food versus “Canadian food”. This topic was quite controversial sparked a discussion in the room about cultural foods, with many different voices getting involved. You’ll hear from Mark, who’s story we heard earlier, and you’ll recognize the conversation that we got the title for this show from “Injera Versus Burgers”. Enjoy this discussion about different cultural foods, and the idea of what “Canadian food” means.

Oundal: Injera versus what? Like burgers, mainly? Really? Come on.

Mark: What are you talking about? Like what kind of Ethiopian food? I don’t know, what kind of Canadian food?

Oundal: Like a regular, like daily food that you eat in Canada and like...

Mark: Okay, what is that? Like burgers and stuff?

Oundal: Well, you don’t eat burgers every day in Canada.

Mark: So, what is a regular Canadian dish that we usually eat? I’m interested.

Oundal: I don’t know. You tell me.

Mark: Because you Ethiopians eat the same thing every day.

Oundal: Yeah, but like well...

Mark: With different spices, okay, but they eat the same bread. They rip a piece of it and then they eat it, so what’s interesting...

Unknown Voice 1: Huh. Hey, wait were recording, what’s popping?

Unknown Voice 2: Fam, Canadian food is really bad like I can’t imagine, I would never eat it. Okay, go ahead.

Mark: Good job, guys. Oundal, I’m happy that you’re proud of your food and yeah, I respect it. Because I’m half Ethiopian too so I have to accept it. It’s healthier. Don’t get me twisted like yeah, it’s way healthier than Canadian food.

Oundal: What’s your favorite food in Ethiopia?

Mark: I don’t know. I like Jamaican food. I like Jamaican cuisine.

Oundal: Like what? What’s one...?

Mark: Like the normal jerk chicken, rice and peas, coleslaw, yeah, that's healthy.

Oundal: Okay, okay.

Mark: Just kidding, it's not healthy...

Nour: What exactly is Canadian food to you guys? Because you guys seem to hate something specific. And I want to know what it is.

Unknown Voice 2: Poutine.

Mark: What?

Oundal: Poutine. Like when you come here like the taste is different, right? It's not like...

Nour: Like spices, you mean?

Oundal: The spices, yeah.

Rose-Eva hosting: Next up, we have a conversation between Sushi and Miriam. What's really wonderful about the next segment is that Sushi was responsible for the sound editing that you're going to head. Normally, as the producer I do most of the editing on my own afterwards. But Sushi and Miriam had some extra time after their interview, so I had the chance to upload their conversation, and look at the editing program with them. Sushi also chose the music that you're about to listen to. The artist is Vincent Augustus and the track is called Outline

Miriam: Hi, this is Miriam from Culturelink at Jane and Dundas street West. I'm here with my friend Sushi. Sushi, can you please tell us your full name?

Sushi: My full name is Sushi -----

Miriam: Thank you for being here today and giving us your time to share whatever question I'm going to say today. Can you tell me when you came to Canada, how old you are? You know, your introduction to the whole world who is listening right now.

Sushi: So basically, I came here a year ago and two months. I am 14 years old. I'm turning 15 this month. And the way I look at Canada in general is like it's a really nice place. You have opportunities to do whatever you want no matter how old are you. People are actually nice. Yeah, it's a really nice place to be in. That's a good thing to say.

Miriam: Which school do you go? Which grade are you right now?

Sushi: I go to Central Toronto Academy, CTA. And I'm Grade 9.

Miriam: So next year you're going to Grade 10, right? So, how do you like the summer so far? It's good weather, right?

Sushi: It is except for that time it was raining and the temperature was 34, like I didn't understand that, like what is that?

Miriam: I have this question for you. What's your favorite color and then your favorite celebrity? Even if you have a crush on the celebrity.

Sushi: My favorite color is black. My celebrity crush is – Cole Sprouse. He is just – he is like the perfect guy, you know. He's a good actor. He's handsome. Like yeah.

Miriam: That's good. I actually don't know him but I'll search out and see what he looks like. I'm curious. So how are you so far? Like anything you want to say to people?

Sushi: Right now I'm fine. I can't say that I'm not going through things, like everybody goes through things, especially me because it was hard for me to move from Lebanon to here. I'm actually Syrian but I lived in Lebanon my whole life so yeah. And it was hard for me to leave that place. I grew up there. I spent 14 years in there and all of a sudden I just came to Canada. And the day I came, I didn't see my friends at the airport. My flight was at 4:20 a.m. So yeah and the sad part is I feel like they're the most people who can understand me because I've been with those people since Kindergarten and we were always together. We visited each other a lot. We went out in the summer. But now I'm like – I met some friends here but you know, it doesn't feel the same with everyone. Especially that you grew up with them and then all of a sudden you left them and you didn't have a choice.

Miriam: Yes, they get you. They get you more, yeah.

Sushi: Yeah.

Miriam: But what would you do if you get a chance to go back to your country?

Sushi: I would run back there like...

Miriam: Just for your friends or...?

Sushi: For everything. For the – for sitting in the airplane, so comfy. For seeing the really beautiful natural views for my people. Like you go on the street and then everybody says hi to you no matter, like if they know you, if they don't. They all speak your language, like I don't have a problem speaking to people here because I grew up like I knew English. So I don't have a problem talking to anyone but it feels better when like...

Miriam: When they speak your own...

Sushi: Yeah, when they speak your own language, you just pass in the street knowing that everybody speaks your language, everybody will understand what you're talking about. I want to go back

for the traditions. It's really nice traditions that they have. For that feeling that you get after Ramadan because I'm Muslim, after Ramadan there's Eid, it's three days. Like you get this feeling like it's just so exciting. Everybody's excited, you know, everybody's – you're going to see everybody. You go shopping. You just get these special feelings. You get money.

Miriam: Wow.

Sushi: Yeah, you get money from everybody *[laughs]* who visit, yeah, you get candies. I literally like when I go back to everything, it's like special to me.

Miriam: So my last question is, what do you want to be in Canada and what is your goal, no matter what happens to you in life?

Sushi: My goal is to make my parents proud 'cause when I grew up, I couldn't do anything to make them proud because we were going through a lot of things. So I didn't have a lot of opportunities to do something to make them proud. But now that I'm here, my first goal that I focus on is making them proud, no matter what should I do. No matter how long is it going to take. No matter how hard I have to try, I just want to do it 'cause I just want to see them happy and proud. I don't want to be the daughter that doesn't care about her parents. She just wants her own comfortable life. Like, I want to be comfortable in my life but at the same time, I want to make my parents proud. Because when I go back to thinking that how much time they spent on raising me and teaching me stuff that I have to...

Miriam: Face life, yeah.

Sushi: Yeah, to face in life and know about life, I just feel so bad I didn't do anything for them, so that's why I want to make them proud. They brought me to this life and I got to do something.

Miriam: Oh, so beautiful. So sweet of you. So thank you, everybody for listening today, and you've been with me, Miriam from CultureLink at Jane and Dundas West and we've been with Sushi. Thank you for your time and everything. Thank you, Sushi.

Sushi: Thank you for having me.

Miriam: Have a good day, everybody.

Sushi: Hi, guys, this is Sushi. Today I'll be interviewing my friend, Miriam. Miriam, what's your background?

Miriam: My background, I'm from Eritrea. I came out from my country when I was 12 years old, which is 2012. So, and from Eritrea I went to Uganda where I lived for five years and I came to Canada, which is a year now. So and I'm here, 18 years old.

Sushi: What was the reason you came to Canada?

Miriam: Actually, the really reason I know is for education. The first place I came out from my country was for better education because my dad was like really obsessed with education night and day and night, so he took us to Uganda because they have a good education system and the way they do it is so good. So I went to Uganda for education and now because it's Africa like my aunt who sponsored is here so I'm here for education.

Sushi: Did you want to come here at the first place or you didn't have a choice?

Miriam: We didn't have a choice. Well, actually, I wanted to go out from my country ever since I was like six years old because I always used to see movie or something so I really wanted to come out. But I really did not know what's the goal like what's the goal coming out because I was like so young. And when I was coming out from my country, I didn't know. So, like I had to follow my dad's –decisions like that, so...

Sushi: Miriam, I'm going to ask you a question. It's kind of silly because that's not our topic, but could you tell us your favorite color?

Miriam: Huh, okay, so my favorite color is purple. Yeah. I love purple so I'm like I don't know why, but I really love purple.

Sushi: I have one more question for you. If you got a chance to go back to your country, like no, I actually have two questions. Do you miss your people back in Uganda or Eritrea?

Miriam: Yes, yes, I absolutely do miss them a lot. Back home obviously, people who grew up with me, all the kids who grew up with me, unfortunately they're not there. Some of them I got to contact them like with social media but people who I loved there, yes, I do miss them so much because there's a lot of history. Ever since like so young and they grew up with them playing like with *[unclear]* or whatever and when you go to Uganda, I have a lot of friends. A lot, lots of good friends and I'm Eritrean and at the same time, I call myself Ugandan, too, because I got to mature to be strong, everything to be who I am right now, is one of the life I live in Uganda. So I miss them so much and I don't know. Miss them so much. I want to see them even...

Sushi: How was it coming to Canada? Was it like did you meet people immediately? Were they nice? Have you experienced racism? How was it in general?

Miriam: Coming to Canada was so exciting, like from back Uganda. Because like day and night like you could say, oh my god, when am I going to see Canada because I don't know. Like that's the way it is, not the way it is, but the way people feel like me. So, when I came to Canada, people are nice and my family are here. All came to see me. I got to see most of my family, even the family I've never seen, my relatives. And the people were nice, too. I got to know a lot of people. Except one day what happened in my job but like but it was okay, like didn't affect me but everything was so really good. And I'm one of the people who like to be in Canada.

Sushi: Do you want to tell us what happened in your job or it's something personal you don't want to talk about?

Miriam: Yeah, I don't want to talk about that.

Sushi: Okay, that's fine. Thank you so much, Miriam.

Rose-Eva hosting: That's it for this episode of the Unheard Youth podcast entitled Injera versus burgers and other newcomer conversations.

To me, the title means that even though a lot of the youth might prefer aspects of the places that they used to live, they're doing the best that they can with the opportunities in front of them. Some people might prefer injera and some might prefer burgers, but we're all sitting at the table eating together.

Everyone featured in this episode contributed an incredible amount of knowledge on what it means to be a newcomer in Toronto. I'm so grateful to everyone at the Youth in Arts program and wanted to give a big thank you to all the youth who participated for sharing their stories.

I also wanted to thank everyone that helped in the development of the episode of the podcast.

First off I wanted to thank Tiffany Pollock for coordinating the sessions that I had with the youth in arts program. Tiffany Pollock is a Postdoctoral Fellow at York University who acted as a cultural liaison between myself back in Edmonton, and the youth groups here in Toronto.

I also wanted to thank Rania El-Mugamar. Before the recordings took place, the youth attended a social justice themed workshop facilitated by Rania. Rania is a Sudanese Canadian, Artist, Arts Educator, Equity, Anti-oppression, Liberation and Meaningful Inclusion Educator & Consultant. Rania talked to the youth about the power of storytelling, and what it means to tell your story.

A big thank you to everyone that made this episode possible including Tiffany Pollock, Rania El Mugamar, Nour Abu-Shabaan and especially all the youth at Culturelink for all of their incredible work in the creation of this podcast. We would also like to thank our friends and partners at CJSR 88.5 FM and the Edmonton Community Foundation.

This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada. Ce Project a été rendu possible en partie grace au gouvernement du Canada. Thank you to Chivengi for providing the music featured in the Podcast. Now that you've heard from us, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out on social media! We can reach us on our facebook page at: Unheard Youth Voices Podcast. Our instagram is: Unheard\_youth\_podcast and our twitter is unheard\_youth. Please rate, review and subscribe!

To acknowledge the land that the recordings featured on this episode were created on Indigenous territory we wanted to share the message from to Tkaronto for all initiative. The city of Toronto recently released the "TKAronto for all" campaign where signs across the city have the following message: "I acknowledge the land I am standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the

Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.”

We also wanted to share a treaty acknowledgement from Ryerson University:

“Toronto is in the ‘Dish With One Spoon Territory’. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.”

The “Dish”, or sometimes it is called the “Bowl”, represents what is now southern Ontario, from the Great Lakes to Quebec and from Lake Simcoe into the United States. We all eat out of the Dish, all of us that share this territory, with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty, which includes taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with.”

The episode was produced by me, Rose-Eva Forgues-Jenkins. We produced this show at the Centre for Race and Culture in Edmonton, Alberta, Amiskwaciwaskahikan. The Centre for Race and Culture acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory, traditional homelands for many Indigenous peoples including Nehiyaw, Saulteaux, Niitsitapi, Metis, Dene, and Nakota. We pay our respects to the ancestors past and present who call this land home.