

## *My dreams about Canada*

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.*

*Marcel Proust*

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If somebody asks me what makes me happy and what gives me the feeling of living up to the full, I have an answer to this question – travelling. In my opinion, the most important thing in visiting different places is the sense of freedom and the understanding of the very moment when something new comes in your life becomes deep and permanent. For me travelling is not just sightseeing, it is the way of recognizing myself as a part of the big world with its magnificent diversification, with its beauty and originality.

My dreams about Canada have begun since my childhood. At that time it was not so perceived as I can do it now, it based on my emotions from seeing beautiful pictures of the majestic Canadian Rockies, unique Niagara Falls, and huge lakes, that have absorbed and keep the tranquility of Ages.

Now that I have grown up, I have acquired experience which helps me to recognize some really important things that make people's life special. I have observed drawbridges in Saint Petersburg, have climbed the astronomical clock in the Old Town Square in Prague, have dived on a coral reef in Red sea, have worked on the world biggest military base in Texas, have spent beautiful week in Miami, have walked in the Noble Prize castle courtyard in Stockholm, and have fed piranhas in the Aquarium in Helsinki. But it doesn't matter where I am at a certain moment, things that make me feel happy are constant, and this is my wish list to fulfill in Canada.

### 1. The art to make oneself understood

I am inclined to believe that the most exiting aspect of learning languages is the moment when person begins understanding idioms, set phrases, and words of realia that reflect the history, traditions, character of nations. For example, the Americans say "It takes two to tango", the Russian equivalent is "One man in the field is no warrior"; the French command "Serrer les rangs" (to close the ranks). To understand words is not similar to understanding thoughts. I have my heart set on going to Canada because I know that language can be more than just a communication tool if you can see its depth and beauty. Sometimes it takes years to master your skills and, of course, it is impossible without coming to the country, talking with its speakers, finding out things they care about, how people think and live. But in the end the invaluable talent and chance to understand and to be understood will be granted to you.



## 2. Showing my real self

The personal freedom extent is an important aspect of human happiness. Two years ago I came to The US and fell in love with the American ability to be free anywhere, ability to show one's personality without doubts and without risk of being "incorrect" or alien in the surroundings. I fell in love with the society that makes people feel welcome and comfortable in their lives. My dream about Canada is the dream about a desirable way of living and thinking, which can be applied in my country. Borders between countries can be overcome by planes and ships, in contrast with limits and restrictions which people build in their minds.

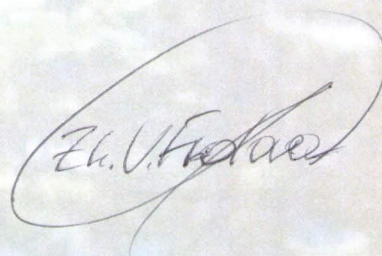
## 3. The opportunity to be better than I am today

World-known fact that Canada is famous for its highest educational standards and the international traditions makes this country attractive for me. But there are also some personal reasons. I am 23 years old and, although I have already finished school, got higher education and graduated from university with honor, I fully realized the benefits of learning just when I started my work career last year. Education is not just the knowledge of academic programs; it is a way of thinking, living, problem solving, and expanding horizons. These things combined with no marks and penalties generate the unique atmosphere to develop. I am proud of everything I have learned over the past year and I feel happy when I see some progress in challenging tasks, which were difficult for me at the first sight, I feel happy to know that today I am better than yesterday.

## 4. Leaving the comfort zone

There is a risk-taker who lives in everybody, voice in our minds that always asks: "What makes your life special? When did you have a real adventure last time?" I consider myself a person who has already experienced this feeling, which lies out of the comfort zone. Every time travelling is a source of finding something new about yourself. My dreams about Canada involve discovering new things that, finally, will help to understand myself too.

In conclusion, I would like to recall the famous words devoted to Neil Armstrong, who was the first to step onto the moon: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind". My step will be noticed just by my close people, but for me it will be a great event. The dream of a small person about Canada is a part of a big dream about happiness, because dreams make us better, move progress, create history. Wishes and goals of individuals form flagship ideas of the nation. A man travels the world over in search of what he needs, and returns home to find it (George Edward Moore)



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