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## media release

### **BELONG OR BUST: HOW DO IMMIGRANT KIDS FIT IN?**

**TVO explores the immigrant experience from a child's eyes in an interactive TV-web event, Sunday March 22 starting at 8 pm ET during the "Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?" week of programming**

Toronto, March 9, 2009 — Ontario is proudly Canada's most multicultural province with a population of 12 million, including people from 200 countries speaking as many as 130 languages. More than half of all newcomers to Canada make our province their home. What do kids, in particular, go through in order to integrate into a new country and community? How hard is it for them to adapt to foreign customs and surroundings, communicate with others, and establish a sense of belonging?

On Sunday March 22 starting at 8 pm, TVO examines the immigrant experience through a child's eyes in a special interactive event beginning with part one of the two-part documentary, *My New Home*. The film is followed by a live, interactive webcast discussion on *Your Voice* at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com) on the immigrant experience in Ontario. This event airs during "Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?," a week of premier documentaries, dramas and current affairs programs that explore a variety of viewpoints on the themes of culture and identity and our place in society.

***My New Home* – North American premiere**  
**Sundays March 22 and 29 at 8 pm ET**  
**2 / 50 minutes**  
**Directed by Daisy Asquith; produced by Ricochet Productions**

What's it like to start a new life in a country thousands of miles away from home? Master a language from scratch? Find friends in a sea of unfamiliar faces? In the documentary series, *My New Home*, three 11-year-olds are about to find out. Cameras will follow them over a five-year period as they begin new lives in Britain: Marshal from Zimbabwe, whose mother fled Mugabe's regime and is now living in Tyneside; Imran from Pakistan, who has come to live with his mother and stepfather in an established Muslim community in Peterborough; and Altnay from Kyrgyzstan, who arrives in Yorkshire to make a better life away from the instability in her home country.

Part one (Sunday March 22 at 8 pm) captures year one: the children's first experiences of their new homes, starting school and meeting other children. We also hear of the parents' concerns as their kids adapt to British life and values. Part two, airing the following Sunday, catches up with the kids a year later, at age 12, and explores what the kids have made of Britain – and what Britain has made of them – so far. Charting the kids' growth and adaptation until they turn 16, *My New Home* will provide a fresh look at multiculturalism in modern Britain and challenges our own attitudes towards immigration.

***Your Voice: My New Home* webcast discussion – LIVE AND INTERACTIVE**  
**Sunday March 22 at 8:50 pm ET at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com)**

Immediately following part one of *My New Home*, *Your Voice*, TVO's web program for parents, explores the immigrant experience in Ontario in a live and interactive webcast discussion at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com). What resources and support networks are in place in Ontario for newcomer

children and their families? How soon are kids brought into the classroom, and what level of English do they have? What are the obstacles and challenges for students struggling with the basics of English, and for teachers trying to teach them? Are new Canadian families getting the information and access to resources they need in order to succeed?

Host Cheryl Jackson and a panel of experts will discuss these questions and more. Viewers can send their questions directly to the experts by phone toll-free at 1.888.891.1195 or online at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com).

### **About TVO**

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit [tvo.org](http://tvo.org).

– 30 –

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