

The Price of Reunion

or Lessons in Happiness



A documentary by Natalia Gaisenok

Running time: 35 min

In English/Russian (subtitled)

Released in 2014



The ethnic mosaic of Canadian society has become increasingly rich and diverse over the past several decades with many new immigrants and refugees arriving daily from all around the world. The right to apply to unite family members has long been a cornerstone of Canada's immigration policy. This has created a new group of senior immigrants that seems to have gone unnoticed, and presents a new challenge that Canada must now face.



On arriving to the new country, many seniors experience the loss of status, social ties and networks, language barriers, as well as discrimination based on skin color, ethnicity, age and gender. Instead of a happy life with their kids and grand kids, older immigrants in Canada often end up isolated, depressed and abused, which is increasing the health care costs. Senior immigrant women also carry the burden of unpaid care work, and face additional challenges.

Are the senior immigrants who come to Canada through family reunification program a burden on society, or do they have the potential to contribute to it?

We explore this question by following the stories of an elderly musician Maria who came from Ukraine, and other senior immigrant women from different parts of the world. We are also drawing on the opinions of the experts as well as the street interviews to show different sides of the debate, and to examine the attitudes that prevail among Canadians.



www.PriceOfReunion.ca

DVDs AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

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