The role of international borders in the formation of national identities is well established. The aim of this paper is to examine immigrants’ narratives of their everyday experiences and practices in Ottawa-Gatineau paying particular attention to relations between place, culture and identity in order to reflect on processes of belonging and identity formation in a subnational border context. Canada’s National Capital Region is unique in that it is located on the most politically and symbolically charged interprovincial border within the country: between Ontario and Quebec. Although this border has little impact on individuals’ everyday life, major differences in culture, language, public services, policies and legislations shape residents’ experiences and sense of place. Immigrants’ narratives of their representations and daily interactions with the two dominant groups – Anglophones in Ottawa (ON) and Francophones in Gatineau (QC) – reveal contrasting, asymmetrical processes of identity formation and belonging across the border. These different experiences, in turn, suggest that distinct dynamics animate the relationship between place, culture, and identity in Ottawa compared to Gatineau. These questions are important in light of research and debates regarding the formation of identities in a transborder context.