

Ginette Leroux

Uganda Collection Oral History Project: Immigration

Ginette Leroux: “My main role right away was typing up the visas. Jolène [Beaupré] and Mary-Ellen [Hempel] did a lot of the frontline work in the very beginning, but that didn’t last too long. I think once the applications were out and then they started to interview people right away, and so we were then, once they were accepted, we started the visas so it went pretty quickly after that. It was pretty organized. I was amazed, you know. There was a lot of people with good organizational skills because everything ran smoothly. Nothing lagged, there was no down time where you thought, “What am I going to do?” There was always something to do. Just setting up the office alone was something.”

Heather LeRoux: “What do you remember about the office? And working with that group you were there with?”

Ginette: “I remember the office itself was on the main floor with these huge, huge windows everywhere. Originally we had the ground floor but there was a lot of chaos—organized chaos—a lot of people coming and going so it proved a bit of a distraction, so we were moved upstairs to another floor and it was quieter, more work got done. There were a lot of people that were interviewing and then we had the armed forces that came in to do all of the medical testing and that, and they were off in an area on their own. I think there were some RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] there too—I’m not sure what their role was, I can’t remember too much about that part of it. We were kind of secluded from the main goings on because we didn’t need to be there. Once the applications were out, we didn’t need to be there anymore so it was just more solitary work. We could work on our own after that.”