

[Transcription of interview with Terry Gidda]

Tarlok (Terry) Gidda Transcription
Interview Date: January 15th, 2015

ME: What is your name?
TG: Tarlok Singh Gidda.
ME: And when were you born?
TG: 1938. (Had to be edited out to only year. Interviewer requested privacy for DOB)
ME: Okay. And where were you born?
TG: Sujon. The village Sujon. District Jalandhar. It is Nowan Shahr near Punjab.
ME: And when did you immigrate to Canada?
TG: I think it was 2nd of September, 1966.
ME: So, how old were you then?
TG: I think 29 or 30.
ME: And on what basis did you come? Point system, marriage base?
TG: Well my wife was here. She sponsored me. Actually, I got married here. We were engaged in India but her brothers were here and they sponsored her. So she came in '67 and I came in '68.
ME: Did you say your year of birth was '28 or '35?
TG: '38.
ME: Because you don't look like it and you said you were 30 when you came, that's why.
ME: Okay and did you do any work in Sujon before coming here?
TG: I didn't in Sujon but I was a health inspector in Punjab and a teacher. I was teaching before I came here.
ME: Okay. And when you first came to Canada what was your first job?
TG: Most of our people were working in the mills so I worked in the mill. I think I went to Madsonia, BC.
ME: That was the first mill you worked at? Do you remember the full name?
TG: I think it was Kofahar Timber. Something like that.
ME: And how did you find work at this mill? How did you find your first job at the mill?
TG: They were Indo Canadian working there. Somebody said it's available so
ME: So just by word of mouth? Okay. And what was your first job at this mill?
TG: Well most of the people were working on the chain and pulling lumber so that's what I did.
ME: Okay. And did you build up on that? Did you move jobs in the mill?
TG: I stayed there only for 6 months or so then I think when UBC had summer classes, then I went to UBC for 6 weeks.
ME: Okay, what did you study?
TG: Just improved my English speaking and things like that.
ME: Okay. And what did you do after that summer?
TG: Well actually, the main purpose to do that was because I was a teacher in India and I had a Bachelor of Education degree. So people told me, I think I want all the degrees to the Department of Education, and they said that I have to appear in front of one of the superintendants in front of the schools, so the class was Prince George. So I applied and

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