

Ava

A "city girl" as she refers to herself, A.W was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya. With a degree in international business administration as well as a CPA, Anne worked as an accountant for a large company whose main clientele constituted expatriates. "It was so easy for me, working with expats that I began looking for something more challenging", this feeling coupled with the dynamic shift in the Kenyan economy led her to Canada. In addition to Canada offering a skilled workers visa for permanent residences, Kenya had discovered oil and the industry began to flourish. "I would see people working for the oil companies and I started to envy them." A began exploring the new industry and came across Calgary as the hub for oil and gas. Wanting a competitive edge, A decided that Calgary would provide her the opportunity for a new challenge and self-discovery.

It took nine months before A's paperwork was approved and one year before she was granted her visa. By the time A arrived in Calgary, the oil and gas industry took a hit. "I was really discouraged. I had come here alone with no supports in place, no job and I didn't know where to begin." She began researching for resources using Google and discovered Making Changes Association as well as the Walk -In Closet.

Ava was so excited when asked about her experience at the Walk-In Closet. She was impressed by the warm reception she received as she entered, the efficiency of our program as well as the organization and merchandising of the clothing. "Donna was so helpful, she took so much time finding me clothes that fit my body, she just kept bringing me so many things!" Donna, along with the other volunteers, spent time offering their expertise and arranging outfits with matching accessories for A. When her appointment ended, the clothes were packed for her in a bag. "I was so touched, they had already done their part by helping me find clothes. I couldn't believe the way my clothes were packaged for me."

A is currently volunteering with a non- profit organization here in Calgary while searching for jobs. "I have had so many interviews and information meetings in fact I only wear the clothing I received from the Walk-In Closet." A also made a point to address how confident she feels now, knowing that she does not have to worry about her attire, "When you wear something new you feel so special and your spirits are high, I feel so smart and am confident when I interview and in approaching people for coffee meetings."



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