

## Tram Ngo

The following words are Tram Ngo's thoughts and feelings about attending Leo Hayes High school in grade, her first year in Canada after travelling from Vietnam.



"I was not a shy girl back in Viet Nam. I was an out-spoken person and I had a lot of friends. My parents had prepared me at an early age to live outside Viet Nam by

sending me to an English Learning Center, where I learned English with native speakers. Due to this, I did not have barriers when interacting with people in English. However, living in an almost non-Vietnamese speaking city is another story. My new city of Fredericton does not have a big Vietnamese community, so my biggest struggle at that moment was fitting in. I found it hard to find friends here because I came from a different

country with a different culture, and English is my second language. Every time I tried talking to people, I always had to be aware of what I was saying. I wanted to find great friends that I could actually be myself in front of, but I just felt left out in every conversation. One day, I found good friends and they were very awesome! We could share jokes, feelings, and girl's stories. They also tried hard to understand my speech, because they really wanted to be my friend too. As we became closer, I asked them again if they still get lost while listening to me (I could guess by looking at their faces). Sometimes, we laughed out loud because there was misinterpretation from both sides! Those little things in my every day strengthened our friendship and created many sweet memories. My friends made my struggle smaller and smaller every day!"