

Yannick Klein, his wife Maud Henaff and their daughter Lise in 2017 Christmas Day.

# Yannick Klein, from Veterinarian to Entrepreneur

Some people immigrate to flee. This was not the case for Yannick Klein, who moved in September 2017 from Haute Savoie (France) to the Yukon, after having dreamt about it for years. Here is the story of an immigrant who had to change his career path in order to join the Canadian workforce.

## A Passion for Sled Dogs

A veterinarian by training, Mr. Klein has always been drawn to the Far North. During his studies, he completed an internship with dog mushers in Tok, Alaska. This experience was a real life lesson for him.

Then last year, part owner of a veterinary clinic, he came to a crossroads. "My associates and I had a different vision for the future. It was better for me to sell my share of the business, and we decided – my wife, who was also very drawn to Canada, and I – to try for the immigration process," he relates.

## The Beginning of the Immigration Process

"Lots of people say that in order to immigrate you need to have a job first. I decided to come spend a month here in March 2017 to see what would be the best route for me to take," he explains.

At 36 years old, Mr. Klein had only just passed the age limit for applying for a Working Holiday Visa (WHV). Furthermore, he already knew that his degree would not be recognized in Canada. "I looked into it, and it was no surprise. You have to complete an equivalency that costs \$11,000, in addition to three exams. It's about a year of work," he explains. And so it was that a change in career paths was called for.

He met with an employment counsellor from the Association franco-yukonnaise. "I asked for some advice, and I found out, for example, about Mobilité francophone visas. It helped me to better understand how it all works. I figured that the best route for me to take was to apply for permanent residency through Express Entry. Everything is very well explained. You can really tell ahead of time whether you're likely to be accepted. The process is fairly quick, as long as you're very responsive. We started our application at the beginning of April, and by the beginning of September we were here."

## Cultural Differences and a New Career Path

In September 2017, with his wife and two children, aged 3 years old and 3 months old, Mr. Klein moved to the Yukon.

"People in France thought we were crazy, but people here understood. I met lots of people who had done the same thing as me," he recounts.

He then started looking for work in various fields. "That's when I realized it wasn't going to be as easy as all that," he admits. According to him, employers did not necessarily want to be bothered with all the paperwork. "I was willing to do some sort of menial job in order to practice my English, but I wasn't able to find one. I don't really know why. Maybe people were afraid that I wouldn't stay long because I was too well-educated."

Mr. Klein didn't give up hope and ended up landing a contract as a substitute teacher. Then

he turned to his sense of entrepreneurship to establish his own video and photo production company, another one of his passions.

"The first mistake is to say that everything's bad in France and everything will be perfect in Canada. The second mistake is to think that it'll be easy. You need to adapt and be ready to make compromises," says Yannick Klein.

After spending his first winter in the Yukon, Mr. Klein has learned that his application for the Master of Business Administration program at HEC Montréal has been accepted. Optimistic, he is leaving for Montréal at the end of the month.

"It's a bit heart-breaking for us because we were starting to settle down, to have friends. So it's not the easy route, but I've never taken the easy route in my life, and I hope it'll be of use," he concludes.