



## First months in Coquitlam

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It's been three months since I came to Canada, but I'll never forget that moment when my family and I landed at Vancouver airport; our hearts were full of sadness, pain, and misery. We felt scared of the uncertain future in a new land that we did not know a lot about.

We come from Syria, a country which was completely destroyed – everything – even our souls, minds and hearts.

Canada and Coquitlam mean a lot to us; together they mean hope, salvation, and happiness. Here we live, and we feel as if we are in our land with our family. It is like coming to heaven after the hell we'd been through. The mountains, the rivers, the parks surrounding us, the trees, and the flowers are all smiling at us. We even love the

wide streets, the library and the pure air that we breathe.

Everything here seems to be welcoming us, especially the kind people we have met along the way. Even if we move from this city in the future and live in another place we will never forget the city and country that embraced us, when we were at our most vulnerable.

- *Maha Mardini*

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