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They took the leap though, and in January 2007, arrived in Calgary, Alberta to start their new life. Naturally, it was most challenging at first. Stephens, his wife Louise and their two young sons (aged 3 and 18-months) truly started anew. "[We] came here with just a suitcase each which meant we had to buy everything over again and get the boys settled quickly," Stephens recalls without kidding himself. "...yes, it was hard but now we've adjusted quite well we think."

Of course, adjusting to life in Canada in January means adjusting to snow. Zak, their eldest, had never seen the white stuff before. "[Zak] loved making a snowman- I was freezing at the same time but to see his face, I'd do it all over again."

Other factors are helping to convince the Stephens' that their decision was the right one. "The biggest difference to us was just how friendly the people are and how much they're prepared to help you settle - something we never expected."

Also of help in the transition, were the services provided by their lawyers. Stephens is overall very pleased with the work done on his behalf. "Having two young children is hard enough," he says, "and anyone in the same position we are, we would recommend [the services]."

So, after having gone through the whole process, is there anything Stephens would like to say to people out there who may be considering this drastic change for themselves? "The best advice I could give is if you're talking about it, follow up and go for it. Yes it's hard at the start but knowing what we know now, we would have done it years ago... [it was] the best for us and our two children as there's so much to see and do." It's always nice when your biggest decision turns out to be your best one.

Craig Stephens - Quick Facts

Name: Craig Stephens
Occupation: Plasterer
From: Wells, Somerset
Family: Wife, 2 children
Arrived in Canada: January 2007
Destination: Calgary, Alberta
Best change: More family time
Quote: "I only wish we'd done it years ago now."

