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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

China, Thailand, locked, epidemic, government, Bangkok, leave, news, family, city, Shanghai, heard, apartment, mask, home, stay, wife, Wuhan, Chinese, experience

00:02

INTERVIEWER: My name is Patrick. Yeah, and I'm with the Remember Rebuild Saskatchewan project. And we're here today. You wanted to share your story about COVID-19. Can you tell me a little bit about who you are?

00:15

INTERVIEWEE: I am Andy. Yeah.

00:17

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. And where are you from? Andy?

INTERVIEWEE: China, China.

INTERVIEWER: What part of China.

00:21

INTERVIEWEE: Close to Beijing.

00:23

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. And what would you like to talk to us about today?

00:30

INTERVIEWEE: My experience. Yeah. And, and COVID-19 in China, you know, it's a, it's a long term. Three years. Three years and from, from. January, January 21. January 21, 2020. Yeah. Until, until last a year.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

INTERVIEWEE: Three years. Yeah, I, I got a good memory. And not, not good memory. I, I remember rate very clearly. Yeah. Do you know at the beginning oh, we just hear some news. There's a city. The name is Wuhan, Wuhan, Hubei province. It's a, it's a middle city of China. Middle part of China. And somewhere we, we heard, heard about the government locked down the city. No one can get inside and no one can get out. Locked down the whole of the city. You know, Wuhan is a very developed city. Yeah. Like a

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population, like economic is very, very huge. Very, very high. Very high. Yeah, I, I have a friend over there. And, it sounds because we never, we never ever experienced this before in China. I was born in 1982, 1982. We, we never so, suddenly we heard about it from the news. The report the Wuhan had been in lockdown. We don't know what's going on.

03:54

But, but, but our, i I heard some news from other ways. From, from, from from Twitter. Yeah, I heard something. It's a very serious, very, very serious, maybe, at that time a lot of people had died. The government couldn't control, control the pandemic but the way we, we have no idea. What, what's that? What's that?

05:01

And at that time I, I remember Wuhan were locked down and January 23 2020. I took my family. I took my family to Bangkok in Thailand and January 21 2020. Yes so.

05:58

I can, I can checked all of the news from Twitter or YouTube because I'm in Thailand you know. Like Twitter, Facebook like Google, YouTube like they're the the apps we can't use it in China the government. How to say the government closed all of that yeah. We can use, we just can use Baidu, Baidu is Google. But that's just like Chinese can search something on that. We can't, we can see, we can't, any news in the world. Just just the government propaganda some news. So it's so limited. But at that time, I went to Bangkok so I can, I can know all about it maybe some some true news. Some true news on, on the Twitter. Something else. I, I again, I saw a lot of pictures or videos in Wuhan. The, a lot of people a lot of people make, make lie in hospital. But like a nurse, like doctor couldn't save, save their life.

08:32

They just lay, they just lay on the ground in the hospital and they stay in there and. And we waited, waited, waited a doctor can save them. But, but uh you know that the disease is so serious. You, you need to, you, you need to, you need to be helped as soon as possible. If you, if you lost, lost precious time you, you've, you lost your life. Yeah. So, maybe the government, like me, we never got through all of this. The government is a safe. They don't know how to do it, they didn't know how to do it.

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They, they, they just lock every people at home and government sends some like vegetable, like instant noodles too our home, but the food couldn't apply enough. Yeah, the people just a stay at home and because it's a long time, more than one month, and people can't couldn't go outside, and even they can't go outside. All of the supermarkets or all of the stores were closed. They couldn't buy anything so all, all they, all they can do just stay at home and wait. If the food, if the food was out they, they were starved, starved. Yeah some people starved to death at home. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Because there wasn't enough food?

11:56

INTERVIEWEE: Of course, weren't enough. Wuhan, about, include the Shanghai later you know, three years. Three years. But like me, I was in Bangkok. For me I was lucky a little bit. And the government locked down the city one by one. First Wuhan, maybe another city and one by one locked down most of the cities in, in China. I can't, I couldn't figure out the numbers, the number people died. But that's a huge, huge population. Yeah. I heard, I heard about one story. A director. It's a he's, he's a very famous director in Wuhan.

13:48

All of his family. Now like include his parents his wife, his daughter, his sister or brother, yeah just, just to. His son went to a brand in British his son studied in British. And someday his wife went, went outside. Get something maybe get, get something, I don't remember. But well, he where she back to home, she felt a little bad. But you know this disease at the beginning you feel like, like cold or fever. We, we, we never experienced before so we, we thought it just a cold fever, but it's not. So the first, first one his, his, his wife died. And one by one, all of his family died.

15:52

All of his family. Just his son's alive because he's in British. And why, why I know this terrible story? Because, because, before he died he wrote a death wish like a letter like letter. He describe all the situation. What's going on? And it grew his feeling and, and the hope he saw how to do it in the letter I hear life and all of this, this, it's in this letter. Yeah, maybe later i can i can show you the this letter.

17:12

It really touched me. Yeah, it's just one of, one of the family in Wuhan. There are a lot of families over there. Yeah, a lot of terrible, terrible things happened over there.

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17:46

INTERVIEWER: Were you in Bangkok? For the whole time?

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INTERVIEWEE: Bangkok. Bangkok. Bangkok. What it means? Thailand.

Yeah, yeah, I was in Bangkok. Yeah. So I can, I can watch all of news. Because if I stay in China, I can't you know. If I want to, if, if I want to to see YouTube, I need a app called VPN. But it's illegal in China. We can't use it. If I use it, maybe, maybe we're gonna go to jail. Yeah, so I just in Bangkok, but for, for Chinese. For Chinese, we would our visa, just to can stay in Thailand for one month. Just one month. If the, if time's up, we need two, two choices. Back to China or I got the second choice. I apply for, for 10 days. How to say that? I guess stay they're 10 days. So I, I stay in Bangkok, stay in Bangkok for 40 days, 40 days and after 40 days, I back to China.

19:55

INTERVIEWER: How did you feel?

19:58

INTERVIEWEE: When I, when I was in China I could tell you, tell you when I get off the flight the whole situation, yeah. We, we put on the plastic, plastic gloves and put on, put on like a robot, like a robot and.

20:42

INTERVIEWER: Robot, or like a suit?

20:45

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah a result, okay a result, yeah like the, the how to say the severance. We put on the wide, wide, wide, clothes. Yeah wide, wide clothes and wear two masks, wear two. N95 and, and a normal one two mask and wear glasses, very big glasses yeah. When we get out, get out the plane and wait.

21:52

We, we booked, the booked, a car in advance. We booked, a booked a car in advance. Maybe two or three checking points, yeah. And two, oh what's that? What's that?

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The throat or the test. Throat swab.

A throat swab, or throat swab test, and the, the driver picked picked us up. And to go home the whole of the city no one on the street. No one on the street. And when we, when we get into our community, yeah. Our community like, not like here, yeah. Our community just a one community. The tall buildings like apartment about like that. Yeah. The security guard stands and the gate and, and you need to register all of your information, information and you can't get in the community. Yeah. And we will stay home, just stay home. Where we can, we can't, we can't get out any more.

23:58

INTERVIEWER: Did you have a patio or some way to go outside?

24:02

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah, like lock down the city. Yeah. The government locked down all of them. All of them.

24:10

INTERVIEWER: You couldn't leave your apartment?

INTERVIEWEE: Pardon.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have an apartment?

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah could, you couldn't leave your apartment?

24:17

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. We just of course stay in our apartment. Yeah, we can't. We can't leave the community, yeah. The community is not like here. The wall, like maybe you want community. There are seven or eight the tall buildings and there's a wall around, around the community, so we can't get out.

24:57

INTERVIEWER: Yes, of course you can leave the door open.

25:02

INTERVIEWEE: We can't get out, so we just stay in our apartment. And after I remember, after five, or, one week later the, the Thailand, this epidemic or reason, you know what I mean, after break, break out.

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INTERVIEWER: Was there another breakout in Thailand?

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah, Thailand. Yeah outbreak, yeah, yeah.

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INTERVIEWER: Just after you got, just after you got back?

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INTERVIEWEE: Yeah, yeah, the the whole Thailand epidemic is so serious. Here's another thing. The masks. When the epidemic outbreak, outbreak in China, they, I have friend, they, they couldn't bought any mask. Yeah. The mask in the pharmacy is, is sold out, are sold out. Yeah. So this epidemic is last three years and, but in the end, we don't know why the government locked, locked down. Locked down, so long. Three years. Like Canada, how long?

INTERVIEWER: A few months on and off. A few months. It depends where you lived in Canada, it was different.

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah. Less than one year.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, less than one year.

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah. Yeah. We were three years while the economic is, I'll just say that. Economic it's go down, going down. Yeah. A lot. A lot of people can't survive. And the job for the apartment. Yeah.

28:04

INTERVIEWER: What did you do if you couldn't leave your apartment? How did you work?

28:07

INTERVIEWEE: We can't work. Like Canada, if you stay in your house. And the government will pay maybe two thousand in one month to you. But we can't work. We don't have income. And we could do nothing. Only, only can do is just stay at home. Stay at home. And we, we, the food is gone. We just wait, all we can do is just wait when the government don't send the food to you. Yeah.

29:01

INTERVIEWER: So why did you decide to come to Canada?

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INTERVIEWEE: This is the big reason for me. Yeah. You know, why? Do you know Shanghai? Shanghai is for China, Shanghai is the most international city in China. Yeah, but in the end, last year, just last year to 2022, yeah. The government locked down Shanghai for maybe three, to four month. Do you know, a lot, because it's a international city, the, the, the tallest building, the tallest building, it's not a building, it's like a skyscraper, skyscraper.

INTERVIEWER: Skyscraper.

INTERVIEWEE: Skyscraper, yeah. In Shanghai, a lot of foreign companies over there but, but include Chinese to include foreigners. Everybody was locked down.

INTERVIEWER: You mean everybody was locked down. Chinese and foreigners?

30:43

INTERVIEWEE: Locked down everything. Locked down there everything. So when the epidemic finished last year a lot of foreign companies leave Shanghai, leave Shanghai. So that means if I live in China, I can't, maybe sometimes I can't decide this. I can't decide by my own.

Sometimes, maybe some things happen. I, I just like can't go anywhere. Maybe, maybe this epidemic, maybe in the future? Maybe something, another things happening. It's not safe, yeah. It's under control. Yeah. And, and all of them. A lot of people unemployed after that. And they couldn't get, they couldn't, they couldn't read. They read their family or children. Yeah. Because, because what, what's, what's a rate?

INTERVIEWER: Rate.

INTERVIEWEE: Rate, rate. Work rate.

32:56

INTERVIEWER: The work rate?

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Unemployment rate or the employment rate.

33:00

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah, yeah. Like that. It's going down. We couldn't get more work chests. Yeah. So that's the reason I'm here. Bu the, so I'm a lucky man. A lot of people in China they, they don't have a, they don't have a chance to go abroad. Yeah, because there's some, some condition. Some condition they, they, they

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have, they don't have Yeah. Yeah. Then today, we're talking about just a little bit China's epidemic, but that, that's true. All, all of it, I said is true. Yeah.

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INTERVIEWER: Is there anything else you want to tell me? About COVID and what your experience was in China? Or now?

34:38

INTERVIEWEE: What?

34:39

INTERVIEWER: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about COVID or your experience in China during the pandemic?

34:46

INTERVIEWEE: Because it's, it's a huge story. I, my English it's not so well. Yeah. I need to prepare. Okay. Prepare and maybe, maybe next time I will, I will talk better. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Thank you for sharing.

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah. You're welcome.