

Pier-to-Pier Trunk Tour

Call for suitcases that journeyed from the Netherlands to Canada



Photograph of the Meijer family on board SS Waterman in Rotterdam, July 1957 Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



Photograph of three unidentified refugees who arrived at Pier 21 on MV Pärnu, August 1949 Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Pier 21 and FENIX Migration Museum are on the lookout for suitcases that travelled from the Netherlands to Canada. Do you happen to know a relative whose family checked in a suitcase in the Netherlands to arrive in Canada? If so, you can hand in the suitcase at Pier 21 and it will become part of the FENIX collection! The suitcase will be brought home to its original port of departure where it will be exhibited in a monumental maze of suitcases and stories about departure and arrival.

There has been a coming and going of people between the Netherlands and Canada for over a century. Thousands of people left Rotterdam by ship, and docked in Halifax. After World War II, nearly 150,000 Dutch people left for Canada. They were responding to the need for farmers. Even now, people still cross the ocean daily. Towards a new life. Millions of people left Europe through a Dutch port or airport. And with them went millions of trunks, suitcases, duffel bags and backpacks. Do you have a suitcase that was checked in in the Netherlands and travelled to Canada? Donate the suitcase to FENIX! This way, your suitcase will be given a place in the museum, which is located on the quays where generations before you began their journey.

How can you participate?

Step 1: Save the date for a meeting on Thursday afternoon 25 May at Pier 21 in Halifax. The director of FENIX and her colleagues will welcome you with open arms that day and receive your suitcase and story.

Step 2: Send an email to koffers@fenix.nl by 5 May at the latest, and include:

- a) your name
- b) a photo of the suitcase/trunk/basket/bag
- c) a brief description of the journey the suitcase made. For instance, the year the journey took place, the reason for the journey, the owner of the suitcase
- d) whether there are any personal sources available that describe the journey, such as a diary, correspondence or travelogue? If so, we would love to hear about it!

Step 3: On 10 May, you will receive a confirmation from FENIX about the meeting on 25 May at Pier 21. We are looking forward to meet you!



FENIX will open end of 2024 in a historic harbour warehouse dating from 1923, where a stunning staircase has been added, designed by Chinese architect Ma Yansong, founder of MAD Architects. FENIX will provide space for cultural, culinary and creative encounters, at the quintessential location of departure and arrival. Where millions of people departed or arrived from all over the world. Fleeing or chasing after love. Looking for happiness or better opportunities. FENIX will tell these stories and show that migration is a timeless and universal phenomenon.

fenix.nl

FENIX is an initiative by the Droom en Daad Foundation.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada FENIX