

Rina Garcia Chua

## A Boat Across the River<sup>1</sup>

Pravinbhai Chaudhari, 49, was found in a marshy area in Akwesasne, Que., with his wife Dakshaben, 45, their 23-year-old daughter, Vidhi and their 20-year-old son, Meet. A couple of Romanian descent and their two Canadian-born children, aged one and two, also died during the failed March 29 crossing.

“He would never sit in a boat,” Jasubhai Chaudhari said of his cousin. “I don’t understand. How did he sit in that boat.”

– Hina Alam, “Family of Indian Migrants who died in Quebec shocked by river crossing attempt,” in *Global News*

this is our country. When there is no safe land  
left for my feet—  
Death is another country.  
We're on our way home.

frigid waters  
are refuge:

the boat is land. the boat is land. the boat  
is my way out. The boat  
is our country.

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<sup>1</sup> These three poems are part of an upcoming poetry collection, “A Geography of (Un)Natural Hazards.”