

Questions	Interviewee 1
Date of interview	Thursday 31st October 2024
Name of interviewee	Angela Pisano
1. What age group/generation are you in ?	76 years old to 80 years old 1925 to 1945: Silent Generation
2. Were you already acquainted with anyone in Canada before you arrived ?	Yes my uncle Dominic
3. Where did you first arrive and when	We arrived on July 18, 1952 The boat landed in Halifax and the train took us to Toronto then Niagara
4. How old were you when you immigrated from Italy?	I was eight years old
From which part of Italy ?	From South of Italy
With who ?	With my mother
5. What was the journey to Canada like ? Were there a lot of people, was the boat busy, was there a selection process ?	The boat journey was 15 days, it was very rough and scary especially as a kid. They were many people, it was busy and long. I do not remember if we had to pay or if there was a selection process, I was too little.
6. What do you remember of your first impression of Canada ?	We were not well welcomed, people were mean. They used to laugh at us, mock us and make fun of our food. It was awful.
Were there any similarities or/and	I remember that we did not have butter and

differences with Italy ?

pop in Italy, I both tried them in Canada for the first time. The food was better than in Italy. I remember seeing snow for the first time, it was very fun. We used to play and make snowmen.

The education was slightly different, teachers were tough here but as tough as in Italy where they used to make us kneel on stones and we were wearing skirts and dresses.

I realized that Canadians were not very family oriented like Italians.

7. Did you bring any items of importance with you when you came to Canada ?

No, my mother probably has all the photos and jewelry, I don't have anything.

8. Did you encounter any challenges giving birth in Canada ?

No no at all.

9. Did you exchange any letters with relatives in Italy ?

No, but I know that my mother used to write and send letters to Italy.

10. When you think about the word "home" , where is that for you ? Italy or Canada ?

Home for me is Canada. I came here when I was eight, I grew up here. This is where I got married, where I had my kids. It was rough adapting but Canada is now part of my identity. I have lived here for 72 years.

11. How was the experience of learning English and making friends at school ?

Did you speak more English or Italian at home ?

Students and teachers were mean to us. They used to ask us to go wash our hands multiple times a day because our hands were "too dark". We would get constantly punished and strapped. They would also make us change our clothes multiple times a day. They used to mock us and make fun of our food. They used to say "eww what is that you are eating ?" I remember I used to fight at school because girls would pull my hair all the time. We were different and they hated us. Learning English was easy.

	<p>They used to check our bodies every single morning (behind ears, hands, knees...)</p> <p>We would speak a lot of English and some Italian at home. However, I used to speak Italian with my mother.</p>
<p>12. Were there any other signs of discrimination towards Italians that you remember ?</p>	<p>They used to call us "DP" . I do not know what it meant.</p> <p>I was a kid so I did not remember much but I really remember that they refused to rent apartments to Italians with kids which is why my uncle struggled for years to find an apartment.</p>
<p>13. Would you say that you are still close to your Italian culture/heritage ?</p>	<p>Yes, in terms of people, we are very family oriented</p>
<p>Do you think that it's important for your kids to hold on to their Italian culture ?</p>	<p>Yes, it's very important, it's our identity. I try to pass it on, when they decide to listen to me.</p>
<p>14. Have you been back to Italy since you left ?</p> <p>How was that experience?</p>	<p>Yes I have once.</p> <p>Very emotional, I remembered places very well, it was a very emotional experience.</p>
<p>Do you still have family back in Italy ?</p>	<p>No, all of them passed away.</p>