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**DEMOGRAPHY**

1. Let's see, your name is ...
2. What year were you born?
3. So that makes you...
4. Who are all the members of your family? Are you the youngest or the oldest?
5. Where were you born?
6. Where was the first place that you ever lived?
7. And where did you live after that?
8. Where do you live now? [if being interviewed in place other than their home]
9. What kind of a place is it, an apartment, a house or... ?
10. Who do you live with?
11. How long have you lived around here?
12. Where were your parents born? Raised?
13. Your father? Your mother?
14. How about your grandparents? Your great-grandparents?
15. Why did your family move here?
16. Because of work?
17. Because of community roots? Close to other Italians/Russians/Koreans? Close to relatives?
18. Do you know where your family came from?
19. When did they come here? Why did they come?
20. Do you remember hearing stories about how your family came to Toronto?
21. Was it hard for them to get set up here?

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD**

22. Do most of your friends live in this neighbourhood or further away?
23. Is there a name for this neighbourhood?
24. Where would you say this neighbourhood ends?
25. Do you ever have block parties?
26. Do people around here help each other?
27. If you need help, who do you go to?
28. If you get sick, who can you ask to look after the family?
29. Do you have to ask or do people just offer?
30. Have your kids ever stayed with anyone else in the neighbourhood?
31. [If they have small children] Who do you get to babysit your kids?
32. Where are they from? How did you find them? Do you know their family?
33. Who do you tell them to call in the case of an emergency?
34. Do you think people around here could use a little more privacy?
35. Is there anyone around here who's a real snoop? Who knows everybody else's business?
36. Is there anybody around here that didn't talk to each other for a while?
37. What was it about?
38. Italians are known for sticking together. Do you think that's true?
39. What kinds of things keep people together here? Community groups?
40. What kinds of things do you like about this neighbourhood?
41. What is there here that makes it better/worse than other places?
42. Is Toronto different from other cities?
43. Have you ever thought of moving away from here? Why/Why not?
44. Has anything ever happened to you here that made you think about moving away?

45. Have you travelled very much outside of Toronto?
46. [If yes,] Why did you go? How long did you stay?
47. (For older speakers)
48. A lot of people say that the community used to be closer together than today, what do you think?
49. In some neighbourhoods they had organizations that did community work, do you remember any groups like that?
50. [If so] What did they do?
51. Are there any organizations like that here now?
52. Has the neighbourhood changed since you've been living here? In what way?
53. What do you think are the most important changes that have happened around here over the last 10/20/30 years?

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**SOCIALIZING**

54. Is there anyone around here you get together with? What kinds of things do you?
55. Play cards?
56. Go Bowling?
57. Go to games? Watch games on TV? Hockey? Baseball? Football?
58. Get together on holidays?
59. Are there Italian/Russian/Korean events?
60. What are they?
61. [For older people]
62. Did you ever go to socials?
63. What kind of entertainment did they have?
64. Whereabouts was the hall?
65. Did you dance?
66. What kind of dancing did you do?
67. Do people from around here drop by to visit?
68. Is there anyone around here you know well enough to just walk into their house?
69. Who would invite you in for coffee, just talk?
70. Is there any neighbourhood place where people get together?
71. Where they can go for a drink or tea/coffee in the afternoon? Evening?
72. Where do people get together outside their houses?
73. Are there people you'd like to spend more time with but can't?
74. Can anything be done to make the neighbourhood closer than it is now?

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**PEER GROUP (KIDS)**

75. What do you and your friends do around here?

76. After school/class? At night? On weekends?

77. Is there a bunch of friends you hang around with, that you see almost every day?

78. Where do you hang out?

79. Who do you hang out with?

80. Do any of your friends have a car?

81. Where do you go?/What do you do?

82. Do you ever have parties?

83. What do you do?

## **EVENTS**

84. Did anything really big ever happen around here that you remember?
85. Did you ever have a big fire around here, like a house burn down?
86. Where? Did you see it?
87. Did people in the neighbourhood help out? With food, clothes, place to stay?
88. How did things go for you during the big blackout in 2003?
89. Did you have enough supplies and cash?
90. Did the neighbours get together?
91. Did you have to leave your place?
92. What was that like?
93. Do you remember anyone from this neighbourhood who got famous or well-known?
94. What did they do?
95. Did anybody in your family ever go to war?

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**CHILDHOOD**

96. What was it like for you growing up?
97. What do you think life is like here for a child? a teenager?
98. How has life changed for children / teenagers from when you were growing up?
99. When you were a kid, did you have any rules about when you had to be in at night?
100. What happened if you stayed out late?
101. Did you ever get caught sneaking out? Why?
102. Did you ever get blamed for something you didn't do?
103. Were there any rules about supper?
104. Like you had to clean your plate before you got dessert?
105. Or you had to eat all your vegetables?
106. Were you ever spanked when you were a kid?
107. What did you get spanked for?
108. Do you think that kids learn from spanking?
109. Who did the spanking in your family?
110. Some people say you can raise a kid without laying a hand on him, how do you feel about that?
111. Is there such a thing as being *too* strict?
112. Did you ever run away from home? What happened?
113. Could you talk to your parents when you got into trouble?
114. About sex?
115. Who could you talk to?
116. What sort of person is [was] your father?
117. What is [was] your mother like?
118. Did your parents have any ideas about what they wanted you to be?

119. How far did they want you to go in school?
120. [For older people] A lot of people say that the children today aren't like they used to be in the old days, do you think so? Why?
121. What's the difference?
122. Do you think kids today have less respect for adults? Why?
123. Do you think that kids have it easier or harder than they used to?
124. What do you think of the music, clothes, attitudes, of kids today?
125. Are kids ruder these days?
126. What do you think are the biggest differences between older people and younger people these days?



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**SCHOOL**

127. What age did you start school at?
128. Do [Did] you go to one of the schools in this neighbourhood?
129. How far is [was] it from your house?
130. Is/was it a mixed school, or do/did they keep the boys and girls apart?
131. Do [Did] you have any teachers that are/were really tough?
132. What makes/made them really mad?
133. What would they yell at a kid for?
134. What's the worst thing you ever saw a teacher do to a kid?
135. Or a kid do to a teacher?
136. Are/Were any of your teachers nuns?
137. Are/Were they better or worse than the other teachers?
138. Do / did you have any teachers that are / were really good?
139. Did you ever get blamed [strapped, whipped] for something you didn't do?
140. Did you ever have a teacher that was a real creep?
141. What kind of groups do/did you have in your school?
142. Do/did you have jocks? Browners? Burnouts? Skinheads?
143. What is/was your group like?
144. What sorts of clothes do/did they wear? Haircuts? Earrings?
145. Could a guy [girl] from one group go out with a girl [guy] from another?
146. What kind of school do/did you go to ()?
147. How do/did the Italians/Russians/Koreans and other groups get along in your school?
  - a. What happened?
  - b. Why do you think that happened?

148. What kind of school would you want your kids to go to?
149. Do you think that school gives you what you need to find a job?
150. Is it better to stay in school for a long time, or get out there and make a living?
151. (For older people)
152. How many years of school did you get a chance to finish?
153. What was the school like when you used to go?
154. How many students used to go?
155. What subjects did you take?
156. Were they very strict?
157. Were the teachers then better than the teachers today?
158. Why?
159. Do you have any children in day-care?
160. What do you think about that program?
161. Is it difficult to get a child in?
162. Did you send / Do you think you'd ever send your kids to private school? Why / Why not?

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**WORK (ADULTS)**

163. Are you working now?
164. What do you do?
165. What was the first job you ever got?
166. How'd you get it?
167. How long did you do that?
168. And then what did you do?
169. What was the worst job you ever had?
170. What was the weirdest job you ever had?
171. What would be your dream job?
172. What did your parents want you to do?
173. In the old days, women were expected to leave their jobs when they got married. Has that changed?
174. Do you think that women should work?
175. Even when they have kids?
176. What do you think about a man staying home and taking care of the kids?
177. Do you know anyone who does that?
178. Do you get anything out of work, besides money?
179. Should someone keep on working when they don't need the money?

Do young people feel the same way about working that they did in your day?

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**DATING (YOUNGER WOMEN)**

180. Where do you go on dates around here?
181. What would you do on a date?
182. Do you remember a date that didn't go well? What happened?
183. Do most kids go out with the same person all the time or different people?
184. What do you call it when you go out with the same person all the time?
185. If you were going out with someone, would it make you jealous if he asked someone else to dance at a party?
186. What else would make you jealous?
187. How do you get rid of a guy you don't like anymore?
188. Did you ever go out with someone for a while and you couldn't remember why you started?
189. What do you think about sleeping with a guy before being married?
190. What would you do if you got pregnant?
191. What do you think about abortion?
192. Are there any guys your parents wouldn't let you go out with?
193. Was it because of age? Hair length? Race? Religion? Language?
194. What kind of guy do you like?
195. Do you want to get married?
196. What kind of guy do you want to marry?
197. Do you care if he goes to college?
198. Do/did your parents have rules about when you have to be in?
199. What if you break them, what happens then?
200. Did you ever get grounded?
201. Do you think there's such a thing as the "generation gap"?

202. Can you talk to your parents?

203. To your mother?

204. Your father?

205. What are things that you can't talk to your parents about?

206. About sex? About boyfriends?

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**MARRIAGE (OLDER SPEAKERS)**

207. Where did you meet your wife/husband?
208. Did he/she/you propose in so many words?
209. Do you remember just what he/she/you said?
210. [If not] There must have been a time when you didn't know you were going to get married, and then a time when you did? How did that happen?
211. Are there any wedding rituals around here, like showers, stag parties?
212. Did you ever live with your in-laws after you got married?
213. How did that work out?
214. Did her [his] parents approve of you? [If so] Why? [If not] Why not?
215. How does it work out around here when somebody marries somebody from a different group?
216. Like Italians/Russians/Koreans and non-Italians/Russians/Koreans? Protestants and Catholics?  
Blacks and whites? Is that any problem?
217. Do you think there will be a time when that doesn't make any difference?

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**DREAMS**

218. Did you ever have a dream that really scared you?
219. What happened?
220. Do you remember your dreams?
221. Do you dream in colour?
222. Did you ever have the same dream twice?
223. Do dreams ever come true?
224. Do you ever tell people about your dreams? Some people say if you do, the dreams will come true.
225. Can you wake up if you don't like a dream?
226. Do you ever actually know you're dreaming, and say to yourself, "hey this is a dream"? And realize you can do whatever you want?
227. Do dreams mean anything?
228. Did you ever have a dream that you thought meant something?
229. Do you ever have trouble going to sleep?
230. What do you do?

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**FEAR**

231. Have you ever been really afraid of something?

232. When was that? What happened?

233. How did you feel afterwards?

234. Is there anything you're really afraid of?

235. Did you ever know somebody that wasn't afraid of anything? What kind of a person were they?

236. Or is it just that some people can't admit it when they are afraid?

237. Have you ever had a spell of bad luck?



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**DANGER**

238. Some people say, in a situation like that, "whatever's going to happen is going to happen". What do you think?
239. In most families, there's someone who gets a feeling that something's going to happen, and it does happen.
240. Is there anybody like that in your family?
241. Do you remember anything like that that came true?
242. Was there ever anything that happened when you were growing up that you couldn't explain?
243. Were there any spooky places you wouldn't go at night?
244. Does it bother you when people talk about ghosts?
245. Have you ever been in a situation where you were in serious danger of getting killed, where you said to yourself "this is it, I'm going to die"?
- a. What happened?
246. Have you ever been somewhere new and know that you've been there before?
247. What was the longest streak of luck you ever had?
248. What about bad luck?
249. Do you ever do anything to ensure that you'll have good luck?
250. What?
251. Are you lucky at cards?
252. Do you believe in fate?

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**GARDENING (ADULTS)**

- 253. Do you have a garden?
- 254. What do you grow?
- 255. What's good about having a garden? What's bad?
- 256. What's the best way to plant a garden?
- 257. How do you know when to plant?
- 258. I've heard some people say that they plant a garden according to the moon, did you ever hear about that?
- 259. Why do vegetables taste better from a home garden?

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**DRIVING**

- 260. Do you drive a car?
- 261. Is it hard to get around if you don't have a car?
- 262. If you needed a car in an emergency, who would you ask?
- 263. Do you lend your car to others?
- 264. Have you ever been in a carpool? How did it work?
- 265. Do you ever take the bus?
- 266. What do you think of the bus system?
- 267. What are drivers like here?

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**FAMILY TRADITIONS**

268. What family traditions did you have in your family?
269. (For Christians)
270. How did you celebrate Christmas when you were a child?
271. What did you do on Christmas Eve? Christmas morning?
272. What was your favorite Christmas gift? Why?
273. How did you celebrate Easter when you were a child?
274. Do you remember believing in Santa Claus? The Easter bunny?
275. What other beings did you believe in as a child?
276. e.g. *fairies, boogey men, monsters, ghosts* etc.
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*(Questions about other holidays could be developed for non-Christian communities.)*

**ETHNIC GROUPS (RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, LINGUISTIC)**

277. What kinds of people live in this neighbourhood?
278. How do they get along?
279. Do you have any friends that live in another neighbourhood?
280. How do you get along?
281. Are there ever any fights where it's one group against another?
282. How did they start?
283. Who was the toughest crowd in the neighborhood when you were growing up?
284. Did you ever have a close friend who was not Italian/Russian/Korean?
285. Could you make a close friend like that today?
286. How about going out with girls [boys]?
287. Could someone who was Italian/Russian/Korean go out with someone who was not Italian/Russian/Korean?
288. What about marriage? Does it work out when people from different groups get married?
289. Do you know of anybody that did that?
290. Do you think there will ever be a time when a person's race/religion/language doesn't make any difference?
291. Why? Why not?
292. What do you think the differences are?
293. Do Italian/Russian/Korean-Canadians look different from other Canadians? (If so) How?
294. Do they act different? (If so) How?
295. Are there ways people here can tell where someone's from?
296. What about clothes?

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**LANGUAGE**

297. Do you speak Italian/Korean/Russian?
298. Where do you speak Italian/Korean/Russian?
299. How often do you speak it?
300. Do you speak any other languages besides English and Italian/Korean/Russian?
301. Where did you learn them?
302. What languages do people speak in this neighbourhood?
303. Are there people who don't speak any English? or Italian/Korean/Russian?
304. Would you say you were bilingual?
305. What does it take to be bilingual?
306. Are there things that are easier for you to talk about in English or in Italian/Korean/Russian?
307. Do you find that you can speak in Italian/Russian/Korean with people in most of the places that you go around here?
308. Do you think everyone in Toronto speaks the same way?
309. How about in this neighbourhood?
310. Is the English that Italian/Russian/Korean-Canadians speak influenced by Italian/Korean/Russian?
311. Do they have a special way of talking?
312. Are there ways people here can tell where someone's from by the way they talk?
313. Why do people in different places speak differently?
314. Do people in the rest of Canada speak differently?
315. If you went to Montreal or Vancouver, would people say "ah, that person comes from Toronto"?
316. Has that ever happened to you?
317. What did people pick up on in your speech?

318. Can you remember any particular thing about the expressions here that people tend to pick up, like "people from \_\_\_\_\_ [name community] talk like that".
319. Do you like the way people from \_\_\_\_\_ [name community] speak? Why / Why not?
320. Where in Canada do you think people speak the best English? Why?
321. If you were going to name a Canadian who speaks the best English, who would it be?
322. Who would you like to speak like?
323. [for adults] Who would you like your kids to speak like?
324. Do you think you talk correctly? [If no,] Why not?
325. Is there such a thing as trying to talk too correctly?
326. Did you ever know anyone that sounded like a real phony?
327. In school, did the teachers ever correct the way you spoke?
328. What did they say?
329. Do you think it's a good idea for teachers to correct kids?
330. If you were a teacher, what would you try to change about the way kids speak?
331. Is there anybody else, like your friends or your children, who have tried to change the way you speak?
332. If someone said to you "oh, you sound Italian/Russian/Korean, I can tell by the way you talk" would you take it as an insult? A compliment? Why?
333. What if somebody said, "you don't sound Italian/Russian/Korean"?
334. Have you ever tried to change anything about the way you talk?
335. Anything in particular?
336. Did you ever know anybody that really tried to change their speech?
337. What do you think of people who try to change the way they speak?
338. When you speak to your boss/teacher and when you speak to your friends [husband / wife / girlfriend / boyfriend], do you change the way you speak?

339. What changes do you notice?
340. If you tried to talk to your friend like to talk to your boss/teacher, what would your friend do?
341. How about if you talked to your boss/teacher like you talk to your friends?
342. What would they think?
343. Is there anything that bothers you about the way other people speak?
344. Do you think children speak worse now than people used to?
345. Why? What do you notice?
346. Do your grandparents speak the way you do? (If so) what's different about the way they speak?
347. Some people think that Italians don't speak English as well as other people, do you think that's true?
348. Why do you think they say that?
349. A lot of people say that there is much more "slang" these days. What's "slang" for you?
350. Do you think there are a lot of people that speak slang?
351. Do you think there's more people that speak slang than before?
352. Do you think that we're judged by our way of speaking, like when we go for a job interview?
353. Do you think that people who speak better are more likely to get jobs?
354. Do you think that people who speak better are more likely to make friends?
355. [For older speakers] Do you like the way your children speak?
356. Are there things that they say that you've told them not to say?
357. Are there words that they use with each other that you don't understand?
358. Are there words that your children use that they would never say around you?
359. [For younger speakers] Do your parents speak like you?
360. Were you ever embarrassed about the way they speak?
361. Did you ever try to get them to speak differently?
362. [If yes] What did they say to you?



363. Do your parents sometimes pick up words that you use?
364. How does it sound?
365. Do you think that Italians/Russians/Koreans should try to keep their language?
366. Is it a part of our culture and heritage?