

# Chapter 17

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## Gender, Ethnicity, and Immigrant Women In Postwar Canada Joan Sangster

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### Questions for Critical Reading

1. How did both sides of the “Dionne girls” debate use “paternalism” to argue for their cause?
2. Sangster mentions that there were many perceptions of the Dionne girls’ experiences. What factors influenced how these commentators perceived the Dionne girls?
3. There is no direct commentary from the girls themselves. What other sources does Sangster use to construct their experiences? What are their biases?
4. The Dionne girls’ Polish ethnicity was less “threatening” to the post-war Canadian public than previous waves of immigration. Why were they more accepted than other generations and how was this reflected in broader immigration policy from the same period?

### List of Primary Sources

- “Ludger Dionne.” Roy, Arthur. Photograph. C. 1942-1948.  
[http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3214946&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3214946](http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3214946&rec_nbr_list=3214946)
- “Polish Canadians.” Photograph. 1948.  
[http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4751963&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4751963](http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4751963&rec_nbr_list=4751963)
- “A Polish Girl.” Edwards, William B. Photograph. 1949.  
[http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3367955&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3367955](http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3367955&rec_nbr_list=3367955)
- “A Polish Girl.” Edwards, William B. Photograph. 1949.  
[http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3367954&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3367954](http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3367954&rec_nbr_list=3367954)
- “L/Cpl Ralph Wooden... Talking with Polish Refugees, France.” Dean, Michael. Photograph. 1944.

[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3396219&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3396219](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3396219&rec_nbr_list=3396219)

- “Corporals Dave Murrie and Andy Jansen Chatting with Polish Refugees, France.” Dean, Michael M. Photograph. 1944.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3396217&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3396217](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3396217&rec_nbr_list=3396217)
- “Mrs. Anna Czerwinski Displaying a Doll that She Has Dressed in the National Dress of Her Polish Homeland.” Photograph. 1955-1965.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4369958&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4369958](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4369958&rec_nbr_list=4369958)
- “Portrait of Three Female Railroad Workers at the Stelco Steel Company, Posing with their Shovels.” Jaques, Ronny. Photograph. 1944.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3198039&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3198039](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3198039&rec_nbr_list=3198039)
- “Female Munitions Worker and Former Beauty Parlor Operator Sophie O’Kowinski reaming a Bren Gun Barrel.” NFB. Photograph. 1943.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3197063&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3197063](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3197063&rec_nbr_list=3197063)
- “Photo de Mme Alice Szczech, ouvriere du rail a la Stelco Steel Company.” NFB. Photograph. 1944.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3628180&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3628180](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3628180&rec_nbr_list=3628180)
- “Dutch Immigrants Arrive at Quebec.” Hunter, George. Photograph. 1947.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3367678&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3367678](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3367678&rec_nbr_list=3367678)
- “Woman Worker Operates Combing Machine at the Montreal Cottons Textile Factory.” Morant, Nicholas. Photograph. c. 1945.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3192142&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3192142](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3192142&rec_nbr_list=3192142)

## Multimedia Resources

- Polish Immigration History  
[www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/pages/polish.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/pages/polish.aspx)
- Archival Sources for the Study of Polish Canadians  
<http://biblioteka.info/archive.htm>

- Polish Heritage in Canada  
<http://www.polishheritage.ca/>
- Women after the War  
<http://wartimecanada.ca/document/world-war-ii/reconstruction/women-after-war>