

# Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



*Learning English with CBC* is a joint project with  
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



## Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

## Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

## Calgary

## March 27, 2017

## News story #1 Two political parties in Alberta may unite (0:13)

### Setting the Scene



Wildrose Party Leader Brian Jean and PC Leader Jason Kenney (Chris Bolin/Wildrose Party) (CBC file photo)

In Canada, there are many political parties with different ideas and values. They can run for municipal, provincial or federal governments. Sometimes parties will split into two or more groups, because members want to focus on different issues. Sometimes parties will join together, because they share many goals and they want to grow stronger. Some parties, such as the Liberal and New Democratic, exist in most provinces and territories. Some parties only run in one province. Alberta has five major political parties: New Democratic, Wildrose, Progressive Conservative, Liberal and Alberta Party. Alberta has typically been a conservative province.

### Pre-listening Questions

Who is the current leader of Alberta? Which party does he or she represent?

In Canada, what do provincial governments control?

Is Canada's government system similar to the one in your country? How are they different?

## Vocabulary

### Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>unite (v.)</b>          | join together to do something                          |
| <b>conservative (adj.)</b> | believing in traditional ideas in politics; right-wing |
| <b>voted in (ph. v.)</b>   | chosen by a group of people to take a job or role      |
| <b>platform (n.)</b>       | the official ideas and goals of a political party      |
| <b>election (n.)</b>       | the process of choosing a new leader by voting         |
| <b>merger (n.)</b>         | combing two businesses or groups into one              |
| <b>run (v.)</b>            | try to become a political leader through voting        |

1. The politician had a \_\_\_\_\_ that supported lower taxes and less public spending. His ideas are quite \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Do you know why you can buy some President Choice products at Shoppers Drug Mart? The two companies had a \_\_\_\_\_ in 2013. They are now one company.
3. There are many different reasons to support a political party. Different kinds of people will \_\_\_\_\_ to support a party, so that party can be \_\_\_\_\_ and have control.
4. Any Canadian citizen over the age of 18, who files the right paperwork, has the right to \_\_\_\_\_ for a municipal, provincial, or federal \_\_\_\_\_ .

**We encourage you to study these new words using this link:** [https://quizlet.com/\\_39xhqt](https://quizlet.com/_39xhqt)

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

## Listening Task

### *Answering True/False questions*

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ There is work to bring together Alberta's two biggest political parties.
2. \_\_\_\_ This work began after Jason Kenney was voted in.
3. \_\_\_\_ Kenney is the leader of the Popular Conservatives.
4. \_\_\_\_ In the election, Kenney talked about bringing both parties together.
5. \_\_\_\_ He thinks it is the best way to beat the Liberals in the next election.
6. \_\_\_\_ Kenney met with an NDP leader to discuss the merger last week.
7. \_\_\_\_ The Wildrose leader is named Brian Jean.
8. \_\_\_\_ They hope to have a plan to unite by the end of June.
9. \_\_\_\_ Both men said they would run to lead the new party.

### **Food for Thought**

Where do you hear about political news? From the Internet, friends, newspapers or somewhere else?

What are some good reasons for parties to join together? Can you think of any problems?

If you were the Premier of Alberta, would you change anything about the province?

## News story #2      Canada's 2017 budget announced (1:04)

### Setting the Scene



Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau (Justin Tang/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

A budget explains how much money a person or institution has. It explains how they earn or collect money, and how much money comes in. It also explains where they spend it, and how much they spend. Budgets are a plan for how to manage money in the future, maybe for one month or one year. When governments in Canada create budgets, they share those budgets with the public. This means that all Canadians can see where government money is being collected, and where it is being spent. The federal budget is announced every year by the Federal Finance Minister.

### Pre-listening Questions

Is it easy for you to follow a budget? Have you ever tried it?

How do you plan a budget? On paper? Online or with an app? Or somewhere else?

What advice would you give to someone who has to follow a budget?



## Vocabulary

### **Find the definition (Multiple Choice)**

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The mayor said he will build a new school, but she has not **revealed** the full plan to the public.
  - a. showed
  - b. hid away
2. The Member of Parliament presented a **bill** to raise the amount of taxes paid by the rich.
  - a. record of spending
  - b. suggested new law
3. We see a lot of **innovation** in this restaurant. The chef makes modern, interesting food.
  - a. cancelling old things
  - b. new items, methods or ideas
4. This article gives tips about money, and **focuses** on how to save a little bit each month.
  - a. brings attention to
  - b. brings criticism to
5. Many famous companies like Apple and Virgin were built by **entrepreneurs**.
  - a. people who shop at businesses
  - b. people who create new businesses
6. After the fire, the school **expanded** its safety plan and put in more emergency exits.
  - a. made shorter
  - b. made bigger
7. People who want families will sometimes quit smoking or lose weight to improve their **fertility**.
  - a. ability to have children
  - b. ability to see a doctor

### **Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:**

**skills training** – education for how to do certain jobs or tasks

**tax credit** – an amount of money that a tax payer can take off the taxes he/she owes

**parental leave** – paid or partially paid time off from work, given to parents with new babies

**deficit** – an amount (usually money) that is less than what is needed

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## Listening Activity

### Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who is Bill Morneau?
  
2. Is there new spending in the bill?
  
3. Will that spending start immediately?
  
4. Which of the following areas will receive money this year? *Check all that apply.*
  - mental health
  - expanded fertility treatment tax credits
  - home budgeting
  - skills training
  - home care
  - student assistance through tax credits
  - support for female entrepreneurs
  - female job training
  - ability for 18-month parental leave
  - innovation
  
5. How much will the government deficit be this year?

### Food for thought

How does a government collect money? Who do they collect money from?

In your opinion, where can the government spend less money? Why?

In your opinion, where should the government spend more money? Why?

### News story #3 NHL players may not play hockey in Olympics (2:03)

#### Setting the Scene



Canada's men's hockey team won gold at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia (Jonathan Nackstrand/AFP/Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

The biggest professional hockey league in North America is the National Hockey League (NHL). In the NHL, teams from Canada and the United States play against each other. Each team is based in a different city. However, the players on that team aren't usually local. Instead, players can come from other parts of Canada, the United States or other countries in the world. There are also many Canadian hockey players who don't play in Canada. They play in the AHL (American Hockey League) and for hockey teams in other countries.

#### Pre-listening Questions

Do you have a favourite hockey team? How did you choose that team?

Is hockey played in your country? Can you think of other countries where hockey is popular?

What are some other sports that are popular in Canada?



## Vocabulary

### Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| <u>Answer</u> | <u>Word from the story</u> | <u>Synonym</u>            |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| _____         | commissioner (n.)          | • failure, limit          |
| _____         | assume (v.)                | • reward, value           |
| _____         | breakdown (n.)             | • unmoving, jammed        |
| _____         | negotiations (n.)          | • agreements, commitments |
| _____         | stuck (adj.)               | • delay, confusion        |
| _____         | disruption (n.)            | • leader, regulator       |
| _____         | contracts (n.)             | • joining, sharing in     |
| _____         | participating (v.)         | • discussions, debates    |
| _____         | benefit (n.)               | • think, believe          |

**We encourage you to study these new words using this link: [https://quizlet.com/\\_39xhz3](https://quizlet.com/_39xhz3)**

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

## Listening Activity

### Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. NHL players will not be playing in the Olympics in _____.                                  | a) South Ontario<br>b) South Africa<br>c) South Korea                                |
| 2. The commissioner of the league, Gary Bettman, said "assume _____."                         | a) we are not sharing<br>b) we are not going<br>c) we cannot be going                |
| 3. This problem comes from a delay in negotiations between the _____ and the _____ Committee. | a) NHL / International Olympic<br>b) NHI / Canadian Hockey<br>c) NIH / Olympic Sport |
| 4. They are stuck on the issue of _____ of the hockey season.                                 | a) disrespect<br>b) disruption<br>c) disappointment                                  |
| 5. They are also stuck on _____.  | a) player skills<br>b) peaceful contact<br>c) player contracts                       |
| 6. Bettman says players have been participating in the last _____ winter Olympics.            | a) four<br>b) five<br>c) nine  |
| 7. He says the NHL hasn't seen any _____ from it.   | a) benefit<br>b) budget cuts<br>c) bonuses   |

### Food for thought

Do you watch the Olympics? Do you prefer the summer or winter games?

Have you lived in Canada during the Olympics? How do Canadians celebrate?

What are some Olympic sports where Canadians win medals? Does your country win medals in any sports?

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

|              | MARCH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES  | TIME |
|--------------|--|------|
| Introduction | Hi. I'm Shannon Scott and this is learning English with the CBC for March 27th, with stories that made news over the past week.  | 0:00 |
| Story 1      | Work is starting to unite Alberta's two conservative political parties. This work began after Jason Kenney was voted in as the new leader of the Progressive Conservatives. Kenney won on a platform to bring the two parties together. He believes this is the best way for a right-leaning party to beat the NDP in the next election. Kenney met with Wildrose Leader Brian Jean last week to discuss the merger. They say they hope to have a plan to unite by the end of April. Both Kenney and Jean have said they would run to be leader of the newly formed party.   | 0:13 |
| Story 2      | Federal finance minister Bill Morneau has revealed his 2017 budget. There's not a lot of new spending in this bill, and a lot of the spending that is in the budget will not start right away. There is money for home care and mental health to be spent this year. There is also money for skills training and innovation. Part of the budget focuses on supporting women in Canada. The female-friendly plan includes support for female entrepreneurs, expanded tax credits for fertility treatments, and the ability to take 18 months of parental leave. But Bill Morneau did announce his government will have a deficit of 28.5 billion dollars this year. | 1:04 |
| Story 3      | It looks like NHL players will not be taking part in the Olympics next year in South Korea. The Commissioner of the league, Gary Bettman, said, quote, "assume we are not going". The problem comes from a breakdown in negotiations between the NHL and the International Olympic Committee. They are stuck on issues like the disruption to the hockey season and player contracts. Bettman says players have been participating in the last five winter Olympics, and he says the NHL hasn't seen any benefit from it.  | 2:03 |

## Answer keys

### News story 1      Two political parties in Alberta may unite (0:13)

#### Vocabulary

1. The politician had a platform that supported lower taxes and less public spending. His ideas are quite conservative.
2. Do you know why you can buy some Loblaws products at Shoppers Drug Mart? The two companies had a merger in 2013. They are now one company.
3. There are many different reasons to support a political party. Different kinds of people will unite to support a party, so that party can be voted in and have control.
4. Any Canadian citizen over the age of 18, who files the right paperwork, has the right to run for a municipal, provincial, or federal election.

#### Listening

##### *Answering True/False questions*

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. F There is work to bring together Alberta's two biggest political parties.
2. T This work began after Jason Kenney was voted in.
3. F Kenney is the leader of the Popular Conservatives.
4. T In the election, Kenney talked about bringing both parties together.
5. F He thinks it is the best way to beat the Liberals in the next election.
6. F Kenney met with an NDP leader to discuss the merger last week.
7. T The Wildrose leader is named Brian Jean.
8. F They hope to have a plan to unite by the end of June.
9. T Both men said they would run to lead the new party.

## News story 2

## Canada's 2017 budget announced (1:04)

### Vocabulary

1. The mayor said he will build a new school, but she has not **revealed** the full plan to the public.
  - a. showed
  - b. hid away
2. The Member of Parliament presented a **bill** to raise the amount of taxes paid by the rich.
  - a. record of spending
  - b. suggested new law
3. We see a lot of **innovation** in this restaurant. The chef makes modern, interesting food.
  - a. cancelling old things
  - b. new items, methods, or ideas
4. This article gives tips about money, and **focuses** on how to save a little bit each month.
  - a. brings attention to
  - b. brings criticism to
5. Many famous companies like Apple and Virgin were built by **entrepreneurs**.
  - a. people who shop at businesses
  - b. people who create new businesses
6. After the fire, the school **expanded** its safety plan and put in more emergency exits.
  - a. made shorter
  - b. made bigger
7. People who want families will sometimes quit smoking or lose weight to improve their **fertility**.
  - a. ability to have children
  - b. ability to see a doctor

### Listening

1. Who is Bill Morneau?  
*the federal Finance Minister*
2. Is there new spending in the bill?  
*yes, but not a lot*
3. Will that spending start immediately?  
*no*
4. Which of the following areas will receive money this year? *Check all that apply.*
  - mental health
  - expanded fertility treatment tax credits
  - home budgeting
  - skills training
  - home care



- student assistance through tax credits
- support for female entrepreneurs
- female job training
- ability for 18-month parental leave
- innovation

5. How much will the government deficit be this year?

*28.5 billion dollars*

**News story 3          NHL players may not play hockey in Olympics (2:03)**

**Vocabulary**

| <u>Answer</u> | <u>Word from the story</u> | <u>Synonym</u>             |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>f</u>      | commissioner (n.)          | a) failure, limit          |
| <u>i</u>      | assume (v.)                | b) reward, value           |
| <u>a</u>      | breakdown (n.)             | c) unmoving, jammed        |
| <u>h</u>      | negotiations (n.)          | d) agreements, commitments |
| <u>c</u>      | stuck (adj.)               | e) delay, confusion        |
| <u>e</u>      | disruption (n.)            | f) leader, regulator       |
| <u>d</u>      | contracts (n.)             | g) joining, sharing in     |
| <u>g</u>      | participating (v.)         | h) discussions, debates    |
| <u>b</u>      | benefit (n.)               | i) think, believe          |

**Listening**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. NHL players will not be playing in the Olympics in _____.</p> | <p>a) South Ontario</p> <p>b) South Africa</p> <p>c) <b>South Korea</b></p> |
|---|---|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>2. The commissioner of the league, Gary Bettman, said “assume _____.”</p>                         | <p>a) we are not sharing<br/> <b>b) we are not going</b><br/> c) we cannot be going</p>                |
| <p>3. This problem comes from a delay in negotiations between the _____ and the _____ Committee.</p> | <p><b>a) NHL / International Olympic</b><br/> b) NHI / Canadian Hockey<br/> c) NIH / Olympic Sport</p> |
| <p>4. They are stuck on the issue of _____ of the hockey season.</p>                                 | <p>a) disrespect<br/> <b>b) disruption</b><br/> c) disappointment</p>                                  |
| <p>5. They are also stuck on _____.</p>  | <p>a) player skills<br/> b) peaceful contact<br/> <b>c) player contracts</b></p>                       |
| <p>6. Bettman says players have been participating in the last _____ winter Olympics.</p>            | <p>a) four<br/> <b>b) five</b><br/> c) nine</p>  |
| <p>7. He says the NHL hasn’t seen any _____ from it.</p>   | <p><b>a) benefit</b><br/> b) budget cuts<br/> c) bonuses</p>   |