

The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 and up

**Free
Sample**



Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

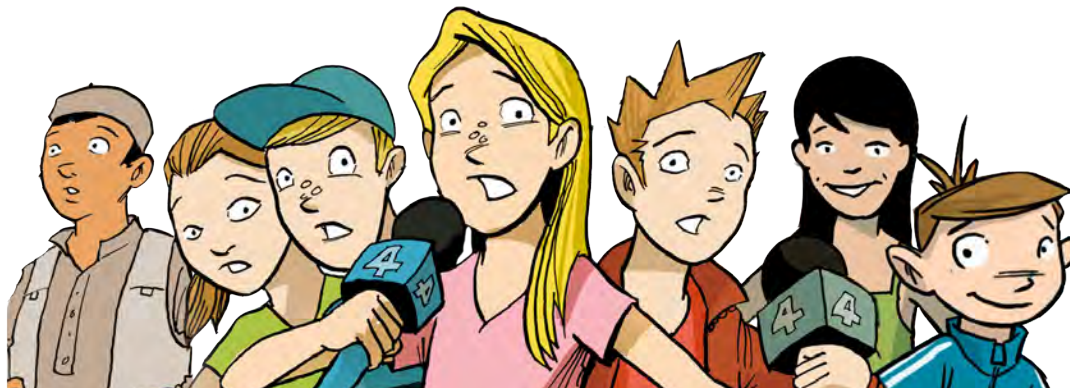
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4 Free Article: NSL – A Kick in the Right Direction

6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus

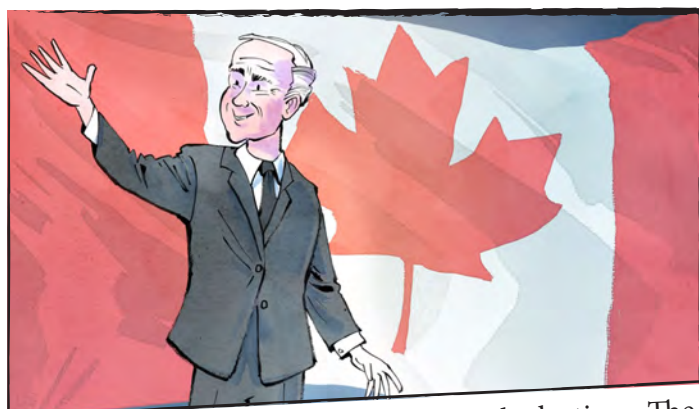
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WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

Election Upheaval



On April 28, Canada held a federal election. The Liberal Party, led by Prime Minister Mark Carney, won. Canadians had strong feelings about this election. More than 19.5 million . . .

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The Story of the Beaver



This animal has been on a Canadian coin since 1937. In 1851, it appeared on Canada's first stamp. It played a key role in the fur trade. At one time, it was nearly extinct. Fifty years ago, it became a symbol of Canada . . .

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With a subscription, you'll receive **eight full issues**.

Each issue combines current **Canadian events and issues** with **geography** to expand students' knowledge of Canada while enhancing their ability to read and understand informational text.

Three **levelled news stories** are accompanied by detailed **literacy-based lesson plans, organizers**, and **criteria for assessment**, as well as comprehension checks and a language focus.

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- S. Giffin, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

"When I have kids in grade 4/5 wanting to know when the next issue is coming, even in December and June, that's when I know I have an excellent resource."

- A. Eisler, Burnaby, B.C.

The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in grades 3 and up.

The Canadian Reader is published eight times during the school year in English and in French from September through May by LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.

Subscribe to **The Canadian Reader** at a cost of \$230 per year (\$28.75 per issue), by contacting us at:

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Internet: www.lesplan.com

How to use this resource:

The Canadian Reader is a made-in-Canada teaching and learning resource featuring all-Canadian content. It has three main components; use the entire package, or pick and choose the pages that suit your class the best.

1. **Literacy Focus** – This generic lesson plan focuses on seven key non-fiction reading comprehension strategies, presented in the following order:

Issue 1: *Using Text Features*

Issue 2: *Making Connections*

Issue 3: *Visualizing*

Issue 4: *Asking Questions*

Issue 5: *Making Inferences*

Issue 6: *Determining Importance*

Issue 7: *Transforming/Synthesizing*

Issue 8: *Reading Strategies Review and Assessment*

Teachers may introduce and practice each month's strategy using any of the articles in the issue, or save it for another time or text.

2. **Canadian news stories** – Each of the three articles is leveled and accompanied by Comprehension Check questions, a Language Focus, and a literacy-based lesson plan and supporting materials. Teach the lessons as they are presented, or pick and choose the activities and assignments you'd like to explore with your students.

3. **Did You Know? comic** – This comic provides basic information about a current news story or event, or supports one of the articles with background information. It's a great way to engage reluctant readers and build students' background knowledge in a fun and graphic way.

Note: All URLs referenced in **The Canadian Reader** are posted as links on our student website at <http://www.lesplan.com/en/links>. Bookmark this URL on your school's computer network to give students easy access to our recommended sites.

Share The Canadian Reader with other staff members in your school, including itinerant, relief, and substitute teachers.

A Kick in the Right Direction



On April 15, 2025, the Calgary Wild FC faced the Vancouver Rise FC at BC Place.

Canadian soccer star Quinn scored the first goal of the match. It was also the only goal of the match. Vancouver won 1-0.

Quinn's goal made history. It was the first goal ever scored in the Northern Super League (NSL)! The NSL is Canada's brand-new, professional women's soccer league.

A new challenge

Diane Matheson co-founded the NSL. Ms. Matheson knows a thing or two about soccer. She played 206 games for Canada's national soccer team. In 2012, she scored the goal that won Olympic bronze for Canada.

In 2021, Ms. Matheson retired. It was time for a new challenge.

Women's sports have never been more popular. Canada is home to soccer superstars, past and

present. In 2020, the Canadian women's soccer team won Olympic gold! And yet, Canada had no professional soccer league for women.

Ms. Matheson set out to change that.

A team effort

Building the league took years of hard work. It took teamwork, too. Luckily, soccer players are good at that.

Many team owners and investors are athletes. They want to support the new league.

Soccer fans will remember Christine Sinclair. Ms. Sinclair captained the Canadian national team before she retired. Now, she is a co-owner of the Vancouver Rise FC.

FC stands for Football Club. Throughout most of the world, soccer is known as football.



Starting with six

The NSL started with six teams. Vancouver Rise FC and Calgary Wild FC played the first game. The Halifax Tides FC, Montreal Roses FC, AFC Toronto, and Ottawa Rapid FC round out the league.

Ms. Matheson hopes to add more cities in a few years.

There will be 75 matches. Each team will have 25 chances to play. At the end of the season, the top four teams will make the playoffs.

Canadian talent

An NSL team can include up to 25 players. All but eight must be Canadian. The idea is to grow Canadian talent.

Casey Stoney coaches the Canadian Women's National Team. She knows how important a professional league can be. It builds communities and grows the fan base, she says. It lets young players

develop without leaving the country.

"I believe that's essential for the future of our game in Canada," said Ms. Stoney.

The youngest players in the league are Taegan and Keelyn Stewart. The 17-year-old twins will play for Calgary Wild FC. They're excited to finally play for their own country. "We're ready to show Canada what we've got," said Taegan.

A sport for everyone

The NSL may be a women's league, but Ms. Matheson knows it will have a wider reach.

The word 'women' is not part of the league's name. That's no accident. "We didn't put Canada in the title either," said Ms. Matheson. She wants people to know that soccer "is for everyone; this league is for everyone."



As you see it, what is the importance of the NSL?



A Kick in the Right Direction

Comprehension Check

Mark the statements **T** (True) or **F** (False). If a statement is *true*, write one fact to support it on the lines below. If a statement is *false*, write the word or words that make it true on the lines below.

_____ 1. Quinn scored the first goal in the Northern Super League.

_____ 2. The Canadian women's soccer team has never won Olympic gold.

_____ 3. Christine Sinclair is the co-owner of the Calgary Wild FC.

_____ 4. There are six teams in the NSL.

_____ 5. At the end of the season, four teams will make the playoffs.

_____ 6. Diana Matheson coaches the Canadian Women's National Team.

A Kick in the Right Direction

Language Focus



A **compound word** is formed when two words are joined to form a new word.



Compound words can be:

Closed – *joined together with no spaces* (e.g., spaceship)

Hyphenated – *joined with a hyphen* (e.g., part-time)

Open – *have a space in between but act as one idea* (e.g., ice cream)

Sort the compound words into the correct group:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| playground | self-esteem | runner-up | fire truck |
| living room | football | toothpaste | check-in |
| swimming pool | mailbox | long-term | high school |

Closed

Hyphenated

Open

What other words from the article can you add to each tag?

A Kick in the Right Direction

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- ☐ Using appropriate technology, project images of the NSL crests and key players from each team [see *The Teacher's Corner* in **Internet Connections**]. Facilitate a *Think-Pair-Share* discussion, inviting partners to discuss the images: *What do they notice? What do the crests and players represent? How do the images work together to tell a story?*
- ☐ Create a T-chart, like the following:

| Text Features | Predictions |
|---|-------------|
| Title: <i>A Kick in the Right Direction</i> | |

- ☐ Read the title of the article aloud and add it to the T-chart. Ask partners to use the title to make predictions and build their background knowledge of the article: *What do they think the article is about? Why?* Record their thinking on the chart.
- ☐ Encourage students to connect the title and their thinking back to the images (another text feature): *How does the title connect to the images?* Explain. Repeat the prediction process, revealing each heading, one at a time.
- ☐ Then, ask students to brainstorm questions they have about the article. Record these at the bottom of the chart or in a 3rd column.
- ☐ Finally, inform the class that good readers are active readers, who continually:
 - think about new information as they read;
 - make connections between the text features, what they are learning, and their background knowledge;
 - get curious about what they read and ask themselves questions;
 - build a schema of the story—what's it about and why it's important—which helps them better understand and remember what they read.

[You may find it helpful to create an anchor chart of these reading behaviours for reference in each of the lessons in this issue.]

- ☐ Distribute to each student a copy of **My NSL Schema** (p. 13). Direct them to write their schema—what they already know about this article in the Before Reading box.

During Reading:

- ☐ Encourage students to highlight or underline important ideas about the NSL as they read, being mindful of how their schema is changing, deepening, or being reinforced with new information.

A Kick in the Right Direction

Lesson Plan

After Reading:

- ☐ As a class, revisit the pre-reading chart. Place a “√” next to any prediction that was affirmed in the article and an “A” next to any question they found answers to.
- ☐ Facilitate another *Think-Pair-Share* discussion. Invite partners to share their charts and discuss the most interesting, surprising, and/or important things they learned about the NSL.
- ☐ Then, ask students to add to their schema organizer by summarizing, in point form, what they learned about the NSL from reading, thinking about, and discussing the article.
- ☐ Finally, download, copy, and distribute the soccer ball outline [See *The Teacher’s Corner* in **Internet Connections**]. Encourage students to consider their schema – what they learned about the NSL and its importance – by responding to the following sentences stems and writing their reflections in different sections of the soccer ball:
 - *The NSL is a ‘kick in the right direction’ because...*
 - *This league is important because...*
 - *Now, I know soccer...*
- ☐ **Criteria for Assessment:** A *thoughtful reflection* includes the ‘so what’ of the article—why the NSL is important—and help us understand the reader’s schema—what they learned and now understand about the NSL.

Extension:

- ☐ **Explore the symbolism of the NSL crests:** Students may be interested in learning more about the history and design of the NSL teams’ crests. Each crest was thoughtfully selected; it reflects the values of the team and has connections (historical or geographical) to the region. Divide the class into 6 teams. Assign each class team to an NSL team. Invite students to use the links in **Internet Connections** to conduct research. Provide students with a research organizer to summarize features such as: Team name, Drawing or image of the crest, Important features and their symbolism, Values, Connection to the region, and Other important information.

Internet Connections:

- ☐ Learn more about this news story:
<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6283324/2025/04/16/canada-womens-soccer-northern-super-league/>
<https://canadasoccer.com/news/historic-inaugural-northern-super-league-match-goes-tonight-in-vancouver/>
- ☐ View these TSN news videos about the first NSL match:
<https://www.tsn.ca/soccer/quinn-converts-penalty-kick-vancouver-rise-top-calgary-wild-in-first-nsl-game-1.2290380>

A Kick in the Right Direction

Lesson Plan

- ☐ Watch some of the NSLS players talk about why the NSL is so important:
<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6712414>
- ☐ Visit the NSL website: <https://www.nsl.ca>
- ☐ Find out more about the crests of the NSL teams:
Montreal Roses FC: <https://canadiansoccerdaily.com/2024/10/09/roses-de-montreal-fc-introduced-as-final-northern-super-league-founding-club/>
Vancouver Rise FC: <https://canadiansoccerdaily.com/2024/08/27/vancouver-rise-fc-launch-as-northern-super-leagues-latest-club-brand/>
Calgary Wild FC: <https://www.calgarywildfc.com/about>
The Halifax Tides FC: <https://www.nsl.ca/news/behind-the-badge-halifax-tides-fc>
AFC Toronto: https://www.ontariosoccer.net/news_article/show/1311560
Ottawa Rapid FC: <https://www.rapidfc.ca/news/introducing-ottawa-rapid-fc>

The Teacher's Corner:

- ☐ Images of the NSL (project the images at the top of the webpage):
<https://canadasoccer.com/news/historic-inaugural-northern-super-league-match-goes-tonight-in-vancouver/>
<https://www.westlandinsurance.ca/news/westland-insurance-partners-with-northern-super-league-for-three-year-sponsorship/>
- ☐ Royalty-free soccer ball outline:
https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/doodle-soccer-ball_1166961.htm#fromView=keyword&page=1&position=0&uuid=12a5e096-6305-40f4-add8-d14726dc56a8&query=Soccer+Ball+Outline

Note: All URLs are posted as links at <http://www.lesplan.com/links>

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Kick in the Right Direction

My NSL Schema

BEFORE READING: I already know...

AFTER READING: Now, I know...

Map: NSL Franchise Cities

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *A Kick in the Right Direction*.

Label the following, then colour:



Provinces

- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Nova Scotia
- Prince Edward Island (PEI)
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador

Territories

- Yukon
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut

Other

- United States
- Greenland (Denmark)
- The Great Lakes

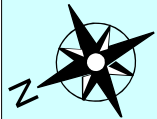
NSL Cities

- Vancouver
- Calgary
- Toronto
- Ottawa
- Montreal
- Halifax

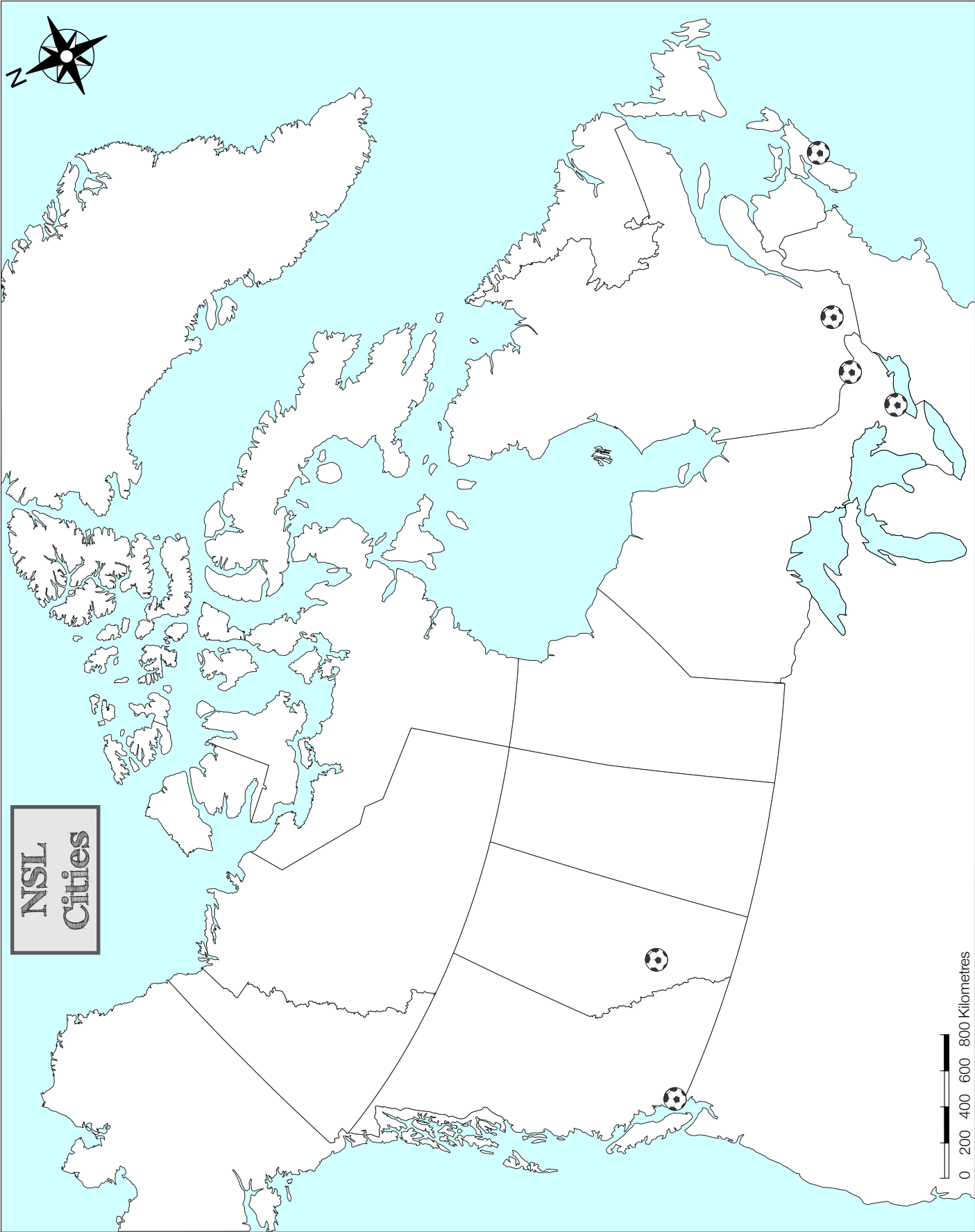
Did You Know . . . ?

You can use the scale at the bottom of a map to calculate distances. How far is it from Vancouver to Toronto as the crow flies? What is the distance between the two closest adjacent NSL cities? Between the two NSL cities that are farthest apart?

A good map is complete, accurate, and visually appealing.



NSL
Cities



0 200 400 600 800 Kilometres

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- ✓ Extension activities



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News4Youth/Infos-Ados: Grades 5 and up (3 reading levels).

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- ✓ PDF/Word resource
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- ✓ Key vocabulary
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
- ✓ Maps and illustrations



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There are **three** ways to access data from a Word file:

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- 3) Create a new file in a different format. Use the **Word Save As** command to choose: 1) plain text, 2) rich text format (RTF), 3) Web page (.htm), 4) PDF, etc.

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I have been using your product for seven years. There isn't a month that goes by that I don't get into challenging discussions with my students with the leads you provide and go in directions I could never imagine.

Thank you for this terrific teaching aid!

D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON

The Canadian Reader
Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 and up

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