

THE NEW CANADIAN: THE VOICE OF THE SECOND GENERATION

The year is 1942, and the place is Vancouver, British Columbia. You are a hopeful rookie reporter for *The New Canadian*, the newspaper of the Japanese Canadian community.

Your first assignment is to write a story on one Japanese Canadian family's experience of uprooting and the seizure of their property.

But hold on, hot-shot. It's not as easy as you might think. First, of course, you have to write a well-crafted and informative newspaper story, remembering the "5 Ws" — Who, What, When, Why, Where — using your imagination. This will include "quotes" from the family and other personal details. This is the easy part.

But there's more to consider than just the facts. *The New Canadian* was monitored and censored by the Canadian government after December 1941. That means that as a reporter, you must maintain a delicate balance in your story — you want to convey the sadness and outrage you feel at this injustice, but at the same time you cannot say anything too obviously critical of the government, or you'll be censored — maybe even fired. How can you use subtle language and details that won't raise government alarm?

Your report must be a minimum of 500 words. It must demonstrate proper newspaper story format. And remember, it must paint an accurate picture of the emotional distress, sadness, and frustration that a typical Japanese Canadian family felt after uprooting, internment, and giving up their property.



Sample of *The New Canadian*, 3 January 1942.