CELPIP Listening Practice Test 88

A free full-length CELPIP-General Listening practice test from CELPass.com: all 6 parts and 38 questions in the real test order, an answer sheet, the answer key and a score chart, and the transcripts.

Part	Topic	Questions
Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving	A Sofa in the Wrong Colour	1–8
Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation	Switching Phone Plans	9–13
Part 3: Listening for Information	Getting a Moving Quote	14–19
Part 4: Listening to a News Item	Saskatoon's Snow-Clearing Neighbour	20–24
Part 5: Listening to a Discussion	A Meeting at the Bookstore	25–32
Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints	Hens in the City	33–38

How to take this test

1. Open celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88 to play the recordings (free, no account). Play each one once only, as in the real test.
2. Read the questions for each recording here and mark your answers on the answer sheet.
3. Check your answers with the answer key, then read the transcript for every question you missed.

Prefer to take it on screen? The same test is free online at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88 with the recordings, marked as you go, with an estimated CLB. More free tests: celpass.com/celpip/practice-tests-pdf

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Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving

A Sofa in the Wrong Colour

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

1. What kind of sofa did the woman buy?

A



B



C



D



2. According to the man, how did the mistake happen?

A She chose the wrong sample in the store.
B The factory ran out of grey fabric.
C Her order was entered incorrectly.
D The delivery crew mixed up two orders.

3. Why does the woman mention her in-laws?

A to explain why a long wait is a problem
B to ask whether the store delivers to Halifax
C to say they helped her choose the sofa
D to complain that the sofa is too small

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

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4. What does the man offer the woman?

A a brand-new sofa delivered sooner

B a full refund on her purchase

C free cleaning for the blue sofa

D a showroom sofa at a lower price

5. How does the woman feel about the offer?

A She is delighted with the discount.

B She would rather wait for a new one.

C She accepts it, though it is not ideal.

D She thinks the mark on the arm is too large.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

6. Why can't the woman's son accept the delivery?

A He has an appointment that morning.

B He will be at school until noon.

C He is too young to sign for it.

D He does not have a key to the house.

7. What will the woman do if her neighbour is not available?

A choose the Monday delivery instead

B reschedule her own appointment

C ask the crew to call her ahead

D let her son wait for the truck

8. What is likely true of the woman?

A Her guests' comfort comes first for her.

B She is nervous about visiting the dentist.

C She does not fully trust her neighbour.

D She works from home every day of the week.

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Switching Phone Plans

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

9. What happened when the man called his provider?

A He was offered a newer phone.
B He was offered a tiny discount.
C He was warned about a fee for leaving early.
D He was moved to a cheaper data plan.

10. What does the man suggest about the brother's dropped calls?

A His device is likely to blame.
B They happen with all cheaper companies.
C They only occur in elevators.
D They will stop after the next update.

11. Why does the man mention his last six months of bills?

A to prove that he watches a great deal of hockey
B to complain about the Wi-Fi at his office
C to explain why his bill went up recently
D to show that a data limit would not affect him

12. Why can the man leave his provider without paying a penalty?

A He never signed a contract with the company.
B His provider agreed to cancel the fee.
C He no longer owes anything on his phone.
D He is not keeping his old number.

13. What is the woman's view of online-only customer service?

A It caused her to lose her voicemail.
B It is less reliable than visiting a store.
C It takes longer than calling.
D It worked out better than phone support did.

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Getting a Moving Quote

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

14. Why is the man calling?

A to find out what a move would cost
B to change the date of a booked move
C to arrange storage for his furniture
D to ask whether a piano can be moved

15. Why would the move on the thirty-first cost more?

A It falls on a Friday.
B Many people move around that time.
C The drive to Steinbach is longer than an hour.
D He needs an extra mover that day.

16. Why does the man decide against moving on the twenty-eighth?

A His lease does not allow it.
B The company is fully booked that day.
C His wife has to work that day.
D He cannot get into his new home yet.

17. What does the woman advise the man to do?

A leave the gravel in the fish tank
B start packing three to four hours before
C book the elevator ahead of time
D pay a deposit by the end of the day

18. What can we infer about the man's daughter?

A She is very attached to the fish.
B She will help the movers empty the tank.
C She would like to sell the aquarium before the move.
D She is worried about moving to a smaller town.

19. What does the woman suggest about the thirty-first?

A It is cheaper than the twenty-eighth.
B It may soon be unavailable.
C It is already reserved for another client.
D It needs a larger deposit than other days.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

Saskatoon's Snow-Clearing Neighbour

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

20. Walter Kowalski's reaction to the attention is

A irritated.
B flattered.
C anxious.
D humble.

21. Kowalski began clearing the block after

A someone was hurt near his shop.
B a record-breaking snowstorm.
C a request from a city councillor.
D complaints from elderly residents.

22. Neighbours thank Kowalski by

A paying him a small fee.
B nominating him for an award.
C bringing him food and drinks.
D helping him buy a second-hand snowblower.

23. Councillor Whitford suggests that Kowalski's work

A saves the city a great deal on snow removal.
B reflects a quality money cannot provide.
C should be copied on every block in Saskatoon.
D ought to be paid for by the city.

24. We can infer that when Kowalski retires,

A his daughter will close the hardware store.
B he will sell the snowblower to a neighbour.
C the city will begin clearing the block.
D the snow clearing may not continue as before.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

A Meeting at the Bookstore

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

25. What are the speakers mainly trying to decide?

A which local author to hire for a fee
B how to raise the store's online sales
C how to mark a milestone for their store
D where to hold this year's staff party

26. Why does Rebecca mention Grace's first reading?

A to point out Grace's history with the store
B to suggest selling used books again
C to show that readings draw big crowds
D to explain why Grace moved away

27. What does Simone wrongly believe about Grace?

A that she had written a cookbook
B that she works as a publicist
C that she never reads in public
D that she had left Kingston

28. What is Simone's main concern about an author reading?

A The author would charge too much.
B It would not attract new customers.
C The store could not fit the audience.
D Few staff could attend in the evening.

29. How does Arthur feel about Grace reading for free?

A doubtful
B hopeful
C indifferent
D offended

30. What can we infer about Arthur?

A He plans to film the videos himself.
B He has known Grace for many years.
C He has struggled with filming before.
D He thinks the discounts are too large.

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31. What is most likely true at the end of the discussion?

A Rebecca has agreed to call Grace.

B Several details are still unsettled.

C The owner has approved the plan.

D Simone's nephew has begun filming.

32. What is the best subject line for the plan they will send the owner?

A Evening party for all of our past customers

B Author reading with paid admission

C Hiring a video team for the store

D Daily book picks ending in a party

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Hens in the City

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/88**

33. The main topic of the report is

A the rising price of eggs in Canada.
B how to train new chicken owners.
C the case for and against keeping hens in town.
D why shelters struggle to house poultry.

34. Gordon Pryce would most likely support

A allowing hens under strict conditions.
B a complete ban on city chickens.
C letting shelters sell abandoned hens.
D dropping yearly coop inspections.

35. Lena Marchetti believes complaints about noise are

A overblown.
B justified.
C mostly about roosters.
D impossible to solve.

36. According to Pryce, many hens end up in shelters because

A their poorly kept coops have attracted rats.
B vet bills are too high.
C bylaws require it.
D they are no longer useful to owners.

37. Marchetti and Pryce both agree that owners should

A have their coops inspected every year.
B be required to learn how to care for hens.
C keep chickens mainly to save money.
D be allowed to keep a rooster.

38. The speaker's attitude toward Pryce's point about cost is

A mocking.
B puzzled.
C sympathetic.
D disapproving.

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Answer sheet

Write the letter of your answer for each question.

1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____
5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
9 _____	10 _____	11 _____	12 _____
13 _____	14 _____	15 _____	16 _____
17 _____	18 _____	19 _____	20 _____
21 _____	22 _____	23 _____	24 _____
25 _____	26 _____	27 _____	28 _____
29 _____	30 _____	31 _____	32 _____
33 _____	34 _____	35 _____	36 _____
37 _____	38 _____		

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Answer key

Part 1: A Sofa in the Wrong Colour

1 B Picture B

2 C Her order was entered incorrectly.

3 A to explain why a long wait is a problem

4 D a showroom sofa at a lower price

5 C She accepts it, though it is not ideal.

6 C He is too young to sign for it.

7 B reschedule her own appointment

8 A Her guests' comfort comes first for her.

Part 2: Switching Phone Plans

9 B He was offered a tiny discount.

10 A His device is likely to blame.

11 D to show that a data limit would not affect him

12 C He no longer owes anything on his phone.

13 D It worked out better than phone support did.

Part 3: Getting a Moving Quote

14 A to find out what a move would cost

15 B Many people move around that time.

16 D He cannot get into his new home yet.

17 C book the elevator ahead of time

18 A She is very attached to the fish.

19 B It may soon be unavailable.

Part 4: Saskatoon's Snow-Clearing Neighbour

20 D humble.

21 A someone was hurt near his shop.

22 C bringing him food and drinks.

23 B reflects a quality money cannot provide.

24 D the snow clearing may not continue as before.

Part 5: A Meeting at the Bookstore

25 C how to mark a milestone for their store

26 A to point out Grace's history with the store

27 D that she had left Kingston

28 B It would not attract new customers.

29 A doubtful

30 C He has struggled with filming before.

31 B Several details are still unsettled.

32 D Daily book picks ending in a party

Part 6: Hens in the City

33 C the case for and against keeping hens in town.

34 A allowing hens under strict conditions.

35 A overblown.

36 D they are no longer useful to owners.

37 B be required to learn how to care for hens.

38 C sympathetic.

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Your estimated CLB

Correct answers (of 38)	Estimated level
38	CLB 12
37	CLB 11
35–36	CLB 10
33–34	CLB 9
30–32	CLB 8
27–29	CLB 7
22–26	CLB 6
17–21	CLB 5
11–16	CLB 4

An estimate: CELPIP converts raw scores with a table for each test form, so the real cut-offs vary a little.

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Transcripts

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Part 1: A Sofa in the Wrong Colour

Section 1

WOMAN: Hi, I hope you can help. My new sofa was delivered yesterday, and, well, it's not right.

MAN: Oh no, I'm sorry to hear that. Was it damaged on the way? Sometimes the crew—

WOMAN: No, no, it's in perfect shape. It's the colour. I ordered a soft grey, sort of a dove grey, and what's sitting in my living room is basically… blue. Like a navy.

MAN: Do you have your order number?

WOMAN: Here's the receipt.

MAN: Let's see… fabric number fourteen… Hmm. That's Harbour. That is a blue.

WOMAN: But I didn't pick Harbour! I held the sample right up against my curtains. It was grey. Harbour Mist, I think it was called.

MAN: Right, Harbour Mist is number forty-one. Somebody must have flipped the numbers when they typed it in. I'm really sorry, that's on us.

WOMAN: Okay, so you can just swap it, right?

MAN: We can, but here's the thing. That fabric is cut to order at our factory in Quebec. A replacement would take about six weeks.

WOMAN: Six weeks? My in-laws are flying in from Halifax on the twentieth. I bought it so they'd have somewhere to sleep. It pulls out into a bed.

MAN: Ah. Let me check something in the back. Can you give me a few minutes?

Section 2

MAN: Okay, good news. Mostly. The display model by the window is the exact same sofa in Harbour Mist.

WOMAN: The one by the window? I sat on that one when I ordered. So that's where I saw the colour.

MAN: Probably, yes. It's been on the floor since spring, so there's a little wear, a faint mark on one arm. We'd have it professionally cleaned first, and I can take twenty percent off.

WOMAN: Twenty percent off the price I already paid, you mean? Or—

MAN: Off what you paid, yes. Refunded to your card.

WOMAN: Hmm. And the blue one goes back?

MAN: Same truck. They drop off one and pick up the other.

WOMAN: Honestly, I'd have preferred a brand-new one. But I'd rather have something my in-laws can sleep on than wait until Christmas. Okay, let's do it.

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MAN: So, the truck could come Thursday or next Monday. Thursday it'd be sometime between eight and noon.

WOMAN: Thursday's better. I work from home that day, so that's perfect. Wait, no. Thursday morning I've got a dentist appointment. Ugh.

MAN: Could someone else be there? Any adult who can sign.

WOMAN: My son's home, but he's sixteen, so I guess he doesn't count.

MAN: Afraid not. Someone eighteen or over.

WOMAN: Well, my neighbour has a key, and she's retired. Actually, could the crew call me when they're about half an hour away? Then maybe I could make it back myself.

MAN: They always call ahead, about thirty minutes, yes. But if you're in the dentist's chair…

WOMAN: Right. Okay, put me down for Thursday. I'll ask my neighbour tonight, and if she can't, I'll move the dentist. My teeth can wait. My in-laws can't.

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Part 2: Switching Phone Plans

WOMAN: Is that a new phone?

MAN: Nope, same old phone. Hopefully a new plan, though. I'm paying $95 a month, and when I called to complain, they offered me a whole two dollars off. Two dollars! So I've been looking at those smaller companies, you know, the ones that don't have any stores.

WOMAN: Oh, like the one my brother uses? He pays something like $35. But he says his calls drop whenever he's in a basement or an elevator.

MAN: Well, that's the thing. From what I've read, they run on the exact same towers as the big companies, so in theory the coverage should be identical. Your brother's phone is probably ancient. The real catch is the data. I've got unlimited now, and the cheaper ones give you, like, twenty gigabytes, and after that it slows to a crawl.

WOMAN: Twenty? You'd burn through that in a week. You're always watching hockey highlights on the bus.

MAN: I know, I know. But I went back through my bills for the last six months, and the most I ever used was fourteen. Most of the time I'm on Wi-Fi at work or at home anyway. So basically I've been paying extra for something that just sits there.

WOMAN: Huh. Okay, fair. What about your contract, though? Isn't there some kind of fee if you leave early?

MAN: That's what I assumed, too. But it turns out I finished paying off the phone itself back in August, so I'm free to go. The only thing I really care about is keeping my number. Everybody in my hockey league has it, and my mother would never forgive me.

WOMAN: Ha. No, you can keep it. When I switched last year, they just moved it over. It took maybe an hour. Mind you, my voicemail disappeared, and I had to contact customer service three times to sort it out.

MAN: See, that's what worries me. These places don't have stores, so if something goes wrong, it's all online chat, and good luck with that…

WOMAN: Honestly? The chat was quicker than sitting on hold with my old company ever was. Look, if you're saving sixty dollars a month, that's, what—

MAN: Seven hundred and twenty a year. Yeah, I did the math. That's my flight home at Christmas.

WOMAN: Then what are you waiting for?

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Part 3: Getting a Moving Quote

WOMAN: Good morning, Northern Star Moving, this is Dana.

MAN: Hi, yes, I'm hoping to get a price for a move. It's a two-bedroom apartment in Winnipeg, going to a house in Steinbach. That's about an hour south.

WOMAN: Sure, I can help with that. What date are you looking at?

MAN: The thirty-first of this month. It's a Friday, if that matters.

WOMAN: It does, unfortunately, but not because it's a Friday. The end of the month is our busiest stretch, since everyone's lease ends on the same day. Our usual rate is $140 an hour for three movers and a truck, but on the last two days of the month it goes up to $175. If you could do the twenty-eighth instead, you'd save a fair bit.

MAN: Hmm. Well, my lease runs to the end of the month, so in theory I could. Although, wait, no. We don't get the keys to the house until the thirtieth.

WOMAN: Ah. Then the twenty-eighth only works if we keep everything in our warehouse for two nights. We can do that, but between the storage and unloading twice, you'd end up paying more than the higher rate.

MAN: Right, so that defeats the purpose. Okay, the thirty-first it is. How long do you think it'll take?

WOMAN: For a two-bedroom, loading usually takes three to four hours, depending on how organized you are. Is there an elevator in your building?

MAN: There is, but it's tiny. And we're on the ninth floor.

WOMAN: Then I'd really recommend talking to your building manager and reserving it for that morning. If our crew has to keep stopping to let other tenants on, that's where the hours really add up. Anything heavy or awkward? A piano, a treadmill?

MAN: No piano. There's a, uh, a fish tank. A big one, about a hundred and fifty litres.

WOMAN: We can move the tank, but it has to be completely empty, no water and no gravel. And we can't take the fish, I'm afraid. Live animals aren't covered by our insurance.

MAN: Oh, the fish are riding with me, believe me. My daughter wouldn't let them out of her sight for a minute.

WOMAN: Good plan. So, with the drive, I'd estimate six to seven hours in total, which is somewhere between $1,050 and $1,225, plus tax. We'd also need a $200 deposit to hold the date, and that's refundable up to a week before.

MAN: Okay. Let me run it by my wife tonight, she's the one keeping track of the budget. If I call back tomorrow, the thirty-first will still be open, right?

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WOMAN: I can't promise that, I'm afraid. We've only got one truck left that day. Tell you what, I could hold it until noon tomorrow without a deposit.

Part 4: Saskatoon's Snow-Clearing Neighbour

NARRATOR: Residents of one Saskatoon block have barely touched a shovel in fifteen years, and they have a local hardware store owner to thank. Every winter morning after a snowfall, sixty-three-year-old Walter Kowalski rises before dawn and clears not only the sidewalk in front of his shop, but every sidewalk on the block, including the walkways of several elderly residents across the street. The routine began in 2011, when a regular customer slipped on an icy patch outside a neighbouring bakery and fractured her wrist. Kowalski, who felt partly responsible, purchased a second-hand snowblower the following week. He refuses payment, although grateful neighbours frequently leave homemade perogies and fresh coffee on his counter. During a record-breaking storm last January, he worked for nearly five hours straight. City councillor Dana Whitford says Kowalski's efforts represent the kind of community spirit that no municipal budget could ever purchase, and she has nominated him for the city's annual volunteer award. Kowalski, however, shrugs off the attention. He insists the snowblower does the difficult work, and jokes that it's considerably cheaper than a gym membership. His only real concern is retirement: his daughter, who takes over the store next year, has never operated the machine.

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Part 5: A Meeting at the Bookstore

Rebecca: So, the owner wants a plan by the end of the month. Twenty-five years in March. Any brilliant ideas?

Arthur: Well, I keep coming back to a big party. Wine, cheese, a local band, and we invite every customer we've ever had.

Simone: Every customer we've ever had? This place holds maybe sixty people if we push the shelves back. And who's paying for wine for three hundred?

Arthur: Okay, not everyone. But you get the idea. Something people will actually remember.

Rebecca: I was thinking more of an author event. What about Grace Lindqvist? Her very first reading was here, back when we still sold mostly used books.

Simone: Didn't she move to Toronto, though?

Rebecca: No, that was her publicist. Grace is still in Kingston. She was in here last week buying, um, a cookbook, I think.

Simone: Huh. Okay, I like that. Though, honestly, readings get, what, forty people on a good night? And it's the same forty every time. For a twenty-fifth, I'd want something that brings in people who've never set foot in here.

Arthur: Which is why I said a party.

Simone: Or, hear me out, something that lasts more than one night. Twenty-five days, twenty-five books. Each of us picks the books that shaped this store, we build a display, and there's a discount on that day's book. Plus a short video online every day.

Rebecca: Twenty-five videos? Who's filming those? Because the last time we tried social media, Arthur's phone was—

Arthur: —upside down for the whole first minute, yes, thank you, Rebecca.

Simone: My nephew does video for school. He'd probably do it for pizza.

Rebecca: Hmm. And the discounts? The owner's going to look at a month of discounts and—

Simone: Ten percent on one title a day. That's not going to sink us.

Arthur: Okay, but what if the last day is the party? Day twenty-five. Smaller, sure. Grace reads, there's cake, and everybody who followed the videos finally comes in.

Rebecca: That's… actually not bad. Though Grace might expect a fee these days. She's not exactly unknown anymore.

Simone: She might do it for nothing if we put her new book right in the window. Her publisher's been pushing it everywhere.

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Arthur: I'll believe that when I see it.

Rebecca: Well, somebody has to ask her. And I'm not sure the owner will love the idea of strangers filming in the store, either.

Simone: Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Part 6: Hens in the City

NARRATOR: In a growing number of Canadian cities, a new sound can be heard in backyards: the gentle clucking of hens. Most municipalities that allow backyard chickens explicitly prohibit roosters, yet the question of whether residents should keep a few hens at all has become a surprisingly heated issue at council meetings across the country.

NARRATOR: Proponents, such as urban farming advocate Lena Marchetti, contend that the benefits are considerable. A flock of three or four hens, she argues, supplies a family with fresh eggs, devours kitchen scraps that would otherwise end up in the landfill, and produces excellent fertilizer for vegetable gardens. Marchetti, who runs weekend workshops for first-time owners, also stresses the educational value. Even wary neighbours, she adds, are often won over by a carton of eggs left on the doorstep. Children who care for chickens, she says, learn responsibility and gain a far more realistic picture of where their food comes from. In her view, the fuss about noise is wildly exaggerated: a contented hen, she notes, is quieter than the average barking dog.

NARRATOR: Critics are less enthusiastic. Retired veterinarian Gordon Pryce, who sits on his city's animal welfare committee, worries that many owners underestimate the commitment. Chickens can live eight to ten years, yet they typically stop laying after three or four. Pryce reports that animal shelters, which are rarely equipped for poultry, are increasingly taking in abandoned hens once the eggs dry up. He also raises health concerns. Neglected coops attract rats and raccoons, and handling birds carries a small but genuine risk of salmonella, particularly for young children. Outbreaks of avian influenza, which periodically sweep through commercial farms, add a further complication. Pryce doesn't call for an outright ban, but insists that any bylaw should require permits, regular inspections and a mandatory training course.

NARRATOR: Interestingly, Marchetti doesn't object to every rule. She welcomes compulsory training, though she considers annual inspections an unnecessary burden on already stretched bylaw officers. Where the two genuinely part ways is on cost. Pryce, with some justification, notes that once you add up feed, building a coop and veterinary bills, homegrown eggs cost far more than store-bought ones. Marchetti counters that saving money was never the point.

NARRATOR: Backyard flocks are unlikely to transform the way Canadians eat. But the debate reveals a longing, among many city dwellers, to reconnect with the sources of their food, and a nagging question about whether good intentions, however sincere, are enough to keep a flock healthy for a decade.

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