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| Communication Skills: Expressing Your Opinion |
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| In Canada being able to express what you think is a very important skill. You are asked for your opinion on everything from food, movies and music, to politics and the economy. Because expressing opinion is so important, we have many different ways to do so.Use the following phrases at the beginning of your sentence:

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| * From my experience…
* In my experience…
* In/to my mind….
 | * In my opinion…
* It has been my experience that….
 | * From my perspective…
* From where I’m sitting…
* Correct me if I’m wrong, but…
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*In my opinion, the chicken is better than the steak.**It has been my experience that chicken is healthier than steak.**Correct me if I’m wrong, but steak is easier to cook than chicken.*Often expressing opinion requires you to be for or against an idea.

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| * I’m in favour of…
 | * I’m for…
 | * I’m against…
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*I’m in favour of going to Europe for our vacation.*These complete sentences can come before your opinion.* I see it this way.
* May I voice my opinion?

*I see it this way. We need to make more money and we need to do it quickly.*The following verbs can all be used to express opinion.

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| * To find
* To think
 | * To believe
* To feel
 | * To prefer
* To like
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*I find that jazz music is much more relaxing than rock music.*The following words can also be used to signal that what comes afterwards is your opinion.

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| * Clearly
* Obviously
* Evidently
 | * Unfortunately
* Fortunately
* Luckily
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*Clearly, the first option is the best one for us to take.**Evidently, we need to take the first option.*Comparatives and superlatives can be used to express opinions.*Paris is definitely more beautiful than London.*Finally, modals are VERY useful in expressing opinion.*We must act immediately.**We should finish this project as soon as possible.* |

*A. In the dialogue below underline all of the expressions the speakers use to express their opinions.*

Stuart: Unfortunately, we need to make some changes within our department. We are way over-budget. We need to decrease the money we are spending. I may need to lay off some of our employees.

Maria: May I voice an opinion? I think a better solution may be to reduce all employees’ hours, provided they all agree, and share the work that is available until things improve within the company.

Marc: I’m in favour of that idea. I find that lay offs really affect the morale of all workers, even those still on the payroll.

Maria: Indeed! With this plan, a sense of camaraderie could be achieved. The employees will feel more like a team even during this difficult time.

Stuart: I’m not convinced. It’s been my experience that cuts to wages or hours don’t make for happy employees, even if they do still have their jobs.

Marc: Perhaps it’s all in the way we approach it.

Stuart: Maybe you are right. I will take your suggestions into consideration.

*B. Imagine you are the fourth person in attendance at the meeting in the above dialogue. Write 2-3 sentences presenting your opinion on this issue. Then share your opinions and solutions with a partner.*

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*C. In groups of four, role play the above scenario. Use many alternate expressions to present your opinions and solutions.*