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Surviving six more weeks--of winter--with Canadian style

No doubt, most of you this winter have strengthened your muscles by clearing away snow and chipping ice, while dreaming about trips to sunny, warm destinations -- and spring. You've also learned how to dress in layers.

Now thanks to the annual groundhog test, you've faced the shock of an additional six more weeks of winter. You've survived this far. Here's how you can make it until spring:

- Tired of your winter coat? Buy a new one, maybe in a bright colour this time. Late winter is a great time of year for winter coat sales (believe it or not, spring inventories are arriving and the stores need to make room).
- If a coat isn't in your budget, buy a colourful scarf to refresh your coat and give yourself a lift.
- Wear boots with thick soles to prevent slipping and sliding. Function trumps fashion, particularly this winter.
- Buy a pair of Olympic Red Mittens to keep your hands warm and support Canada's Olympic Team. Go Canada Go!
- Purchase your first item of spring clothing, preferable something you can wear now, maybe even layer—think sweater, blouse, shirt.
- Channel your inner Montrealer. It doesn't mean changing your allegiance from the Leafs to the Habs. Just go out and play. When was the last time you made a snowman, enjoyed tobogganing and skating, or made snow angels? Yes, you get snowy and wet but most of us are "drip dry." Warm up with hot chocolate and marshmallows, or perhaps a more grown up drink. Soon you'll be wishing for an additional six weeks on top of what Mr. Groundhog predicted.

Face it, we're still going to have a few more weeks of winter. But for anyone who's struggled with small talk, this winter is a gift. Just say snow, ice, how's the weather and you've got instant rapport. It's never been easier or more Canadian than that, eh?

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