

# Returning series post strong ratings for CBC

Season two of *Burden of Truth* saw a 50% increase in average audience, while *Coroner* was the pubcaster's most-watched drama premiere in four years.



Returning series bolstered by access to international audiences have hit the ground running for CBC this January, with *Burden of Truth*, *Schitt's Creek*, *Kim's Convenience* and *Heartland* all posting linear viewership increases over their previous season debuts.

The first episode of *Burden of Truth*'s sophomore season attracted an average audience of 735,000, up 50% from its premiere episode last year, which drew an average of 500,000. The ratings uptick comes after season one of the Manitoba-shot series, produced by ICF Films, Eagle Vision and eOne, was [picked up by The CW](#) last April. The U.S. net also [picked up the second](#)

[season](#).

Half-hour comedies [Kim's Convenience](#) and [Schitt's Creek \(Playback's 2018 Show of the Year\)](#) both gained significant momentum with multi-territory Netflix deals over the past year returned to larger audiences for their January 2019 premieres over 2018. The first episode of *Kim's* (Thunderbird Entertainment in association with Soupepper) third season scored an average audience of 804,000, up 7% from a year ago, while *Schitt's* garnered 781,000, up 19% from last year. According to CBC, their premiere episodes reached 1.3 million and 1.35 million Canadians, respectively.

Season 12 of family drama *Heartland* (Seven24 Films/Dynamo Films) premiered on Jan. 6 to an average audience of 840,000, climbing 18% from a year ago. Last year, Kew Media sold the Alberta-shot show to [Grey Juice Lab and Imagen TV](#).

*Workin' Moms* (Wolf + Rabbit Entertainment) drew an average audience of 224,000 in its season three premiere. The Catherine Reitman-created series was [recently picked up by Netflix](#) and season one is set to launch on the streamer as a Netflix Original on [Feb. 22](#).

Elsewhere, *The Stats of Life*, which first [aired on CBC in 2017](#), returned for a second season. Produced by Frantic Films, the factual series uses data to examine three families, one who fits into the typical data and two outliers. The first episode of season two aired on Jan. 11 at 8:30 p.m. to an average audience of 375,000 and reached 762,000 viewers in Canada. The show saw a 40% increase in its average audience from last season's premiere of 267,000.

Among the CBC's other new shows, original drama *Coroner* (Muse Entertainment/Back Alley Films/Cineflix Studios) garnered the largest AMA and reach on its premiere. The procedural debuted on Jan. 7 at 9 p.m. to an average audience of 1,051,000, making it CBC's most-watched drama premiere in four years. In total, the show's first episode reached an audience of over 2 million Canadians.

As for the pubcaster's other scripted newcomers, *Cavendish* (Temple Street), fronted by comedians Andy Bush and Mark Little, attracted an average audience of 503,000 during its Jan. 8 debut, while *Unspeakable* (Mezo Entertainment) posted an average viewership of 332,000 on Jan. 9. The latter, a CBC/SundanceTV limited series created by Robert C. Cooper, is set to debut on SundanceTV in the U.S. this spring.

The first episodes of both *Cavendish* and *Unspeakable* reached more than 1 million Canadians, according to CBC.

*All Numeris data provided by CBC. All average audience data inclusive: 2+ AMA via Numeris.*