

# Money Smarts

This booklet helps you learn about money. You'll find easy tips and tools to help you plan, save, and make good choices with your money.



## PART 1

### What Is Financial Planning?

**Financial planning** means learning how to take care of your money. It helps you make smart choices now and in the future.



**Remember:** You are in charge of your money. Learning about it helps you feel strong and ready for what's next!

### Money Words You Should Know

Word	What It Means
Budget	A plan for <b>how you will spend and save</b> your money.
Bursary	Money to help pay for school that you don't have to pay back. You have to be in <b>financial need</b> to get it.
Credit	Borrowing money that you promise to <b>pay back later</b> .
Credit Score	A number that shows <b>how good you are</b> at paying back money.
Grant	Money to help pay for school that you don't have to pay back. You usually have to come from a <b>certain background</b> to get it.
Interest	<b>Extra money</b> you pay when you borrow, or extra money you earn when you save.
Loan	Money you borrow and must <b>pay back</b> .
Scholarship	Money to help pay for school that you don't have to pay back. You usually need <b>high grades or special talents</b> to get it.

**PART 2**

# How to Make a Budget

## What's a Budget?

A budget helps you see what money comes in and what goes out. It helps you plan for things you need and things you want later.



**Toolkit Tip:**

Try using stickers or coloured pencils to mark your “needs” and your “wants.”

## Steps to Make Your Own Budget

- 1. Start Simple:** Figure out what you plan to make and spend in a month. You can use the budget template included in this toolkit to guide you.
- 2. Set Goals:** Choose what you want to save for, like school, travel, or a new computer.
- 3. Keep Track:** Write down each time money comes in or goes out.
- 4. Check and Fix:** Each month, look at your list. Are you saving what you planned? If not, change your plan.

Lily 's Budget  
(your name here)

Month: March

What I plan to spend money on	What I expect to spend	What I really spent	How much I went under/over
Rent ★	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 0.00
Groceries ★	250.00	235.00	15.00
New shoes	60.00	65.00	(5.00)
Add up the numbers in each column and write them here:	\$ 1210.00	\$ 1200.00	\$ 10.00

**How much I made:**

\$ 1500.00

**How much I spent:**

\$ 1200.00

**How much I saved:**

\$ 300.00

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## PART 3

# Credit Cards and Loans

When you borrow money, you agree to pay it back later, sometimes with interest. Borrow only what you can pay back.

## Kinds of Credit and Loans

- **Credit Card:** Borrow money from the bank to buy things. Pay it back each month.
- **Payday Loan:** Borrow a small amount until your next pay. Watch out—these have very high fees.
- **Student Loan:** Helps you pay for school. You pay it back after you finish.
- **Bank Loan:** For big things like a car, house, or business. You make payments every month.



### Toolkit Tip:

Before borrowing money to pay for something, ask yourself:



“Do I really need this, or can I save for it?”

## PART 4

# Credit Score

Your credit score is like a money report card. It shows how good you are at paying back money.



## How to Keep a Good Score

- Pay your bills on time.
- Use only a small part of your credit.
- Don't open too many new credit cards.
- Keep old cards open if you can.
- Check your credit report once a year.



### Activity:

Draw a checkmark beside the money habits you already do!

## PART 5

# Finding Help for School

You can get money for school that you don't have to pay back. These are called grants, bursaries, or scholarships.

### Where to Look

- Search online for Canada Student Grants and Loans or Indigenous Services Canada bursaries.
- Ask your school advisors or your Indigenous Student Centre to help you find funding opportunities and forms.
- Attend info sessions from funding organizations about how to apply.
- Ask questions! Helpers want to see you succeed.



#### Toolkit Tip:

Keep a list of all the places you apply so you don't miss deadlines.



#### Toolkit Reminder:

Take it one step at a time.  
Every dollar saved is a win.

## Your Money, Your Future

Learning about money helps you build a future that feels safe and strong. **Your choices are your own, and that's what makes your journey special.**

