

# PROPOSAL: MAKE A FINANCIAL LITERACY CAREER CLASS MANDATORY FOR GRADE 12 GRADUATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

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## A. WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

This report is asking for your support to make Financial Literacy one of the REQUIRED CLASSES for Saskatchewan students to graduate.

## B. THE ISSUE:

Moving forward, and with the impact of COVID-19, being financially literate has become even more important. The Government of Saskatchewan has made great strides in promoting youth financial literacy. Yet, there is more to be done to continue moving this further along and across a broader range of young people. Currently students in SK require 24 credits to graduate- 15 required & 9 electives classes (<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/credits-degrees-and-transcripts/high-school-credit-options> )

There is a Ministry Graduation Committee considering changing the number of required classes and will put forward a recommendation by June 2023. (<https://leaderpost.com/news/saskatchewan/ministry-collecting-feedback-on-sask-grad-requirements-for-review> )

Financial Literacy 20 and 30 classes are currently taught in Saskatchewan but are **electives** that the students may choose. According to official Saskatchewan Learning 2020-21 enrollment numbers, there were 42,601 Sask. students enrolled in Grades 10-12 and only 2,012 students obtained a Fin Llt 20 or 30 credit. This means that less than 5% of our high school student population are learning about basic financial matters. This number has grown slightly since the initial roll out of the Financial Literacy curriculum in 2019, but by leaving it an ELECTIVE and not REQUIRED class, there will still be huge gaps in the financial education of Saskatchewan students.

## C. WHAT IS AT STAKE?

In Saskatchewan and all other jurisdictions throughout the country, an increasing number of Canadians are facing rising levels of mortgage debt, credit card debt, student loans, and are faced with a variety of other financial hurdles such as saving for retirement and personal budgeting. These are challenges which Canadians have not been adequately educated to deal with.

### 1. What if students don't learn about financial literacy in high school?

They may never see a financial literacy course again and risk not getting the in-depth financial knowledge they need for their future. We know that financial literacy is a universal competency that all students need; an **EQUALIZER** for all ages, demographics, race, religion and gender. Financial literacy will benefit everyone regardless of background. Financial education provides a more level playing field for all walks of life to lessen the division between economic classes and help people provide a future career for themselves. Failure to provide financial education to all students, risks further division between our populations, resulting in greater divisiveness socially. Canada is a democratic country, where everyone should have the right to prosperity when given a chance.

### 2. Worsening debt loads and lack of savings crisis:

Canadians' consumer credit-card balance crosses \$100 billion for first time Mar 10, 2023 : Canadians are piling on more debt as they continue to feel the pinch from high inflation and interest rates, according to Equifax Canada's quarterly consumer credit trends report. Millennials experience an above-average increase and impact as they enter a very challenging economic period. A key driver was the growth and reliance on credit cards, with 1.4 million credit cards issued in the final 3 months of 2022. Consumer debt rose 15.3% since 2021. Credit card usage is up due to higher costs of living and newcomers with growing reliance on credit to pay for basic living needs. An additional alarming statistic is the number of non-mortgage consumers

who had an increase of 11% in missed credit card payments (this is especially alarming due to increase in liabilities coupled with a lack of home ownership).

<https://financialpost.com/executive/executive-summary/canada-consumer-credit-balance-100billion-first-time>

**This news is nothing new:**

Dec 2012 The Bank of Canada published a report to recommend prudent household borrowing. "No matter how one looks at it, household debt in Canada is at a record high. Debt at this level can make certain households, the economy and the financial system more vulnerable to shocks, such as a surge in unemployment, falling incomes and house prices, and rising interest rates."

[https://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/household\\_spending\\_debt.pdf](https://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/household_spending_debt.pdf)

January 21, 2019: MB and SK residents are the most likely (56%) to be within \$200 of insolvency at month-end compared to other provinces; 36% say they already don't earn enough to pay their bills and debt obligations; 47% expect to take on more debt over the next 12 months just to cover basic living and family expenses.

October 3, 2022: More Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents say necessities such as food, transportation and clothing are less affordable; 52% less affordable to feed themselves and their family; 40% say transportation has become less affordable; 47% finding it less affordable to put money aside for savings; 39% finding clothing or household necessities less affordable;

November 9, 2022: Personal bankruptcies rose 22.5% in the 3rd quarter of 2022, compared to the same time last year. Highest increase in 13 years.(source: MNP Consumer Debt Index & Affordability Crisis)

**3. Consumer Debt Report 2023 in Canada:**

Amidst inflation and rate hikes in 2022, Canadians are more likely to feel worse off now than better. While levels of confidence and anxiety about personal finances are similar to one year ago, the specific circumstances for Canadians have notably changed. Key Findings in this report:

- 82% (four-in-five) Canadians say spending on essentials is the main cause of their worsening financial situation.
- 63% (over six-in-ten) Canadians anticipate making cutbacks to their expenses, with food being the top cutback.
- More than four-in-ten Canadians have experienced an increase in debt in the past year.
- 33% (one-in-three) Canadians feel anxious about their current financial situation.
- 35% feel worse about their financial position today vs. the beginning of 2022.
- 79% of Canadians with a worsened financial situation say spending more on essentials is the top contributor.
- 29% feel pessimistic about their personal finances heading into 2023.

<https://nomoredebts.org/consumer-debt-report-2023>

## **D. RESEARCH TO SUPPORT**

The lack of financial literacy and the significant erosion of personal finances across Canada has been a problem, decades in the making. For years, policy leaders have talked about the importance of financial literacy, but now is the time to act. Here is some research to consider. Decades of work has been done to show why this is important, NOW IS TIME TO ACT to give every SK student financial literacy in their high school education.

## **1. National Financial Literacy Strategy 2021-2026 Financial Consumer Agency of Canada**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/programs/financial-literacy/financial-literacy-strategy-2021-2026.html>

Throughout this report, there is an emphasis on the importance of financial education, and targeted education strategies and programs as Canadians are under pressure more now than ever. Canadians Under Pressure: Managing Money in Today's World- The Pandemic Has Intensified Financial Stress and Challenges For many people, money management is confusing, frustrating, and overwhelming. In fact, finances continue to be the greatest source of stress for Canadians—significantly more than work, personal health or relationships. The global pandemic has intensified financial challenges for many people, and revealed a concerning lack of financial resilience. This historic event has exposed the fact that financial vulnerability can affect anyone—no matter their income, level of education, or where they live. Although emergency government support helped impacted households manage on a temporary basis, many Canadians are now trying to plan for an uncertain future, including financial, career, and lifestyle changes to help them rebound or rebuild their lives. On top of their personal financial realities, Canadians face a difficult landscape. The marketplace for financial products, services, and advice is complex, constantly changing, and increasingly digital. There is a wide range of product choices, as well as a huge amount of information and advice through money experts, apps, and websites. The result? It's tougher than ever to navigate the financial marketplace, know who to trust for help, and how to make good decisions. And for many people, especially those most in need of financial knowhow, the maze is simply too overwhelming to navigate. How Financial Literacy Can Help: Financial literacy is a critical life skill. It is a key contributor to financial resilience, and its value is recognized world-wide. Low levels of financial literacy can increase the likelihood that someone is, or will become, financially vulnerable. Increasing financial literacy decreases the risk of vulnerability and increases the likelihood of financial resilience. The Government of Canada, along with financial literacy stakeholders across the country, have long realized the need to help Canadians strengthen their financial literacy and plan for their future. When people feel more in control of their finances, the benefits are immediate.

## **2. Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy: [The Future of Financial Education : Report on the 2011 FCAC-OECD Conference on Financial Literacy](#)**

This report included one very important recommendation: financial literacy should be included in curricula in schools across the country. Young people in developed and developing economies today face increasingly complex financial decisions—credit and debit cards are a fact of life for today's youth who engage in online activities and shopping and live in an increasingly cashless society. At the same time, many youths are taking on debt to finance their post-secondary education. While financial products can help young people achieve their goals (e.g., education), they also represent a significant risk: without the right knowledge and skills, they provide a quick route to unwanted and at times overwhelming debt. It is now widely recognized that financial education should be part of a formal school curriculum, as evidenced during the workshop, "Financial Education in the School System." The importance of national leadership was a key theme during this session as presenters shared their tips and best practices for creating standardized financial education within the formal school system.

## **3. Financial literacy supports our basic human rights as having financial stability allows a person to access basic needs to live such as housing, food and a way to support themselves.**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/programs/financial-literacy/financial-literacy-strategy-2021-2026.html>

We live in a democratic, free market society where everyone can prosper, if they are given a chance. Financial Education serves as a great EQUALIZER for all ages, demographics, race, religion and gender, especially newcomers to Canada. Financial education provides a more level playing field for all walks of life to lessen the division between economic classes and help people provide a future career for themselves. On page 25-26, the National Financial Literacy Strategy 2021-2026 Financial Consumer Agency of Canada outlines that “low levels of financial literacy can increase the likelihood that someone is, or will become, financially vulnerable.” If we implement financial literacy education in high school, we can aim to change the outcome for our most vulnerable student populations (identified as youth, Indigenous Peoples, single parents, newcomers, low-income earners, people with disabilities, visible minorities, rural inhabitants)

#### **4. Financial Literacy Addresses Financial Vulnerability in Canada (FCAC Report)**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/programs/financial-literacy/financial-literacy-strategy-2021-2026.htm>

In their consultations, they found the following major sources of financial vulnerability in Canada:  
Sources of Financial Vulnerability Groups Most Affected

Sources of Financial Vulnerability	Groups Most Affected
Low income	Youth, women, single parents, newcomers, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples
Lack of product/ service experience	Youth, newcomers
Low confidence	Low-income earners, people with limited education, women
Low digital literacy / access	Seniors, rural inhabitants
Mental scarcity	Youth, seniors, low-income earners, people with limited education, newcomers, people with disabilities
Risk and/or fear of discrimination	Visible minorities, newcomers, gender-diverse people, Indigenous Peoples, people with a disability, women

Many vulnerable Canadians face barriers to achieving positive financial outcomes. Poverty is the most powerful predictor of poor financial resilience. For instance, research has shown that the added challenges and distractions tied to having a lower or irregular income can act as a huge “cognitive and brain tax” on people.<sup>14</sup> This can impede attention, memory, and the kinds of complex decision-making and longer-term thinking needed to optimally manage their finances. People who are already overwhelmed by debt are at risk of default or bankruptcy—due to an unexpected or sudden loss of income—are the least able to make the decisions necessary to avoid getting caught in a vicious debt cycle.

With household debt levels increasing in recent years, and exacerbated by the pandemic and related job losses,<sup>15</sup> financial vulnerability is on the rise. This is compromising people’s ability to deal with

financial shocks. Collectively, we must improve access to trustworthy financial help, especially at the earliest signs of financial difficulty.

## 5. Make financial literacy in underserved communities (minority, low income, newcomers) a national priority

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/05/02/op-ed-why-financial-literacy-needs-to-be-a-national-priority.html>

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Dr. Joanne Li, Dean, professor of finance at Florida International University College of Business



Elementary school students competing in the Miami-Dade & Monroe County Spelling Bee at Florida International University.

*Jeff Greenberg | Universal Images Group | Getty Images*

We know why financial literacy is important: the core concepts – how to spend, save and borrow, how to invest and accumulate wealth – promote financial independence. But where we teach financial literacy is just as important as what we teach. We need to invest in education

for youths in underserved communities to develop this skill set.

Financial literacy empowers communities. It will lead to food security, a stronger and educated workforce, which translates into a lower crime rate, fewer foreclosures in our neighborhoods, less stress in our lives and happier individuals and families. In financially capable communities, everyone benefits.

### The pandemic and vulnerable populations

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, our [national poverty rate declined from 2010 to 2019](#). Median household income also rose to \$68,703 in 2019 from \$64,324 in 2018, representing an increase of 6.8%. More good news: the 2019 real median incomes of family households and non-family households increased 7.3% and 6.2% from the year prior. In fact, all demographic groups in the nation, including white, Black, Asian, and Hispanic households, experienced increases in median household income.

Then, the pandemic put a stop to everything. The lockdown exposed the most vulnerable populations to the uneven economic recovery.



**WATCH NOW**

**VIDEO** 03:36

### Students advocate for more financial education in schools

Financial literacy in the underserved communities must be a national priority. This country is built on important core values: justice, freedom, equality, democracy, and compassion. To that end, each and every one of us has an inherent responsibility to help the most

in-need. Underserved communities have very little or no financial buffer to absorb the economic shock and will soon become a national crisis.

Let me use my local community, Miami-Dade County, to make a case.

About 13.51% of our families are regarded as below the poverty line while the national average is around 10.5%. It was estimated that five out of 10 households in Miami-Dade County are living in, or are one emergency away from, the poverty line. The unemployment rate in September 2020 jumped to 13% with 183,595 workers unemployed.

### Breaking the cycle of poverty

Florida International University's Metropolitan Center estimates that 14.4% of our residents are living in households without food security. While the U.S. is the world's largest economy, the [Standard & Poor's Global Financial Literacy Survey](#) ranks our country No. 14 when measuring the proportion of adults in the country who are financially literate. To put that into perspective: the U.S. adult financial literacy level, at 57%, is only slightly higher than that of Botswana, whose economy is 1,127 percent smaller. In the same report, it estimated only 4% of children from low-income families will break the cycle of poverty and break into the upper-middle class.

**More from [Invest in You](#):**

[Gary Vaynerchuk: We need to completely revamp the education system for a misguided generation](#)  
[Students take up the cause to push for more financial education](#)

Typical financial literacy programs for low- and moderate-income families include tax preparation assistance, financial coaching on how to manage credit, home purchasing advice, and resources for the unbanked population.

Education and awareness are at the core of helping our underserved communities to make smart and effective financial decisions as well as protecting their consumer rights and not falling for predatory lenders. Obviously, there are many ways to lift a community. I believe educating high school students and their parents presents a good grassroots opportunity.

For example, Pell Grant applicants and many first-generation college students are from underserved communities. During the lockdown, one or both parents might have lost their jobs. One parent might be forced to stay home because of school closings. Single-parent households might face even more severe economic hardship. Teenagers who used to provide some financial support to the family might no longer be needed in their part-time jobs.

I consider this issue personal because I am one of the 4% that made it out of the poverty cycle. As an old Chinese proverb says, 'education breeds confidence and confidence breeds hope.'

For some [high school graduating seniors](#), going to college now seems impossible not only because of strained finance resources but also the lack of parental support or guidance in dire economic times. New data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center indicates the [number of first-time freshmen declined by 13 percent](#) from the year before, with sharp drops among first-time Black, Hispanic and Native American students in particular. There will be no gap year for these students but a permanent loss of potential income from a four-year degree. The impact of the lockdown affects these families disproportionately as the vicious cycle of poverty goes on.

Instilling financial literacy should start early. Education level is highly correlated with financial literacy. First, we must leverage partnerships in the community and articulate well-defined priorities.

Government leaders, universities, local economic development councils, community and business leaders, and representative stakeholders such as young professionals and retirees must work together to bring awareness to the community and commit to a shared purpose of increasing financial literacy among underserved families. For instance, Education Fund, a private sector leadership effort to support public education in Miami, runs a SmartPath program to prepare students for college through initiatives such as the FAFSA marathon workshops.

While financial literacy may represent one objective of a community's economic development, I argue it is the most important piece of the puzzle. As such, I believe legislature and leaders from both the private and public sectors must work together to prioritize financial literacy. In Miami, our Beacon Council is leading a community-wide strategic planning initiative, One Community One Goal, to advance economic sustainability through education.

While many have advocated a mandate to teach personal finance as early as in high school, I will go one step further to require continuous training in college to reinforce good decision-making as students

face many life-changing events. I consider this issue personal because I am one of the 4% that made it out of the poverty cycle.

As an old Chinese proverb says, "education breeds confidence and confidence breeds hope."

—By Joanne Li, dean, professor of finance and Ryder Eminent Scholar Chair at Florida International University College of Business and a member of the [CNBC Financial Wellness Council](#).

## 6. Financial Education in Schools- OECD

[https://www.oecd.org/finance/financial-education/FinEdSchool\\_web.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/finance/financial-education/FinEdSchool_web.pdf)

FINANCIAL LITERACY: A core life skill

Financial literacy is a core life skill for participating in modern society. Children are growing up in an increasingly complex world where they will eventually need to take charge of their own financial future. As young adults learning to live independently they will need to know how to budget and make wise financial choices for everyday living, for example, choosing mobile phone and utility contracts. They will need to manage risks: save for a 'rainy day', avoid taking on unmanageable debt, and provide for their old age and health care. Financial products and services vary widely and, in the case of credit, can be almost too easily accessible for many of today's young people. At the same time, these products and services are becoming more complicated and the choices more difficult. Adding to this complexity are economic and technological developments which have brought greater global connectedness and massive changes in communication and financial transactions, as well as in social interactions and consumer behaviour. Poor financial decisions can have a long-lasting impact on individuals, their families and society. The causes of the recent financial crisis were complex, but the lack of financial literacy was certainly one of the aggravating factors leading to ill-informed decisions on mortgage loans. Low levels of financial literacy have also been associated with a lower standard of living, decreased psychological and physical well-being and greater reliance on government support. Financial education can make a difference. It can empower and equip young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take charge of their lives and build a more secure future for themselves and their families. Supporting financial education can be viewed by the main public, private and civil stakeholders as a critical long-term investment in human capital.

## 7. Top Reasons Small Businesses Fail and How to Avoid Them:

Endless research exists on the probability of small businesses surviving for 5 years or more. Much of the statistics look to lack of financial literacy as the main causes - not understanding financial statements (income, cash flow & balance sheet), not knowing about financing options & adequate capital needs, not understanding consumers & behavior, failure to create and follow a business plan and poor management skills. Many of these skills and lessons are taught in our Financial Literacy 20 and 30 classes, and by making this a mandatory class to graduate, we could create a whole future of entrepreneurs and business owners, which we know to be necessary for economic growth and job creation in Canada

## 8. Feedback from Canadians on the importance of learning this in high school:

- They Wish They Learned About Money: Most Canadians don't feel confident about their financial planning abilities [https://www.huffpost.com/archive/ca/entry/financial-literacy-canadians-share-what-they-wish-they-learned\\_n\\_16514356](https://www.huffpost.com/archive/ca/entry/financial-literacy-canadians-share-what-they-wish-they-learned_n_16514356)
- Curriculum changes aim to help high-school students with financial literacy <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/personal-finance/genymoney/curriculum-changes-aim-to-help-high-school-students-with-financial-literacy/article34670871/>

- Debt and financial distress among Canadian families <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2019001/article/00010-eng.htm>
- Student feedback on what they learned in Financial Literacy 30 (there is much more from students over the years  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wVBut2bFXMQ39sM5CqWGuYFHvXRe86DHMyiRYB70dDo/edit?usp=sharing> )

## E. NEWS TO SUPPORT:

1. **These students are facing real-world economic pressures. Mandatory financial literacy classes may help (One of the best stories!)**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/financial-literacy-high-school-1.6668510>

2. **Provinces should make financial literacy a mandatory high school class of its own, experts say**

James Dunne · CBC News · Posted: Nov 30, 2022 3:00 AM CST | Last Updated: Nov 30, 2022



Students at Edmonton's Old Scona Academic high school packed a classroom for an optional lesson on financial literacy over their lunch break earlier in November. Some experts say it's time for mandatory financial literacy courses in high schools across the country. (Trevor Wilson/CBC) [145 comments](#)

November is **financial literacy month** and there was no hiding from scary economic news, even for high school students.

"I can see the prices going up in terms of the food that I buy, the clothing that I buy and just regular student finances," said Anand Desaigoudar, a Grade 12 student at Old Scona Academic high school in Edmonton.

Inflation, rising interest rates and fears of a recession are worrisome, even for kids who say they feel fortunate. Desaigoudar's classmate, Aurora Shi, is worried about university and beyond.

"There's not really a buffer between the stage where my parents pay for everything and where I pay for everything," said Shi. "So I think that learning about money is important so that I can prepare for my future."

### ***WATCH | Financial literacy courses give students tools for the real world:***

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/financial-literacy-high-school-1.6668510>

Experts say financial literacy should be mandatory in schools

With the cost of living rising, experts say schools should do more to help young people learn how to manage their money, and even make financial literacy classes mandatory to graduate.

Roughly 30 students attended the optional financial literacy lesson over their lunch break last week. The class, which focuses on frauds and scams, is an example of how financial education is evolving. Whether it's delivered in math class or other courses, several provinces have recently revised what financial literacy classes are being offered to students from elementary through high school.

Gary Rabbior is the president of the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) in Toronto, a non-profit that develops financial literacy programs and tools for schools.

He says financial matters — from online shopping, to investing, to managing debt — have become much more complex than they used to be and believes there should be a mandatory financial literacy course taught in high schools across Canada.

"We owe it to our kids to be able to educate them, to empower them to make the best decisions they can make."

### **Financial education evolving**

As economic pressures rise, Rabbior says the need for relevant financial education becomes more apparent.

"I think a lot of people's heads are swirling with the kind of change that's going on, the kinds of economic factors that are affecting their lives."

Frequently taught in math, financial literacy is also part of accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, social studies and physical education and wellness classes in some provinces.

- **Alberta seeking organizations to teach financial literacy to students**
- **New Ontario Grade 10 career studies curriculum to include financial literacy**
- **Why parents should talk to their kids about finances**

British Columbia overhauled how it teaches financial education, primarily in math, from kindergarten to Grade 12 in 2018, with Yukon and Northwest Territories adopting their new curriculum.

Ontario revised how financial literacy is taught in a career studies course in 2020 and math classes in 2021.

This summer, Alberta announced it would update its financial literacy curriculum to give students "much-needed financial knowledge and skills for personal and professional success."

The changes involves a \$5 million investment with three independent partners to develop financial literacy programs in the next three years, with \$1.5 million of that going to CFEE.

Alberta teaches financial literacy in math, social studies and a mandatory "Career and Life Management" Grade 10 class.

WATCH | What financial concerns do students have? <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2128984643687>

Edmonton students Aurora Shi and Anand Desaigoudar share what they want to learn more about, while teacher Gerald Chung explains why financial literacy is important to kids today.

Newfoundland and Labrador updated their mandatory Career Education course for high school students this fall to include more lessons on personal financial literacy, after having launched the class just two years ago.

Rabbior says these life skills type classes are the perfect place for financial education.

"That's a very effective way to go, because you're really planning for life ahead, both the career you're going to have, the money you're going to make and how you're going to manage it effectively."

While he applauds the provinces that are moving to update their financial literacy programs, he also says how these lessons are implemented across the country is "quite haphazard and choppy in terms of the different approaches that are being taken."

### **Making financial literacy courses compulsory**

Rabbior wants every province to create a compulsory high school course just on financial literacy to "wrap everything up for kids before they enter the world of financial decision making."

"It's sort of our last chance to make sure that kids are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need," he said.

This fall Saskatchewan launched two high school courses on just financial literacy, but they are optional. While Rabbior says they're well designed, if the classes don't count as credit courses for university, students don't often take them.

Edmonton teacher Gerald Chung believes in the idea of a mandatory financial literacy class, but he isn't sure it would work on a national level, given how every province handles education differently. (Trevor Wilson/CBC)

Rabbior hopes students get the skills they need in school to be not just financially literate, but financially capable. "We're trying to do much more than simply help kids pick the right credit card. We're trying to build the skills and knowledge that will help them stay in control of their life."

The idea of control is important, he says, because [studies show a very close correlation between financial health and mental health](#). Shi, the Edmonton student, feels some financial stress coming her way. "It's a little overwhelming at the moment, because ... the things that I would have to worry about in the future are like rent and like paying for my own food and paying for tuition." She noted it's easy to just mindlessly buy things, but said, "as soon as you have to pay it back, you realize that your decisions actually impact your future."

Edmonton teacher Gerald Chung says he's not sure a mandatory financial literacy class would work on a national level, given how every province handles education differently.

The instructor of the student business club at Old Scona Academic says that while he likes the idea of a mandatory class, many educators argue "financial literacy can be taught in other courses" that are already required.

- [The ABCs of finance: How this Ontario teacher is preparing her students for the real world](#)
- [Should financial literacy classes be mandatory for high school students?](#)

But Vanessa Bowen, a financial advisor and CPA in Toronto says a mandatory class exclusively for financial literacy makes sense.

Bowen is the founder of Mint Worthy Co. Inc., a financial literacy platform for women. When she was just out of school and at a new job in accounting she got into trouble renting an expensive condo and spending too much money on dinners and clothing.

She says she slid into a financial crisis she now believes could've been avoided if she'd been able to take a class on personal financial planning in high school.

"I would have avoided a lot of those financial mistakes," Bowen said. "Oh, my gosh, it would have helped me make immensely better decisions."

She says such a class might even "change the trajectory of our economy, of how people spend, the amount of debt levels that we have." But she says parents also have a role to play in teaching financial responsibility.

#### **4. Personal finance expert shares her own financial struggles**

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2129204291819>

Personal finance expert on how financial literacy would help students Duration 2:06

Vanessa Bowen, a CPA and the founder of Mint Worthy Co. Inc., a personal finance coaching platform, shares her experience of struggling with money and how a financial literacy course would have helped when she started working.

#### **5. Financial stress and depression in adults: A systematic review**

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0264041>

## 6. Teen financial literacy should be taught <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2425060773>

9 years ago, 6:48

(**excellent!**) Tom Hamza says high school students should learn more about personal finance. Investor Education Fund speaks. Survey says 90% say money management skills are important!

## 7. The "ABC's" of Financial Literacy <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2678481845>

7 years ago, 7:09

November is Financial Literacy Month. But before you discount it as just another made-up "Hallmark Holiday", you might want to wait to hear Bruce Sellery. He's a personal finance columnist and a passionate believer in the notion that knowledge is power.

## 8. The Afternoon Edition - Sask with Garth Materie

Long-time educator starts petition to make financial literacy mandatory in Sask. high schools Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education is collecting feedback on graduation requirements.

Cindy Lowe is hoping financial literacy can be added. She's started a petition to make it mandatory in schools. And joins us to explain.

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-103-the-afternoon-edition-sask/clip/15972691-long-time-educator-starts-petition-financial-literacy-mandatory-sask>.

## 9. Blue Sky with Garth Materie

Life Hacks To Beat Inflation - How Are You Saving Money? <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-189-blue-sky/clip/15921075-life-hacks-to-beat-inflation-how-are>

Play Episode 50:19 Share Episode

Inflation up 7.7 percent year over year - that's a headline that will stop you in your tracks. But what can you do when everything simply costs more? How do you still pay your bills and have a life?

Cindy Lowe is our guest today. She started her career as a banker. Twenty years ago, she was such an advocate for teaching financial literacy skills to young people she switched careers to become a teacher.

She's taught at Sask Polytech /and now she teaches financial life skills at Swift Current Comprehensive School. And last month, she won a YWCA women of distinction award for her work with education, training and development. Cindy Lowe and Garth Materie took your calls - here is how is sounded.

## 10. Financial literacy for kids <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2675718746>

Hamilton entrepreneur Theresa Cascioli explains why kids need to learn how to manage money at an early age.

## 11. Bruce Sellery: Financial Literacy Month (2015)

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2678481085>

November is Financial Literacy Month. But before you discount it as just another made-up "Hallmark Holiday", you might want to wait to hear from our personal finance columnist Bruce Sellery from Money Sense magazine. He believes that everyone needs basic financial literacy, just like our need to be able to read. This is a life skill that connects to your well-being overall.

## 12. Improving financial literacy <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/905162307721>

6 years ago 7:16

Personal finance expert Rubina Ahmed-Haq on Ontario's plan to improve knowledge of money among young people. Huge connection between financial illiteracy and consumer debt. Why isn't personal finance mandatory? (this was shared 6 years ago!)

### **13. Posthaste: Canadians' consumer credit-card balance crosses \$100 billion for first time**

<https://financialpost.com/executive/executive-summary/canada-consumer-credit-balance-100billion-first-time#comments-area>

*'This may be the start of things to come'*

Author of the article: **Noella Ovid** Published Mar 10, 2023 • 5 minute read [14 Comments](#)

Canadians' total consumer debt rose to \$2.37 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2022. PHOTO BY MAXIM ZMEYEV/REUTERS/ILLUSTRATION/FILE PHOTO

#### **'It's really worrying: Canadians face a debt hangover when COVID aid dries up**

Canadians are piling on more debt as they continue to feel the pinch from high inflation and interest rates, according to Equifax Canada's quarterly consumer credit trends report.

Total consumer debt rose to \$2.37 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2022, an increase of 6.2 per cent from the same period in 2021, the latest Market Pulse noted.



"The ability to manage finances through a sustained period of high inflation with rising living costs is unfortunately proving too much for some individuals," Rebecca Oakes, vice-president of advanced analytics at Equifax Canada, said in a press release. "We are also seeing additional early warning signs that this may be the start of things to come."

Non-mortgage debt levels increased 5.4 per cent year over year in the final quarter of 2022, with millennials experiencing an above-average increase of 8.4 per cent.

"Millennials are entering the most credit-active phase of their lives in a very challenging economic period," Oakes said. "They may need to budget accordingly to deal with the higher cost of day-to-day necessities, as well as increasing high-interest loans."

A key driver in the overall growth of non-mortgage debt was the increased use and reliance on credit cards, with the number of credit-active consumers in the fourth quarter growing by 3.2 per cent from a year ago. Some 1.4 million new credit cards were issued in the final three months of 2022 alone.

As a result, the total consumer credit-card balance also rose, crossing \$100 billion for the first time ever, an increase of 15.3 per cent from the same period in 2021.

Equifax points to two primary areas for the additional take-up in credit usage: higher costs of living and newcomers.

"Canada has strong immigration targets with an aim to welcome 500,000 per year into the country by 2025," Oakes said. "These individuals have credit needs, which adds to the growing demand for products."

However, credit-card payments have started to slow down, with over 300,000 more consumers carrying an unpaid balance from one month to the next as of December 2022 compared to 2021. The average revolving credit-card balance climbed 9.3 per cent during that time.

But what's surprising is that despite rising interest rates, consumers without a mortgage had the biggest jump in missed (non-mortgage) payments. Non-mortgage consumers had an 11 per cent increase in their proportion of missed credit payments in comparison to only six per cent of consumers with a mortgage.

The missed payments are also reflected in the 90-plus day volume delinquency for credit cards (23 per cent) and auto loans (11 per cent) in 2022.

"We are starting to see increases in missed payments on credit cards and auto loans, particularly for lower-income consumers," Oakes said.

Overall, consumer proposals, a type of insolvency, increased by 26.4 per cent from the final quarter of 2021 as a growing number of Canadians were unable to pay off their debt. That figure might keep growing given the increase in mortgage rates.

"As more mortgages come up for renewal, future payment shocks for homeowners are a real concern," Oakes said. "There are thousands of fixed-rate mortgages expected to be renewed in the next 12 months and this will likely lead to either an increase in the monthly mortgage payments for these consumers or a need to extend mortgage terms to maintain existing payment levels."

Bay Street this week is chattering about the currency. Ahead of Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem's decision to leave interest rates unchanged, his counterparts at the European Central Bank and the United States Federal Reserve clearly stated that their inflation fights are far from finished. All things equal, higher interest rates in the U.S. and Europe will make those places more attractive destinations for short-term investment, favouring the dollar and the euro over other currencies. A weaker currency could put upward pressure on inflation by making imports more expensive. So, if the Fed and the ECB are raising rates, some analysts assume the Bank of Canada will have to keep pace in order to keep the exchange rate stable. But in a speech on Thursday, senior deputy governor Carolyn Rogers indicated the Bank of Canada knows that conditions in the U.S. and Europe could force its hand, but maybe not because of exchange rates. Read Financial Post editor-in-chief Kevin Carmichael's analysis.

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#### **14. Long-time educator starts petition to make financial literacy mandatory in SK high schools**

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education is collecting feedback on graduation requirements. Cindy Lowe is hoping financial literacy can be added. She's started a petition to make it mandatory in schools. And joins us to explain. <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2182850115872>

#### **15. Educator launches petition to make high school financial literacy courses mandatory in SK**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/advocates-push-for-mandatory-financial-literacy-class-for-sask-high-school-students-1.6784044>



**'It's kind of a shock when you realize how important money is': Sask. high school graduate**  
**Will McLernon** · CBC News · Posted: Mar 20, 2023 6:00 AM CDT  
| Last Updated: 11 hours ago

A financial literacy educator started a petition to make financial literacy courses mandatory to graduate high school in Saskatchewan. (Shutterstock)

Cindy Lowe, a long-time financial literacy educator, wants to make sure students learn how to manage their finances as inflationary pressures and credit card debts continue to rise.

Lowe created a petition on Change.org to make a financial literacy course mandatory for Grade 12 graduation in Saskatchewan.

"I think they should learn science, math, social studies, English, phys-ed, languages and health," Lowe told CBC Radio's *The Afternoon Edition* host Garth Materie. "But I think they should slip in a finance class to give our kids a balanced education so they could make good choices."

Avery Dudley, a nursing student, says she wishes financial literacy courses had been mandatory while she was attending Swift Current Comprehensive High School.

"It's kind of a shock when you realize how important money is," Dudley said. "I didn't even know how to do my taxes or anything, so I had to learn all of that stuff on my own after the fact."



Avery Dudley graduated from Swift Current Comprehensive High School in 2017.

She says she received little to no education on how to manage her money.

(Submitted by Avery Dudley)

Dudley believes having to take financial literacy classes might have helped her better manage her finances as she entered adulthood.

"Maybe I could have saved some money and not had to rely so much on student loans," Dudley said. "As far as thinking about buying a house, I don't even know how to go about that process."

***LISTEN | Why Lowe created the petition: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-103-the-afternoon-edition-sask/clip/15972691-long-time-educator-starts-petition-financial-literacy-mandatory-sask>.***



### **The Afternoon Edition – Sask 6:38**

Long-time educator starts petition to make financial literacy mandatory in Sask. high schools Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education is collecting feedback on graduation requirements. Cindy Lowe is hoping financial literacy can be added. She's started a petition to make it mandatory in schools. And joins us to explain.

She remembers receiving little to no education on how to manage her money, and financial literacy wasn't something she sought out in high school.

"If they could have something in high school where they could teach you about mortgages, paying taxes, saving money and paying into a registered retirement savings plan ... I think that would have just helped me a lot making decisions moving forward."

### **Elective not often pursued.**

Lowe — who used to be a banker — says Saskatchewan schools can offer financial literacy electives, but they aren't a popular option.

"In 2020-2021, we knew that of the students in Grade 10, 11 and 12, only 4.81 per cent of students obtained a Finance 20 or Finance 30 credit," Lowe said. "The reason I'm advocating for it to become required is that people don't even know what they don't know."

Currently students in Saskatchewan require 24 credits to graduate — 15 required and nine elective classes. Lowe teaches some of these elective classes on financial literacy.

"When students come into my class and learn it, they often say 'holy, ma'am I didn't even realize I didn't know this stuff and now I know.'"



Cindy Lowe has taught financial literacy electives in Saskatchewan for the past 17 years. She thinks it's important that the class becomes mandatory. (Submitted by Cindy Lowe)

In 2020 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education created the [Curriculum Advisory Committee](#) (CAC). The committee develops recommendations on future development of curriculum and high school graduation requirements in Saskatchewan.

Lowe plans to share the results of the petition with members of CAC with the hope that it recommends introducing mandatory financial literacy courses to the Ministry of Education at the end of June.

Lowe's financial literacy electives involve lessons on career planning, budgeting, investing, credit and borrowing and the current economic landscape.

"Of course they are going to seek that out with a financial professional to help set these things up, but just knowing the grassroots information is what's fundamental in these classes," Lowe said.

***WATCH | What sort of financial literacy education are Sask. high school students receiving?***

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/advocates-push-for-mandatory-financial-literacy-class-for-sask-high-school-students-1.6784044>



Sask. teacher hopes students will start learning about finances earlier. Here's what high schoolers think: Canadians are piling on more debt than ever before with no help from inflation and interest rates. Understanding how it all works can be like learning a new language. A Saskatchewan teacher is hoping students will start learning about finances earlier in life. We hit the streets in Saskatoon to find out what high schoolers think.

Lowe added that learning about financial literacy is beneficial for all age groups.

"Unless you take a class and seek this out, it's hard to know exactly just the fundamentals of finance [which] we can introduce in a classroom," Lowe said.

As of Sunday at 12 p.m. CST, Dudley was one of 763 people to sign Lowe's petition, which was started March 12.

"Every aspect of daily living as soon as you graduate high school has to do with money," Dudley said.

"You go and get an education so that you can make money and be prepared for the future. "You can't do anything without money so I think that is really the most important thing that students can learn in high school."

Will McLernon is an online journalist with CBC Saskatchewan. If you have a tip or a story idea, send him an email at [will.mclernon@cbc.ca](mailto:will.mclernon@cbc.ca)

**16. Bills, Budgets and banking: Saint John teacher preps students for the real world**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/bills-budgets-middle-school-learning-financial-literacy-1.6726070>

Bills, budgets and banking: Saint John teacher preps students for the real world - Angela Leger says financial literacy is 'needed in our schools' more than ever before.



Angela Leger, at Forest Hills School in Saint John, teaches students the real-world skills of how to manage their money and plan for their financial future. (Peter Scobie/CBC)

18

comments

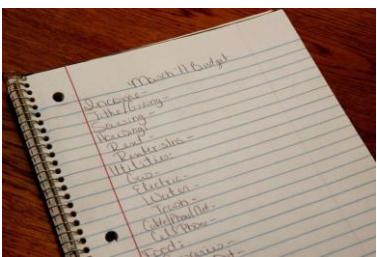
A New Brunswick teacher is hoping to set up her middle schoolers for success when it comes to financial literacy. Angela Leger, at Forest Hills School in Saint John, teaches Grades 6, 7 and 8 students real-world skills in how to manage their money

and plan for their financial future.

Growing up with parents who were entrepreneurs, Leger said she was taught financial stability and independence. "Now, as a middle-school teacher, I see the need to instill these skills in my students," she told *Information Morning Saint John*.

### 17. One big game of life

Each grade level learns a different part of financial literacy, starting in Grade 6. Those students focus on saving, budgeting, spending and also giving back to the community. Leger says it's an introduction to what they'll do in Grade 8, which is focused on entrepreneurship.



Grade 8 students will create their own business and sell and create things, topping it off with an entrepreneurship fair in April.

Leger teaches the importance of learning to navigate income, outflow, expenses and debt beginning at a young age.

(jridgeawayphotography/Flickr via CC BY 2.0 SA)

Grade 7 students are immediately thrown into the world of bills, jobs and debt.

Leger calls it "the game of life." She said when the students walk into class, they're no longer 12 and 13 years old — they are aged-up to 18-25.

"They've graduated from high school ... dropped into the world," she said, and "need to navigate it."

It begins with the students picking jobs, starting salaries and lifestyles out of a hat. Some of the lifestyle options include married, divorced, single or living with a roommate.

The job choices range from minimum wage to higher paying jobs, said Leger, but depending on the job, students may also face the challenge of student loan repayment.

"For this project, it's really important that students draw the lifestyles, the jobs, the salaries out of a hat, because students need to understand that life's a mystery, you never know what's going to happen," said Leger.

"Just because you want to be a veterinarian, doesn't mean that you're going to be a veterinarian. It takes a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication, patience, and also you need to have the finances to do so, especially in today's economy."

### 18. Financial literacy night

Leger said the students love the project because they know that the math they're learning is going to be useful to them in the future.

She said this type of math is already in the curriculum, but now, she's teaching the concepts in a different way so students understand how the skills can be applied.

And Leger isn't stopping with middle-schoolers. Forest Hills planned a financial literacy night for Thursday that would have students from Grade 3 and up, along with their parents. The event has been postponed until Monday because of storm-related school cancellations.



It's become a 'cashless society,' Leger says, and students now more than ever need to understand how to handle their finances. ((CBC))

In the school's theatre, the parent session will cover money tips, debt management, interest rates, setting up education funds and the importance of setting up a bank account at a young age.

The gym will have different stations set up for students that focus on spending, saving, budgeting and giving back to the community. Leger said the student portion will be interactive and will have students playing games and interacting with money.

"Financial literacy is needed in our schools more than ever before. We are becoming a cashless society and it shows. Students do not see money anymore. What they see is their adult swiping a card, and then it's instant gratification," she said.

"This is something that truly I hope that we really run with." [Hannah Rudderham](#) Journalist

## 19. Financial Literacy for Canadians

9 years ago <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2465393951> 4:50

The federal government wants to improve people's money skills. It's even hired a financial consultant to educate the public, beginning today at Entraide Budgetaire in Vanier

## 20. The Loop learns about financial literacy

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/the-loop-learns-about-financial-literacy-1.6672352>

## 21. CBC Edmonton's podcast speaks to a teacher sharing money skills in the classroom

CBC News Posted: Dec 02, 2022 1:30 PM CST | Last Updated: Dec 2, 2022



Teacher Gerald Chung believes in financial literacy for students. He's the instructor a business club at Old Scona Academic School in Edmonton. (Trevor Wilson/CBC)

It's the spending season, but as the cost of living increases, more people are feeling the pinch.

This week on [The Loop](#), hosts Min Dhariwal and Clare Bonnyman dig deeper into budgeting. They speak with a teacher in Edmonton focusing on financial literacy for

the next generation. Plus, Credit Canada CEO Bruce Sellery talks about financial readiness — and how to holiday on a budget.

### **The Loop 25:11 You're poorer than you think**

It's the spending season, but as the cost of living increases, more people are feeling the pinch. This week The Loop talks to a teacher in Edmonton focusing on financial literacy for the next generation. Plus, Credit Canada CEO Bruce Sellery joins us to talk about financial readiness -- and how to holiday on a budget.

Gerald Chung is a teacher at Old Scona Academic high school in Edmonton, and helps run a club focused on financial literacy. He told Clare he sees a growing interest in money conversations with the next generation.

***This transcription has been edited for clarity.***

**Clare Bonnyman:** Are there any challenges to making some of these ideas real? Because there are still students after all, they're not necessarily paying their own taxes at this point.

**Gerald Chung:** The challenge is probably more with the younger ones like the Grade 10s or even the 11s. The Grade 12 [students] ... they realize that they might be going to university next year, might be not living at home anymore.

Now they have to worry about paying for food, paying for rent, paying for transportation, paying for utilities and all that. So they are saying you know this is something I need to look at, because my parents aren't may not be footing the bill for me anymore.

**CB:** Money talk is everywhere right now. And they learn in CALM, Career and Life Management, they're learning through this club, sometimes in mathematics and business classes ... Are you surprised by how much kids know, or what awareness they already have about money?

**GC:** Actually, you know what? I am. I even have some students that actually play the stock market themselves.

One of my students, he shows me that he's got these stocks and and he's actually playing the stock market already and they even found this website where you can play the stock market in real time — but there's a time lapse, so you can have a competition within the 45-minute lunch hour where you can invest in the stock market and there's a time limit. So they can compete and see who's made the most money in that period of time.

**CB:** Oh my gosh. Gerald, be honest with me. When you were their age, were you this into finances?

**GC:** No.

**CB:** OK, good. Me too.

**GC:** But I'm fortunate enough to be teaching in a school where these kids are passionate about learning. They're like sponges, right? They want to learn. They pick up on it right away and they'll spend time with it.

## **22. FCAC Fin Lit programming**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/programs/financial-literacy.html>

## **23. Canadian Foundation for Economic Education**

<https://cfee.org/cbc-news-experts-say-financial-literacy-should-be-mandatory-in-schools/>

On November 28, 2022 CBC national radio and television ran a story on the importance of teaching financial literacy in Canada's schools. CFEE assisted in the development of the story and was prominently featured.

## **24. CBC Governor: Financially literate citizens contribute to economy's efficiency and growth**

10:31 - 13 MARCH 2023 <https://www.cbn.com.cy/article/2023/3/13/702033/cbc-conference-there-is-a-link-between-financial-literacy-and-financial-stability/>

There is a correlation between financial literacy and financial stability, according to experts taking part in the International Conference on Financial Literacy and Education in Cyprus, held by the Central Bank of Cyprus (CBC) in Limassol on Friday,

Addressing the conference, CBC Governor Constantinos Herodotou said studies indicate that poor financial decision-making preceded financial crises in the past. Quoting the 4th wave of the Household Finance and Consumption Survey in Cyprus, Herodotou noted that "financially illiterate individuals are 7-11% more likely to have late loan payments, providing evidence on the negative correlation between the level of financial literacy and financial stability risks".

Defining financial literacy as the ability of individuals to understand and manage their finances prudently and effectively, to make prudent and informed decisions about financial matters, such as saving, investing and borrowing, Herodotou said that research finds that only one in three adults worldwide are financially literate.

"This is worrisome not only because of the negative repercussions at the individual level, but also, because of the potential impact it may have at the broader level of a country's economy, including financial resilience and stability. Studies indicate that poor financial decision-making, including excessive risk-taking by individuals, preceded financial crises in the past." He added that strengthening the financial literacy of individuals is a key complementary and preventive tool that enables financial regulation to achieve its goals more effectively.

"Financially knowledgeable citizens, in combination with a well-regulated financial system, are critical components and prerequisites for safeguarding a country's financial resilience and stability. Financially literate citizens in addition to being able to protect their own financial well-being, also contribute to the efficiency of the economy and to sustainable long-run economic growth," he added.

The CBC's Governor mentioned that in December 2020, an ad-hoc Committee was established in Cyprus with the aim of formulating a National Strategy for the promotion of financial literacy and financial education in the country. The CBC has coordinated the work of the ad-hoc Committee, which consists of members from the CBC, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission and two academic experts from the two public universities in Cyprus. The Committee was also supported by a Secretariat from the CBC and external scientific collaborators.

The National Strategy was adopted by the Council of Ministers last June, following a proposal by the competent Committee. It drew heavily from the results of the CBC survey on financial literacy.

A key finding of the survey was that the average financial knowledge score in Cyprus is below the minimum level considered by the OECD as sufficient for someone to be counted as financially literate. It also indicated specific population groups that are in greater need for financial education, such as the young, unemployed, women, low income and lower education citizens, and individuals who did not take economics courses during secondary education. It also indicates specific domains where lack of financial knowledge is evident, namely, interest compounding and diversification.

Herodotou said that an OECD technical assistance project, with a €250,000 grant from the European Commission, is also being undertaken, to implement specific actions for the promotion of financial literacy in Cyprus. These actions include the conduct of an updated national survey on financial literacy in Cyprus, the development of a website and application for smart devices that would provide useful

information and financial calculators and tools to the public, and the development of a “train the trainers” programme for adults, which would focus on strengthening financial education.

Additionally, since 2022 the CBC has assumed a coordinating role for Global Money Week in Cyprus, an international public-awareness campaign coordinated by the OECD annually aimed at raising awareness among young people on the importance of strengthening financial literacy, skills, attitudes and behaviours. Also, the CBC has recently become a full member of the International Network on Financial Education (INFE) of the OECD, in which it aspires to have an active role in the Network’s activities, Herodotou said. Herodotou said the CBC continues to devote resources on research of this topic, particularly in examining the link between financial literacy and financial stability.

Professor Annamaria Lusardi, a Professor of Economics and Accountancy at the George Washington University, in Washington DC and keynote speaker at the Conference, noted the globally low levels of financial literacy, highlighting that this affects women, young adults, the elderly and those with lower income and education more.

She noted that employed males with higher income are more likely to be financially educated, thus increasing the gap further, leading to more inequality. Lusardi said that financially literate people usually are more likely to make ends meet, to cope with financial shocks and to save and plan for retirement, and less likely to be debt-constraint. “These are indicators of financial resilience and ultimately well-being,” she noted.

The professor argued that a national strategy for financial literacy is needed and the intervention should be done at an aggregated level and should engage all stakeholders.

Some wide-reaching interventions she proposed include financial education in school and college, arguing that it should become mandatory, as well as financial education in the workplace and in the local community. She also proposed adding financial literacy to the national statistics and have a national target to achieve.

Finally, Lusardi highlighted that financial illiteracy, is, ultimately, more expensive, than the resources needed to fight it, causing not only problems to the individual, but leading to economic instability. “Financial illiteracy is very expensive. It’s much cheaper to do prevention,” she said.

A presentation of the Cyprus National Strategy followed, showing that the low level of financial literacy in Cyprus seems to be linked to recent negative experiences in the country, like the high level of household debt and the amount of NPLs of Cypriot households, or the excessive exposure to the Cyprus Stock Exchange in 1999 and the excessive risk taking on bank securities in the period prior the 2013 crisis.

The strategic objectives of the Cyprus National Strategy, as presented at the Conference, include raising citizens’ awareness on the importance of financial literacy and education for themselves and their family, empowering individuals, starting from the young, with core financial skills and habits in order to be able to efficiently manage their personal or family finances, aiming to enhance their financial wellbeing. Also, it aims to raise awareness and enhance skills on the need for adequate financial planning for insurance and retirement and to raise awareness and increase knowledge regarding the use and associated hazards of digital financial products and services.

## 25. 3 Reasons Why Financial Literacy Is Important – No Matter Your Age

28 Mar 2022 by [Harry Sherdil](#)

<https://humanitywealth.com/financial-planning/3-reasons-why-financial-literacy-is-important-no-matter-your-age/>

Don't worry – you're not late for the party! And while you might feel behind financially, allow me to tell you that you are not. You are right on time if you are *NOW* making an effort to get ahead with your finances.

While money is not the most important thing in life, it's a resource that must be managed properly. To manage it well, it helps to become financially literate. Affordable financial planning in the Bay area provides precisely this – helping support your long-term financial goals.

Are you ready to grasp financial literacy based on where you stand? No matter what your age – there's an affordable plan for you!

Release all fear of judgment here – no one expects you to know what you were not taught. From seasoned business executives, retirees, and savvy investors to high school students, college education seekers, and young parents, understanding financial concepts is critical to your financial independence. This is where financial literacy applies, and I step in as the humble founder (once in your shoes) of Humanity Wealth. I share this because I deeply care as a "family man" myself!

### What Is Financial Literacy?

There are diverse ways to define financial literacy. However, at the crux of this vital subject is the ability to have the knowledge and a basic understanding of all (or most) financial topics and terms to make sound financial decisions.

To be financially literate means to grasp ideals of financial affairs, from basic budgeting to retirement planning. This does not mean you need to be an investment strategy expert, but more so, have adequate education and tools to feel confident in personal finance responsibilities.

Lucky for you, I have crafted an [affordable subscription-based model for financial education](#) – so you can feel more financially confident in the future.

In honor of April's "Financial Literacy Month," allow us to share five key pillars of financial literacy from the [Financial Literacy and Education Commission](#):

- Earn
- Save and Invest
- Preserve
- Spend
- Borrow

I firmly believe that anyone with a family should invest in financial literacy support. It is estimated that four out of ten people do not have a retirement plan.

This goes to show that financial illiteracy can result in a lack of planning. Again, how will you know how to plan if you don't know what to consider and include? I remind my clients all the time to focus on things that matter (in relation to financial literacy):

- [Education planning](#)
- [Retirement planning](#)



- [Life Insurance](#)
- [Wealth Management](#)

We understand that financial planners often seem intimidating because most are advanced in comprehensive financial planning, stock options, investment management, estate planning, and well beyond. Remember, this took years of applied education.

Since the financial application may not be your wheelhouse, wealth advisors expect you to come to them knowing that you may be starting at ground level. That is perfectly acceptable. The simple act of asking for help shows that you know yourself well enough to ask for help.

## Why Financial Literacy Is So Important

Consider your money mindset: this is something that you more than likely learned growing up, and it may be subconsciously ingrained within.

Now think of one word to *describe money*: \_\_\_\_\_ (this word will give you a good idea of how you feel about money, which can often help you understand your money mindset).

Fact: Money and personal finances touch our lives significantly as we become adults. My opinion: These topics are not taught early enough, from taking out a student loan to acquiring your first job and filing your taxes.

Unless your parents or guardians helped you dig into standard financial practices, you might have some homework to do. Below are five reasons we believe financial literacy is vital for overall well-being.

### 1. Financial Literacy Is Empowering & Builds Confidence

When it comes to money decisions, consumers may choose to work with a knowledgeable professional. This could be initiated when you are signing up for a credit card or checking account, buying a new home, or starting to file more complicated taxes. Working with an independent financial advisor in Newark, CA, at any point is always a good idea.

It often feels like there is more information on the other side for some. This isn't an issue when working with someone you trust; the more knowledge or understanding you have, the better. You can know what questions to ask. You can feel okay about turning down any offers if you know the other alternatives. The list can go on!

By covering your bases and being financial literate, you can be more empowered and confident when dealing with anything related to money.

This is especially true for starting your first job. When you are financially literate, you won't be as frazzled when you have to start making decisions around your company benefits, tax withholdings, filing your taxes, etc. Ultimately, this can help minimize errors.

### 2. Financial Literacy Can Impact The Trajectory Of Your Life

Consider two different people.

One became financially literate throughout high school and college (maybe through several free online courses). The other did not gain much in terms of financial literacy. They both graduated college and started their first real job.

The financially literate individual stuck to the following:

- [Maintained a budget](#)
- Never kept a balance on their credit card



- Contributed to their company's 401(k) up to the company's match (with the goal to increase their own contributions by 1% each year until reaching the maximum contribution allowed)

The other financially illiterate individual did not do any of these things.

While these three actions are not the end-all, be-all, they could potentially impact the trajectory of someone's life. These actions could compound over many years and open up opportunities that may not have been possible – such as early retirement or the optionality of work.

### **3. Financial Literacy Builds Great Financial Habits & Behavior**

While financial literacy often gets paired with young people, that is not necessarily the case.

Age is just a number; knowledge is based on education. A student can have as much or more financial knowledge as a retiree based on decisions made and guidance received. So choose to create new behaviors and habits starting today. For those nearing or in retirement, having a solid foundation of financial literacy is critically important to having a successful retirement for those nearing or in retirement.

The truth with personal finance, financial planning, and investing is that having expertise does not equate to success. This is because success in these areas is more related to good behavior.

Specifically, when it comes to nearing retirement or being in retirement, investing can get quite emotional. It is common to shift one's retirement nest egg (portfolio) to be more conservative the closer you get to retirement (and during retirement). This is especially true if you start using the portfolio to generate some income to live on.

In these instances, and if the markets are volatile, emotion can cause a retiree to lose sleep at night, put their entire portfolio in cash, etc. These potential actions are not wrong, but these reactions can dissolve if a financial plan is in place, backed by a solid financial literacy foundation.

Finally, when pre-retirees shift to a whole new way of life into retirement, a mental shift must be made. This shift has to do with transitioning from saving over your working life to living off of your savings. The more financially literate you are around investing, financial planning, and retirement, the easier this transition may be.

### **26. Cindy Lowe speaks about financial literacy, entrepreneurial spirit, and the power of education at the 16th Annual Haddock Entrepreneurial Speaker Series**

<https://www.edwards.usask.ca/news/2023/cindy-lowe-speaks-about-financial-literacy,-entrepreneurial-spirit,-and-the-power-of-education-at-the-16th-annual-haddock-entrepreneurial-speaker-series.aspx>

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**The Haddock Entrepreneurial Speaker Series** (HESS) exposes students, faculty, staff, and the entire Edwards School of Business community to individuals who possess high entrepreneurial spirit. The 16th annual Haddock Entrepreneurial Speaker Series brought to Saskatoon, Cindy Lowe (B.Comm. 1996). Her presentation, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Spirit: Pre-Requisites for Life, shared insight into her life and the journey that led her to where she is today, and the direction she wants the Canadian education system to go.

Lowe has gained a very extensive portfolio of achievements and awards throughout her professional career that highlight her entrepreneurial spirit. She is the President of Saskatchewan Business Teachers' Association, a chairperson of the Great Plains College Board of Governors, and on the Board of Directors at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. She has also been awarded the YWCA Women of Distinction for Education and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal.

Following her graduation in '96, Lowe moved on to pursue work in finance, and put her newly gained knowledge to use. To her surprise, it became quickly evident that the concept of personal finance was foreign to most of her clients, and she often ended up having to teach them the basics. This sparked the turning point for her career, and she realized financial education was an immediate need.

Lowe then went on to pursue her Bachelor of Education at the University of Calgary, and then later her master's in education at the University of British Columbia. Today, she spends her days teaching financial education at the comprehensive high school in Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Lowe's end goal is for, "all Saskatchewan secondary students to be provided with a mandatory Financial Literacy Course before graduating from high school with trained business teachers to deliver these courses and this becomes a part of high school graduation requirements across Saskatchewan, and eventually all of Canada."

She explained how everyone is involved with money in many aspects and thus, have the right to learn how to spend, save, and invest it properly. Business education is not only a basic human right but is also a great equalizer to break down barriers whether that be age, gender, or race.

Having had such extensive education in finance, she suggested that a comprehensive re-evaluation of debt and credit is needed immediately across central Canada. A term known as FOMO (fear of missing out) spending is attributed to a significant amount of the debt in central Canada. This is due to the instant society we live in today, likely worsened because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Lowe concluded that kids today need to learn and be encouraged to think entrepreneurially and be able to persevere and overcome hardships. The world of work is constantly changing, and current youth need to be able to adapt to this changing workforce. Entrepreneurship is the foundation of Canada's economic recovery which is crucial for the wellbeing of business in Canada.

Students that have taken the Financial Literacy Course offered in high schools across Saskatchewan have noted it was one of the most important and beneficial classes they took in their high school career. Based on this, and Lowe's presentation, it is clear there is a need for this education and there is no better time than now to make it happen.

If you want to learn more about financial literacy and entrepreneurial spirit, consider registering in **COMM 101**, an online business course offered by the Edwards School of Business. With COMM 101 Early Start, students will learn about topics such as personal finance, the importance of entrepreneurship, and mastering financial management.

Watch Cindy Lowe's presentation and the Get a Bigger Wagon Young Entrepreneur Awards [here](#).  
<https://youtu.be/7vA4qa9PM5q?si=M0IlrGk2QjtPWLjC>

## **CONCLUSION:**

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/financial-literacy.asp>

## Benefits of Financial Literacy

Holistically, the benefit of financial literacy is to empower individuals to make smarter decisions. More specifically, financial literacy is important for a number of reasons.

- **Financial literacy can prevent devastating mistakes:** [Floating rate](#) loans may have different interest rates each month, while [traditional individual retirement account \(IRA\)](#) contributions can't be withdrawn until retirement. Seemingly innocent financial decisions may have long-term implications that cost individuals money or impact life plans. Financial literacy helps individuals avoid making mistakes with their personal finances.
- **Financial literacy prepares people for emergencies:** Financial literacy topics such as saving or emergency preparedness get individuals ready for the uncertain. Though losing a job or having a major unexpected expense are always financially impactful, an individual can cushion the blow by implementing their financial literacy in advance by being ready for emergencies.
- **Financial literacy can help individuals reach their goals:** By better understanding how to budget and save money, individuals can create plans that set expectations, hold them accountable to their finances, and set a course for achieving seemingly unachievable goals. Though someone may not be able to afford a dream today, they can always make a plan to better increase their odds of making it happen.
- **Financial literacy invokes confidence:** Imagine making a life-changing decision without all the information you need to make the best decision. By being armed with the appropriate knowledge about finances, individuals can approach major life choices with greater confidence realizing that they are less likely to be surprised or negatively impacted

**Why Is Financial Literacy Important?** Being financially literate from a young age gives an individual the tools and resources they need to be financially secure later in life. The lack of financial literacy can lead to a number of pitfalls, such as accumulating unsustainable debt burdens, either through poor spending decisions or a lack of long-term preparation. This, in turn, can lead to poor credit, bankruptcy, housing issues, and family breakdowns.

Financial literacy is a powerful tool that empowers the learner, enabling women and other marginalized genders to take charge of their economic destinies. Financial literacy is about much more than just dollars and cents; it's about independence, breaking cycles of poverty, and bridging the wealth gap. With financial know-how, individuals can confidently navigate the financial landscape, make informed decisions, and secure their futures. It's a key to entrepreneurship, wise investing, and protecting against financial exploitation. Plus, it's a cornerstone for advocating for economic rights and participating in policy discussions to create a prosperous future for all.