

Teens learn to Make It Count

Talking with youth about budgeting, debit card use and common sense spending has been made easier with the Canada-wide release of Make it Count, an interactive money mentoring program and information resource from the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA). The program includes a parent's guide, instructor's guide and an online daily budgeting program that uses everyday situations like errands to engage youth in discussions about money management.

The Make it Count program centres around a series of activities, tips and lesson plans that are simple to follow and more importantly, simple to teach. One of the most exciting new elements of the program is an online, interactive money management tool that allows mentors and youth to set up a daily budget, start and track savings goals and chat with other money mentors in an online forum. Users can see where their money is going, track their financial progress and provide their own insights and activity ideas to the online community.

According to a recent survey conducted by the CSA, there is a need for financial skills educational resources that are family-friendly. The survey found that 78 per cent of Canadians believe that teaching financial skills is among the most important things a parent can do for their child. And less than half of parents with children 18 or younger have actually taught their children about personal finances and investing.

The Make it Count resources can be accessed at www.MakeitCountOnline.ca.

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