



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | Financial Literacy

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

On a good day, I feel like an 18-year old, enthusiastic, energetic, with limitless potential. But when I'm having a really bad day (month?) my mind wanders to the future, to freedom, and inevitably, to retirement. I'm reminded of those commercials where a 30-something person meets a much older version of themselves — fit, relaxed, successful — somewhere on an exotic beach. The kids are grown, the rat race is over. The younger one asks his senior self — 'Free at 55! How did we do this?'

How indeed? When I was in my 20's, it was cool not to have a plan. Travel the world. Be spontaneous. The ME Generation lived for today. Retirement was a distant abstract concept.

For most of us, our journey towards independence began when we graduated from high school with whatever savings we managed to accumulate from part-time or summer jobs (scarce this year!) ready to take on the world — and to rack up student loans attending a university or college. Others decided to tackle the job market right away. All of us found that living away from home, managing our money and becoming independent was challenging.

My Dad used to say that freedom was having no mortgage, no debt, and good health. He was right.

This week's **Chalk Talk** features an interactive financial life skills resource that will engage your students. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing information about free resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think!](#)

Mary Kovack

Empower your students - Take them to THE CITY!

It's hard to understand why so many young Canadians leave high school lacking financial life skills, ill-prepared for the challenges that they will face in the 'real' world. For many, this can lead to costly mistakes, such as falling deep into debt, and can even result in serious long-term consequences.



Teachers are invited to find out more about a new, bilingual, comprehensive Web-based tool designed to help youth acquire crucial financial know-how. Launched in Fall 2008, **THE CITY: A Financial Life Skills Resource**, has been used by educators to ensure their students gain a foundation of basic financial knowledge that will point them on the right path, and avoid serious problems as they move into adulthood.

THE CITY, a joint initiative of the [Financial Consumer Agency of Canada](#) (FCAC) and the British Columbia Securities Commission, meets curricula requirements in every province and territory, providing objective, reliable information on financial issues such as bank accounts, credit cards and investments. Educators who teach Grade 10 and above can use **THE CITY** in-class as an online interactive resource or download printable worksheets. The resource's innovative approach blends the use of fictional characters in THE CITY with real-life financial activities and decisions, which are organized in a hands-on, activity-based format. [For more, see 'Website of the Week', below.]

Print Edition Giveaway!

If you are **one of the first 100 teachers** to register on **THE CITY** between September 1, 2009 & March 31, 2010, you will receive a **FREE THE CITY** teaching kit worth \$100. To register, [click here](#). Don't miss out on this special opportunity! Register today.

Teacher:
Win a
SMARTBoard

Register on **THE CITY** as a teacher before **December 31, 2009** and enter the promotional code 'HUBCAFÉ' for a chance to win a SMARTBoard! For existing registered teachers, simply update your profile and enter the same promotional code to enter the draw.

[Check out the contest rules and register.](#)

Website of the week

THE CITY where youth explore a world of money and temptation

 Financial Consumer Agency of Canada / Agence de la consommation en matière financière du Canada



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE CITY' website. At the top left is the 'THE CITY' logo. Below it are several promotional boxes: 'Teacher: Win a SMARTBoard', 'Get a FREE teaching kit', 'Your kids need to learn how to manage their money NOW', and 'Get FREE teacher training online'. On the right, there is a photo of a young man with the text 'So, your parents or your teacher sent you here? They were right.' and a 'Français' link. At the bottom left is the BCSC logo (British Columbia Securities Commission). At the bottom are 'English' and 'Français' buttons and the 'Canada' logo.

Life in THE CITY —

It's a new metropolis. A bustling centre that never sleeps.

A place that doesn't cost a dime to visit, but money is everywhere.

It's THE CITY—a fun on-line world for educators and their students, created to teach lifelong lessons about money through everyday scenarios.

THE CITY where learning about money is fun — and effective!

EDUCATORS: Welcome to THE CITY!

Designed for either in-class or self-guided on-line use, THE CITY's approach blends fictional characters with real-life financial activities and decisions, organized in hands-on, activity-based format. Eleven modules introduce key financial topics, starting with the basic lesson of distinguishing needs from wants. Along the way, students learn from eight 'life stage characters' – a collection of "reality show"-style personalities who face various financial circumstances.

And while THE CITY promises to be a bustling, urban jungle for youth, it offers a metropolis of benefits for time-pressed teachers. **Easy to grasp and deliver, the program can be adapted to any classroom and includes downloadable lesson plans, student handouts and on-line modules.** It's also free of charge and meets the learning outcomes (curricula) related to financial literacy in every province and territory. To connect to THE CITY website, [click here](#).

 Financial Consumer Agency of Canada / Agence de la consommation en matière financière du Canada



English Français

Canada

The FCAC offers additional financial literacy resources ideal for use by educators and students to ensure that all young Canadians can gain a foundation of basic financial knowledge that will point them on the right path, and avoid serious problems as they move into adulthood.

Educators are invited to check out **The Money Belt**, an online resource that is dedicated to teaching financial life skills — the basics about money and the financial world in an easy-to-understand way that is relevant to high school students. Here, young people can build their knowledge

and confidence in handling finances and situations involving decisions about money. It's a great place to get practical tips and test what you know — and don't know — about managing money without the risks and consequences you would encounter in real life. [The Money Belt](#) offers interactive tools, quizzes, polls and more attention-grabbing resources to interest your students in financial matters. To visit the website, [click here](#).

'THE CITY' Financial Life Skills Web Conferences

Teacher training available

FCAC, in conjunction with Curriculum Services Canada (CSC), is offering a series of free teacher training workshops, so that educators can become familiarized with **THE CITY**'s topics, or discover ways to incorporate the 11 flexible modules into their existing lesson plans. Through meaningful dialogue with an expert facilitator and colleagues from provincial, territorial and regional clusters, teachers will engage in discussion and activities that will help guide their utilization of this resource in their own classrooms.



THE CITY financial life skills resource has received the 'Seal of Quality' from Curriculum Services Canada; CSC (English) and Le Centre canadien de leadership en évaluation; Le CLÉ (French).

To find out more about upcoming dates and how to register for Web Conference opportunities in your province, go to www.curriculum.org/csc/conf_city.adp.

[Please note: The Web Conferences have been arranged in clusters to satisfy time zones, geographic considerations, and curriculum similarities among provinces, territories and regions.]

Education News & Related Articles

[No jobs mean big loans for students](#) – Noor Javed, Staff Reporter, [Parentcentral.ca](#), [TheStar.com](#), September 5, 2009

Siva Vimal spent his entire summer trying to get a head start. Determined to pay his own tuition at York University, like he had in previous years, the third-year political science student began applying for jobs early in the summer. He filled out application after application for a job as a waiter or bus boy, work he found easily last year. But he never heard back. Even the Tim Hortons in his neighbourhood didn't reply. Eventually, Vimal's uncle gave him a few hours of work a week at his restaurant so the 20-year-old could pay his bills. Vimal starts school next week with almost no savings, a huge loan on his shoulders, and concerns about how he will be able to get through the year. "There is no way I can pay for tuition this year," Vimal said. "My parents both work in factories, and I hate asking them for money. Usually I help them pay the bills," he said. "This year, I hate to think about it, but I might have to borrow from them." He isn't the only one returning to school empty-handed. According to Statistics Canada, unemployment for students between the ages of 15 and 24 was at 16.4 per cent in August, the worst rate on record. The rest of the summer wasn't any better. The unemployment rate for the summer was at 19.2 per cent, with most of the young people working only 23.4 hours per week. The concerns can be seen on campuses across the city. The University of Toronto has seen a 12 per cent increase in financial aid applications for the year, according to its financial aid office. Ryerson University has seen applications jump 10 per cent. And applications to the Ontario Student Assistance Program were about 5 per cent higher for colleges and universities for next year. "This means so many more students are having to borrow money just to get through school, which means a higher debt load at the end," said Katherine Giroux-Bougard, head of the Canadian Federation of Students, which has been fielding calls from concerned students all summer.

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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