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Money for Living Fair held April 11 in Chilliwack

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How we manage our finances affects our relationships, our families, our community connections and our self-respect.

The Financial Literacy Project is a joint project between Chilliwack Community Services and Chilliwack Learning Society, with sponsorship from Prosper Canada. The project vision is to respect and empower each person to take control of their life by improving their financial literacy skills, through community support.

Over the past seven months The Financial Literacy Project has provided basic financial information, tools and tips to a wide range of Chilliwack community members, assisting with how we manage our money.

"From transitioning youth to retired seniors there has been a great demand for basic financial information to help make informed financial decisions for ourselves and for our families," says Maggie Saunders, Financial Literacy Support Worker with Chilliwack Community Services. "When it comes to deciding how to manage our money; the more we know, the better we understand the choices we can make."

Many people look for help their when life events affect their financial situation. Changes in relationships, a new baby, employment, health or even housing can have a major effect on personal finances and can be very stressful. One of the most common requests we receive is "can you help me stretch my money so it lasts until payday?" When we decide what's important to us and understand how and where we spend our money, then a good budget with healthy food choices can help reduce this stress. It's all about taking charge of our money instead of it taking charge of us.

In 2010 Debbie Denault, Literacy Outreach Coordinator with Chilliwack Learning Society, began working to bring this project to Chilliwack. Now she wants to get the most benefit for Chilliwack residents.



The Money for Living Fair on April 11 is free and offers information on Chilliwack service organizations and short seminars on topics including budgeting, debt and credit, healthy living, job searching, finances for seniors and more. — Image Credit: Submitted Photo

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"It is a privilege and a pleasure to help community members make positive changes to their finances," says Denault.

Since last fall the project has connected with more than 30 community organizations in Chilliwack. They have provided basic financial literacy information to more than 300 community members and training to more than 50 facilitators from service organizations in both financial literacy and stress-free math.

Community members can learn more about the services available in Chilliwack at the Money for Living Fair on April 11 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre (beside Chilliwack senior secondary).

The Money for Living Fair is free and offers information on Chilliwack service organizations and short seminars on topics including budgeting, debt and credit, healthy living, job searching, finances for seniors and more. There will be free refreshments and free child minding for parents on site for children up to nine years old.

Parents and kids will enjoy the sights and sounds of Library Live and on Tour (fvrl.bc.ca/library_live.php)—the little car with the big voice. "LiLi," a highly noticeable and surprising little vehicle with very "un-library"-like enhancements. Kids will also love Vancouver's TumbleBus (vancouver tumblebus.com). TumbleBus is a gym on wheels filled with fun equipment; a zipline, monkey bars, balance beam, trampoline, rings, rockwall, slide, swing and much more.

The Money for Living Fair is open to residents of Chilliwack and area.

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