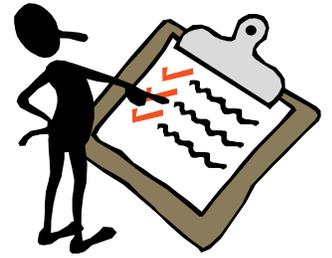


Trusts Education
Program

Costs of Living

**The Price
of Life in
Manitoba**

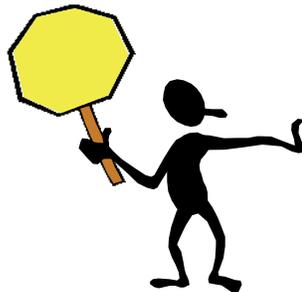


Decisions, Decisions

At the age of 18, most people reach a point in their lives where there are some important decisions to make. High school may be coming to an end, and there are usually some big changes ahead. These might include continuing education, moving out on your own, or making a large purchase such as a vehicle or even a home.

Each of these steps can be exciting, but can also be costly. It is a good idea to consider costs as one of the factors in making your decisions.

This is especially true for people who are receiving the proceeds of a trust at the age of 18. Suddenly having access to this money can change your perspective and cause you to make decisions without considering costs. It is important to think about your future when making these decisions, and avoid doing things you will later regret.



Caution—changes ahead!

Continuing Education

Making the choice to continue your education is often known as “investing in yourself”. While it can be costly, there are usually grants, bursaries, scholarships and discount programs especially for students that can help make it more affordable.

The main costs of continuing education are:

- ◆ Tuition/enrolment fees - depending on the program, these usually amount to \$3,000 - \$5,000 per year for full-time study.
- ◆ Books and supplies - again these can vary greatly depending on your program. Most students can expect to spend \$2,000 - \$4,000 per year. This amount may be less if used books and supplies are available.
- ◆ The expenses of living on your own, if you choose to do so. Keep reading for a breakdown of what to expect.



Continuing your education is always a good investment.

Helpful Hints

When making any decision, your best bet is to weigh all your options carefully before making a choice. Writing down the pros and cons of the different options can help.

Sometimes your decision-making is complicated by advice or influence you are getting from friends or family members. In some cases, the advice they are giving is good and has your best interests at heart. But there may also be times people will try to influence your decisions for their personal gains, especially in the case of your trust money.

Always keep in mind, your trust money is **yours**. It was safeguarded throughout your childhood so that you would be able to make good decisions about what to do with it. Be sure that you have thought it over and are comfortable with whatever you choose to do with those funds.

Living on Your Own

Whether you rent or purchase, moving out on your own is a big step with many aspects to consider. The major expenses involved are:

- ◆ Mortgage or rent payments
- ◆ Utilities - electricity, natural gas, water, telephone, cable/satellite, internet service (some of these may be included in rent)
- ◆ Insurance
- ◆ Household expenses - furnishings, groceries, cleaning and laundry supplies

For renters, you usually have to pay a damage deposit as well as the first and last month's rent upon moving in.

For homeowners, you need to budget for property taxes, as well as maintenance and any redecoration or renovations you wish to do. You also need a down payment to qualify for financing. It is usually a good idea to make a large initial down payment if you can afford to. This will save you money, as you will be charged interest on the amount you have mortgaged or financed.

Vehicles

Besides the initial purchase price of a vehicle, it is smart to consider the ongoing expenses involved with vehicle ownership:

- ◆ Registration and insurance - this depends on the make, model and year of your vehicle, as well as your driving record and where you live. Most vehicles fall in the range of \$1,200 - \$2,500 per year.
- ◆ Licence - the basic fee is about \$60 per year, but if you have demerits or at-fault accidents on your record, this can be much higher.
- ◆ Maintenance - a rough estimate is \$1,000 per year, assuming no major repairs. Some new vehicles have service schedules you have to honour to maintain your vehicle's warranty.
- ◆ Fuel - This depends on the type of vehicle you drive, how much you drive, and the current fuel prices. Just don't forget to budget for it.



There are many ways to finance the purchase of a vehicle. If you choose any type of lease or payment plan, always be aware of the fees and interest rate you are being charged.



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