

KEEPING YOUR FINANCES IN CHECK!

If you haven't had to think about paying rent or buying your own groceries before, you could end up with more "month" than "money"! Stretching your money during the school year can be a challenging task. Here is a sample budget to get you thinking and planning ahead.

MONTHLY BUDGET

LIVING EXPENSES		
Rent		\$300-\$500 with roommates \$600-1200 living alone
Laundry		\$0 - \$10 / per week
TRANSPORTATION		
TTC		Metro pass \$100/ per month \$30/ per week \$2.75/ one-way trip
Car	Parking	\$6 - \$15/ a day
	Street Permits	\$65/ 6 months
	Petroleum	\$30 - \$60/ per week
	Insurance	Lots!
	Parking Tickets	\$30 + Tickets/ per month
OTHER		
Phone		Long Distance Plan - \$35 - \$50/ per month
Groceries		\$30/ per week \$150/ per month
Entertainment		\$50 - \$200/ per month

Did you know....

A study was released recently that said the average Canadian spends more than \$10 a day on discretionary items (coffee, etc.)—without thinking about it. Your money will disappear if you don't keep track of it.

Tips

- If you have roommates, decide who is in charge of which bills.
- If you are responsible to pay a bill, make sure you do it on time. If you can't pay it, tell your roommate right away
- Ask yourself when standing in the audio equipment section of Future Shop, "Do I really need this?" Chances are you don't.
- Use O.S.A.P for school—not a shopping spree!!
- Save all your change and keep toonies, loonies and quarters for laundry.
- Always look for bargains. Be a wise spender.
- Don't shop in the grocery store when you are hungry.
- Take a lunch to school rather than always eating out.
- Remember you do not have to get all the latest gadgets and fashions.