

RISING TIDE · FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES

Financial Literacy 101

Protecting and Growing Our Community's Wealth

Session 1 · Everyday Steps to Take Control of Your Cash

THE FOUNDATION

Why Money Management Matters



Protect your family

A plan shields you from unexpected emergencies.



Secure your future

Keep more of what you earn for what comes next.



Strengthen our community

Money kept close stays working for our people.



Take control, step by step

Small, steady habits beat stress and guesswork.

Knowing Your Cash Flow



Income

Money coming in — paycheques, benefits.

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Expenses

Money going out — everything you buy.

Income minus expenses tells you where you stand:



Surplus

Good. Income beats expenses — you have cash left over to save.



Deficit

Danger. Expenses beat income — this usually leads to stressful debt.

Prioritizing Your Spending



Needs

Pay these **FIRST**

- Food on the table
- Shelter and heat
- Medicine and health



Wants

Pay these **LAST**

- Takeout and treats
- Video games
- Brand-name clothes

Making a Simple Plan

- 1 Write your total monthly income.
- 2 Subtract your bills and needs.
- 3 Subtract emergency savings.
- 4 Spend what is left over — guilt-free.

A SIMPLE EXAMPLE

Monthly income	\$2,000
– Bills & needs	\$1,400
– Emergency savings	\$200

To spend \$400

Use a Free Bank Account



Safety

A bank protects your cash from fire, loss, and theft.



Chequing

For daily spending and paying your bills.



Savings

A separate spot to hold money and let it grow.



Avoid: Expensive payday-loan lenders — their giant fees are built to trap you.

Expect the Unexpected



Purpose

A safety net for sudden car repairs or medical bills.



First goal

Save your first \$1,000 as fast as you can.



Main goal

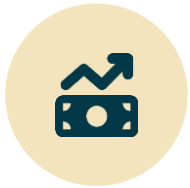
Build up to 3 months of living expenses.



The rule

Keep it separate — and do not touch it unless it is a true emergency.

Protecting Your Future Cash



Debt

Borrowed money that costs you much more later, through interest.



Credit cards

Use them like cash — pay the full balance every month.



Payday loans

Avoid completely — the fees are enormous.



The golden rule

No cash? Don't buy the want. Walk away.

Know Your Status Rights



Section 87

The Indian Act provides tax exemptions for status members.



On-Reserve

Income earned on-reserve is generally tax-exempt.



File Every Year

Even if you owe nothing, filing unlocks your benefit cheques.

Tax rules can be complex — check your own situation with a professional if unsure.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

Pick One Thing to Do This Week



Start today by tracking your spending.



Open a safe savings account.



Build your \$1,000 emergency fund.

Small steps,
big change

You don't have to fix everything
overnight — just begin.

Thank you — questions are always welcome.