

Handout 7-3

Freedom 18 Budget

Name: _____ Class/Block: _____ Date: _____

Yes! You'll finish high school when you're 17 or 18. No more school periods, bells or assemblies! But now you face the responsibilities of educating yourself, preparing for a career and making a living.

A personal budget can help you figure out how to manage your money. Whether you continue to live at home, start a job and live on your own, or go to university and live in a residence, you'll have to adjust your expenses to your income. Develop your own Freedom 18 Budget so that you'll be ready for life after high school.

Before you do, you'll have to do some planning to figure out what will work for you. Research the budget items below, organize your findings and enter the amounts on your Freedom 18 Budget. You may be able to find some of the information you need at www.CanLearn.ca and other student information websites.

Where will you live? With whom?

(Housing)

Decide where you're going to live – at home, in your own apartment, sharing with friends or some other option. Use price lists, classified ads, internet or other resources to research the actual monthly cost of the accommodation.

Summarize your research and enter the amounts in your budget.

What do you like to eat? And where?

(Food)

Prepare a menu for a week's meals, including a balanced variety of foods for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Use advertising flyers or grocery delivery websites or visit a grocery store to estimate the cost of your weekly menu. (Or ask your parents for an estimate of food costs to eat at home.) Estimate the cost of eating out by multiplying the number of times you expect to go out for food or drinks by the average cost of a visit to a restaurant or other place.

Summarize your research and enter the amounts in your budget.

How will you get around?

(Transportation)

Research and compare the cost of public transit, owning a car and alternative forms of transportation, like cycling, in the region where you plan to live. Include the cost of the items that apply:

- car payments
- car insurance
- gas and maintenance for a car
- monthly transit pass
- bike purchase and maintenance

Summarize your research and enter the amounts in your budget.

Handout 7-3 (continued)

Freedom 18 Budget

What will you do for fun? (Recreation)

Estimate your costs for recreation activities by multiplying the cost of the following by the number of times you plan to spend money on them in a month:

- sports events
- sports memberships, fees and equipment
- music events
- music and game purchases
- movies
- DVD and game rentals
- other

Summarize your research and enter the amounts in your budget.

What are your education and career plans? (Education)

If you plan to attend an educational institution, take lessons or begin apprenticeship training, research tuition costs and the costs for books and supplies for the program.

Summarize your research and enter the amounts in your budget.

Are you ready for the unexpected? (Savings)

Does your budget include any extra money for those unexpected expenses that always seem to occur? How about savings? Can you put some money away for the future – your emergency fund, the car you'd like to buy, a home, a vacation, your retirement? Many experts recommend saving 10 per cent of your income after deductions.

So ... where does that leave you? (Surplus/Deficit)

Subtract your total expenses from your income and calculate whether you'll have a surplus or a deficit. If you have a deficit, adjust your entries to eliminate the deficit or explain how you'll fund the deficit.

Note: The EducationPlanner website (www.educationplanner.ca/moneymatters.cfm) provides a general expenses guide for students, and CanLearn (www.canlearn.ca) provides financial information for students. BCjobs.ca and other websites provide information about current jobs and rates of pay.

Handout 7-3 (continued)

Freedom 18 Budget

	Amount	Total
INCOME		
Employment Income #1		
Income per month	\$ _____	
Deductions	\$ _____	
Income after deductions	\$ _____	\$ _____
Employment Income #2 (if you have a second job)		
Income per month	\$ _____	
Deductions	\$ _____	
Income after deductions	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other Income (average per month for allowance, gifts, odd jobs, etc.)		
_____	\$ _____	
_____	\$ _____	
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Monthly Income After Deductions		\$ _____

Handout 7-3 (continued)

Freedom 18 Budget

	Amount	Total
EXPENSES		
Fixed Expenses		
Housing	\$ _____	
Car payments	\$ _____	
Other loan payments	\$ _____	
Insurance		
Car	\$ _____	
Home and contents	\$ _____	
Other (life, disability, travel medical)	\$ _____	
Utilities (electric, gas)	\$ _____	
Telecommunications (cable, internet, telephone, cellphone)	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Fixed Expenses	\$ _____	
Variable Expenses		
Food		
Groceries	\$ _____	
Eating out	\$ _____	
Household (cleaning, maintenance, furniture)	\$ _____	
Computer (hardware, software, accessories, supplies)	\$ _____	
Childcare	\$ _____	
Pets	\$ _____	
Transportation		
Car (gas, maintenance, etc.)	\$ _____	
Public transit	\$ _____	
Health care (MSP, dental, glasses/lenses, medication)	\$ _____	
Clothing	\$ _____	
Personal care (toiletries, hair care, makeup, laundry)	\$ _____	
Recreation (movies, games, DVDs, clubs, concerts, sports, etc.)	\$ _____	
Travel	\$ _____	
Gifts and charitable donations	\$ _____	
Education		
Tuition, fees	\$ _____	
Books, supplies	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Savings	\$ _____	
Total Variable Expenses	\$ _____	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ _____	
Subtract total expenses from total income		
Total Monthly Surplus or Deficit	\$ _____	