

# **SUBJECT: Youth Financial Literacy**

## **SUBMITTED BY: Youth, Education, and Training Committee**

### **BACKGROUND**

As the Saskatchewan economy continues to grow and more people feel that they are financially able to purchase new cars and houses, as well as make investments into the stock market or conduct other transactions, some people are better equipped to deal with this changing financial landscape than others.

In Saskatchewan and all other jurisdictions throughout the country, an increasing number of Canadians are facing rising levels of mortgage debt, credit card debt, student loans, and are faced with a variety of other financial hurdles such as saving for retirement and personal budgeting. These are challenges which Canadians have not been adequately educated to deal with.

### **ISSUE**

There has never been a provincial consensus on financial literacy education that was lead by Saskatchewan's provincial government. Young people need to be educated about the basics of debt, investing, credit, budgeting and other matters of personal finance.

Financial literacy is having the knowledge to understand personal and broader financial matters, skills to apply that knowledge and understanding to everyday life, and the confidence to use the skills and knowledge to make responsible financial decisions that are appropriate to the individual's situation.

### **RECOMMENDED**

- 1) That Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education create and introduce a required course or course content into the secondary school curriculum that focuses on educating young people about the basics of personal finance, such as debt, credit, cash management, loans, and investing.
- 2) That Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education ensure that the teacher(s) responsible for presenting this course are adequately trained to present the new course material. A distance education course should also be created to provide the content in a quality manner to students in communities where teacher staffing levels may not allow for a teacher to focus the necessary amount of time towards becoming familiar with the course material.
- 3) That Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education, after an initial 2 year phasing-in period, make it a mandatory condition of graduating high school that a student must complete this personal finance course in the 3 years prior to graduation. The course could either be completed through distance education or in a classroom setting.

4) That the Saskatchewan Chamber continue to work with the Saskatchewan Financial Literacy Network to ensure they maintain their focus on bringing together financial literacy experts and champions so that they are able to use their shared resources and knowledge to further promote the importance of financial literacy to their membership as well as to the broader public.