



## Financial Reality Check 2012

### WIN !

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$750
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$300

### What is the Financial Reality Check?

It is a competition where students research and analyze the cost of a post-secondary program.

See attached competition guidelines for detailed information.

### Who can participate?

Ontario high school students in grades 11 and 12.

### What are the contest dates?

The contest closes April 27, 2012. All entries must be received by April 27, 2012.

### Questions:

Contact Zenobia Omarali, Guidance Counsellor at George Vanier Secondary School:  
[zomarali@rogers.com](mailto:zomarali@rogers.com)

Investor Education Fund (IEF) is a non-profit organization funded by settlements and fines from enforcement proceedings of the Ontario Securities Commission. IEF partners with education, media and not-for-profit organizations to deliver free financial literacy programs and instructions. IEF is pleased to sponsor the Financial Reality Check Competition in partnership with the Ontario School Counsellors' Association.

# Financial Reality Check 2012

## Competition Guidelines

Scenario:

- You are financially responsible for financing your post-secondary education.
- You have \$7,500 in a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) and will withdraw \$2,500 in your first year.

### Step One: Research post-secondary program costs

Research costs for a post-secondary program of your choice including tuition (tools, labs fees etc.) campus fees and books. Research cost for living on and off campus.

### Step Two: Complete the budget worksheets

- Use templates on the Investor Education Fund's website, [www.getsmateraboutmoney.ca](http://www.getsmateraboutmoney.ca), Education programs "For Students".
  - Print two copies of the templates and complete manually OR complete online in Excel. Prepare twelve budgets – one for each month of the first year (EG Aug. 2012 to July 2013) of your post-secondary program for each scenario (i) Living at home (ii) Living away from home.
  - At the end of step 2, you will have completed 24 monthly budgets.

Note:

If you choose a program that is offered at an institution far from your home, choose a similar program at an institution that is close to your home to complete the Living at home budget. The Living away from home budgets will be based on the institution you chose that is far from your home; the Living at home budgets will be based on the institution with a similar program that is close to your home.

Expenses section (money flowing out):

- List only those expenses you are responsible for. Example, you have a car but are responsible only for gas and parking, include only gas and parking estimates.
  - Remember, some months your expenses may be higher than others. You will need to purchase textbooks at the beginning of each term. You may need to pay a security deposit on a rental apartment; purchase items for your room in residence etc.

Income (money flowing in)

- List all incoming resources such as RESP contributions, savings and projected earnings from employment.

Month end balance

- Calculate your month end balance (Total income – Total expense) to reflect positive or negative cash flow for the month.

### Additional sources of funding

Investigate other sources of income to ensure you have enough money coming in to cover your expenses. Some tips to keep in mind when applying for financial aid:

- Students must have a financial plan
- Students are expected to live within their means
- Students can apply for OSAP OR a bank loan, but not both
- Students can qualify for awards and scholarships

(For reference only:

<http://www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca/life-events/getting-an-education/Pages/default.aspx>,  
[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca), [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca))

### Step Three: Your Analysis

Write an essay (max. 1,000 words) analyzing how you successfully met the costs of the first year of study in the program you selected. Your essay must be double spaced and typed.

Your analysis will include:

- what you learned about post-secondary education expenses
- steps or strategies you could take to ensure a balanced budget
- strategies/plans you have for any surplus funds
- information about scholarships/awards that you applied -- copy of the application form

### Submission checklist

- completed student entry form
- completed wavier and consent form
- budget worksheets
- analysis

### Send your submission to:

Financial Reality Check  
Investor Education Fund  
20 Queen St. W., Box 32  
Toronto, ON M5H 3S8

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