

# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | New Resource!

PLEASE SHARE **CHALK TALK** WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

**Letter from the Editor**

Dear Educators,

**“We become what we behold. We shape our tools and then our tools shape us.”**  
— Marshall McLuhan

When my son was about 9 years old, he asked me how much money there was in the world. Unprepared, I evasively answered, ‘a lot ... more than we could ever count’. But he was getting too old for a simplistic answer. He wanted to know exactly and he was sure that I knew but was holding out. So I tried, ‘As much as everyone in the world agrees that there is’. He followed up with “Who has the money and when we need more, why don’t they just make more?”. Now I knew I was in big trouble.

I thought for a moment, recalled all of those movies and cartoons I had seen featuring Fort Knox, and explained that when I was his age, each country actually had to have a certain amount of gold saved up equal in value to the amount of paper money they intended to print. I explained in simple terms about the historical importance of gold and the rise and fall in the value of gold. I reminded him, too, that it was traditional for my Italian parents to give 18-karat gold jewelry as gifts. I concluded by admitting that today countries were no longer bound to do this. He persisted, ‘Well someone must know how much money there is in the world or there must be some way to find out.’

I not-so-deftly steered the discussion away from international finance towards something that I did understand. I told him that what matters in real life is how much money you earn, save, spend and owe, and that it is important to earn and save more than you spend and owe.

My son, who will enter high school soon, has just begun to set goals for the kind of future he wants and to understand the role that money will play in achieving those goals. This week’s issue of **Chalk Talk** features an excellent financial literacy resource for high school students.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers’ resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think!](#)

*Mary Kovack*  
Mary Kovack

**Visa’s Choices & Decisions - REVISED Edition!**



**Visa Canada** is pleased to announce the launch of its newly revised and up-dated financial literacy resource — **Choices & Decisions: Taking Charge of Your Financial Life**. Originally published in 1996, Choices & Decisions is an in-class resource used by educators across the country to help high school students set financial goals, develop budgets, identify how and when to use credit and the basics of the banking system.

The **Choices & Decisions Educators’ Kit** includes practical, ready-to-use, lesson plans designed by classroom teachers for use in today’s schools. Each lesson contains goals, lesson objectives, timelines, teacher notes, teaching instructions and evaluation suggestions. There are supplemental activities and additional Web resources to help engage all high school grade levels and the lesson plans include overheads, quizzes and student activity worksheets.

Each of the 15 lessons are designed to give teachers the information they need to help their students

understand financial planning, budgeting, develop better money management skills, set goals and start planning for financial milestones such as attending post-secondary institution, moving out or buying a car.

**Over 800 financial literacy educators have already reserved a copy. To order your Teacher’s Kit, go to [www.4edu.ca/tors/visa/](http://www.4edu.ca/tors/visa/). Available in English and in French. Order your kit today!**

**For more detailed information, see the ‘Website of the Week’ feature and Section by Section outlines (below).**

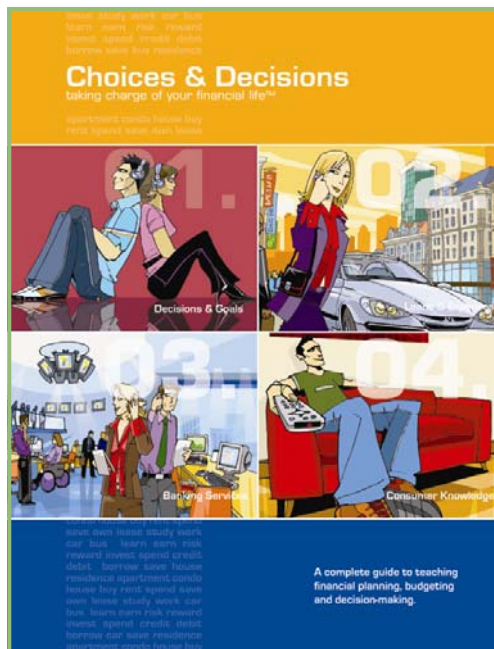


Classroom Poster

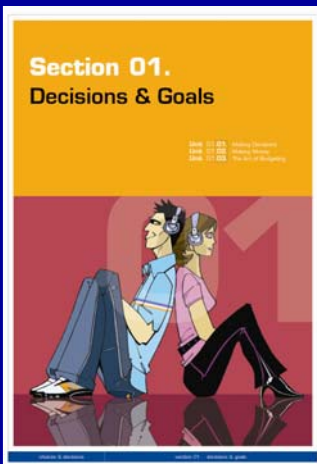
*The difference between school and life.  
In school, you’re taught a lesson  
and then given a test.  
In life, you’re given a test that teaches you a lesson.*  
— Tom Bodett

**VISA** Financial Basics for the Real World — Budgeting, Investing, Saving and Spending.

- The newly revised version of **Choices & Decisions: Taking Charge of Your Financial Future** educators' kit has been completely up-dated so that it continues to be relevant, interesting and entertaining for today's students.
- This up-dated version contains the most recent financial information available including how students can protect themselves from financial fraud. Developed by a panel of educators to meet curriculum requirements for high schools across Canada, this resource challenges students to learn and apply decision-making skills while understanding the fundamentals of budgeting, saving, investing and the wise use of credit.
- Teachers and students alike will enjoy the visual appeal of the new version's colourful, modern graphics and easy to use lay-out, which is organized into four sections (see overview of each section, below). **Choices & Decisions** includes an interactive CD-ROM and is supported by Visa Canada's financial website, [www.practicalmoneyskills.ca](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.ca).



**Visa's Choices & Decisions: Taking Charge of Your Financial Future™**  
Revised, Re-designed, Up-dated



**Section 01 — Decisions & Goals**

**Making Decisions**

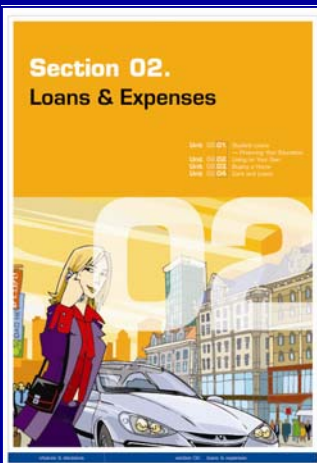
Provide an understanding and an awareness of the factors that can influence decisions; Introduce basic decision-making methodologies — analyzing a problem, identifying options.

**Making Money**

Introduce students to the career planning process; Evaluate current employment market; Preparing a resume; Understanding the Interview process.

**The Art of Budgeting**

Assist in identifying and prioritizing personal and financial goals; Financial planning; Personal Budgeting



**Section 02 — Loans & Expenses**

**Student Loans — Financing Your Education**

Investigate the costs of post-secondary education; Outline available financial options.

**Living on Your Own**

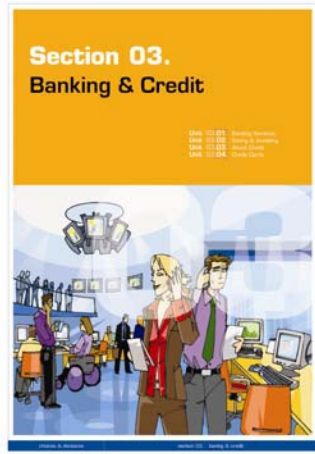
Understand the costs and provide practice in setting up budgets; Understand lease/rental agreements.

**Buying a Home**

Develop a basic understanding of the process and costs.

**Cars and Loans**

Investigate the financial responsibilities of buying, leasing, maintaining, insuring and operating a car; Evaluate impact on budgeting.



## Section 03 — Banking & Credit

### Banking

Provide practice in comparing and evaluating banking services, including chequing and savings accounts, ATM, debit cards and online banking.

### Saving and Investing

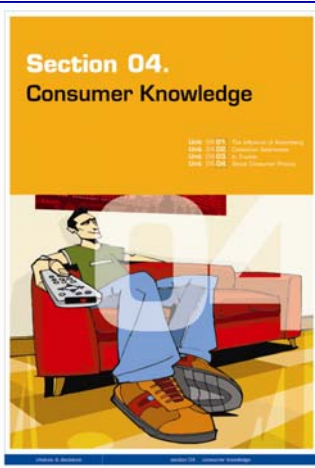
Introduce the advantages and disadvantages of common savings and investment vehicles

### About Credit

Analyse the role and importance of the wise use of credit.

### Credit Cards

Analyse the role and importance of the wise use of credit cards.



## Section 04 — Consumer Knowledge

### The Influence of Advertising

Examine the influence of advertising and the techniques used to influence consumer behaviour.

### Consumer Awareness

Combine decision-making methods with comparative shopping techniques; Recognizing common consumer scams; Developing skills to handle consumer complaints.

### In Trouble

Analyse the behaviours and circumstances that can lead to financial trouble; Identify options and steps that can rectify situation.

### About Consumer Privacy

Stress importance of protecting personal information.

## The Source for Free Teaching Resources February 2009 Issue—NOW AVAILABLE!

A limited number of extra printed copies of the new 52-page February 2009 issue of **The Source for Free Teaching Resources** are currently available FREE to educators across Canada. This semi-annual, bilingual guide to free, quality, curriculum-based resources and programs is proudly produced by CoEd Communications, who also bring you **Chalk Talk** every week.

CoEd hopes that this handy guide will make it easier for busy and dedicated educators to identify and order free supplemental classroom resources to assist in the preparation of lesson plans. Educators will also find information on a variety of programs and competitions.

To order your own free copy and to receive future issues, simply go to CoEd's easy-to-use website, [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca), click on **The Source**, then **Free Subscription**. For all other comments or enquiries, please email us at [maryk@coedcomm.com](mailto:maryk@coedcomm.com).



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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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