



FREE Professional Development Workshop Series for Social Service Workers:

MAKING \$ENSE OF TALKING ¢ENTS

This Professional Development Workshop Series was developed through collaboration and input from 18 organizations which work with low-income and vulnerable populations. This working group examined typical sources of a person's learning/information about financial issues and pinpointed that many people experiencing poverty have "helping professionals" in their lives, and these people may be in a position to provide resources, information and support on financial matters.

Using input from an online survey, focus groups and peer interviews, FERN developed a workshop series for front-line, helping professionals who want to increase their knowledge of financial topics so they can help their clients. Each workshop was facilitated by a person with practical experience in supporting people living on low incomes, and resources posted online for everyone to access and use.

Fall 2014

1. Financial Literacy in the Context of Poverty Panel Discussion & State of the FERN update.

2. Money Troubles: Financial Implications for Families in Conflict | Oct 16, 2014, 1:00-3:00 pm

Presenter: Communica: Dialogue and Resolution Society

Workshop Handouts:

- [Money Troubles Discussion Activities](#)
- [Money Troubles participant manual](#)

3. Savings & Asset-building for People with Low Incomes | Oct 30, 2014, 1:00-3:00 pm

Presenter: Melanie Buffel, Money Coach and Consultant

Workshop Resources:

- [Next Step Financial Achievement Video](#) (Youtube)
- [Saving and Asset Building Presentation Oct 30 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Savings and Asset Building Handout \(PDF\)](#)

4. Keeping Seniors Safe from Financial Abuse □ | Nov 6, 2014, 1:00-3:00 pm

Presenter: BC Centre for Elder Advocacy & Support

This workshop will focus on the importance of advance planning, forms of financial abuse through joint bank accounts and powers of attorney, and strategies to deal with financial abuse. We will discuss how these issues particularly affect low-income seniors, brainstorm best practices to assist them, and provide a wealth of resources.

Workshop Resources:

- [Keeping Seniors Safe - Powerpoint Slides Handout](#)
- [Resources for Financial Abuse Prevention](#)



5. Financial First Aid for Service Providers | Nov 20, 2014, 1:00-3:00 pm

Presenter: Credit Counselling Society

Join us for an interactive and informative session where you'll learn about the rights and responsibilities your clients have around their debts. In this session you'll learn about the right of offset, seize and/or sue law, communication strategies with creditors, options your clients have for dealing with their debt, and resources available in the community for additional support. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Stacy Yanchuk Oleksy is the Director of Education at the Credit Counselling Society. She is a professional Coach and a Certified Educator in Personal Finance

Workshop Resources:

- [Financial 1st Aid for Service Providers](#) (PDF)
- [MyMoneyCoach.ca](#) - Credit Counselling Society Website
- [Equifax Credit Reporting Bureau](#)
- [Transunion Credit Reporting Bureau](#)

6. Violence, Abuse & Financial Issues: Impacts for Women | Dec 4, 2014, 1:00-3:00 pm

Presenters: Parm Kroad (Victoria Women's Transition House Society) and Marlene Goley (Cridge Centre for the Family)

In this session, participants will gain a fuller understanding of the various forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, and financial, and the challenges a woman and her children may face when wanting to leave the family home. These will provide a context for examining the potential impact of abuse on financial stability and security for women and children. Through active engagement we hope that you will leave with a greater understanding of the impact of abuse, and how, as an advocate, you can support your client.



Winter/Spring 2015

7. Understanding Cognitive Impairments & their Influence on Handling Finances | January 15, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm

Presenter: Brenda Williamson, Community Living BC

Come and learn more about the ways that different cognitive impairments may show up when a client is learning or planning. Participate in discussions, using your own experiences, about ways to adapt your approach when you're helping a client with a cognitive impairment in handling or learning about finances.

Workshop Resources:

- [Supporting Success for Adults with FASD](#) - Resource Guide from Community Living BC
- [Asante Centre for FASD](#) - assessment, diagnostic and family support services
- [Steps Forward](#) - Initiative for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education
- [Do2Learn](#) - Educational resources for individuals with special needs
- [Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse](#) - information and resource on substances, related conditions in various populations
- [Community Living BC](#) - information, referral, supports eligibility
- [Minga Marketplace](#) - Resources for people living with FASD and supporting people with FASD.
- [National Association for the Dually Diagnosed](#) - information and supports for people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs
- [American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

8. First Peoples Cultural Awareness - Focus on Economic Traditions and Money Matters | January 29, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm

Presenter: Leslie McGarry, Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Leslie McGarry is a member of the Kwagiulth First Nation, which is one of the villages within the Kwakwaka'wakw Territory, located on the northeast part of Vancouver Island. Leslie represents the fifth generation of her family to work in the field of Cultural Awareness. Leslie will be sharing knowledge about pre-settler, post-contact and 20th century economic traditions and practices of Coastal First Nations. She will also describe the impacts of various legislation on the financial well-being of First Nations people. This workshop will provide helping professionals with an opportunity to understand the context and barriers faced by First Nations people in building financial empowerment.

9. Youth Financial Empowerment Activity Toolkit | February 12, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm

Presenter: Susan Low, Community Social Planning Council, with youth from Threshold Housing Society

Looking for creative ways to explore finances and money with youth with low incomes? FERN proudly introduces our community-owned Youth Financial Empowerment Experience curriculum toolkit. Youth from the Threshold Housing Society will introduce the toolkit and talk about ways to make financial literacy relevant and fun for youth.

10. Navigating the Social Assistance System | February 26, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm

Presenter: Raia Melnyk, Together Against Poverty Society

This workshop will focus on common issues faced by people (and advocates) trying to access provincial Income and "Persons with Disabilities" assistance and related benefits. This includes: ensuring requests and applications to the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation comply with relevant legislation, regulations and policies; handling Ministry audits and welfare bans; dealing with BC Hydro and FMP issues; and understanding the relationship between provincial and federal support for people with disabilities.



**11. Financial Supports, Credits and Programs for People with Disabilities |
March 12, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm**

Presenter: Victoria Disability Resource Centre

This session will provide a closer look at the financial supports, tax credits and savings programs for people with disabilities.

12. Emotional Currency -- What Makes Money Talk so Tricky? | March 26, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm

Presenter: Susan Low, Community Social Planning Council

Why is money so hard to talk about? Come and explore different dimensions of "emotional currency" that make money talk so challenging and personal for many of us. We'll discuss some group and individual approaches to looking at the underside of money conversations... those hidden currents that drive our behaviour and decisions. As a group, we'll develop some tools for having supportive and empowering conversations with clients.

