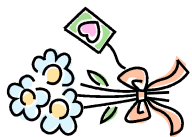




THE BUZZ



ADVANCING FUTURES BURSARY PROGRAM FEBRUARY 2012 EDITION

Happy Valentines Day!

Updates you Should Read!

WELCOME NEWBIES!

A shout out to all the Newbies who start at a specialized high school in February!

Good luck with your studies and don't forget to contact your coordinator for any questions or concerns.

Taking Classes in Spring Term?

Don't forget to send in your proof of enrollment to your coordinator by the deadline of March 15th, 2012.

No Proof of enrolment = NO living allowance

** Please Note when e-mailing your proof of enrolment, please do your coordinator a favor and attach it all in a document rather than copying and pasting. Gold stars for those who do it! **

Direct Deposit

If you have been wondering about when your fancy cheque will automatically be deposited into your bank account, you will have to keep wondering.

That's right, nothing has changed for direct deposit as of yet and we will let you know well in advance when we make the switch. In the meantime, tell your peeps who have not yet submitted it to get it in ASAP! We are waiting on them.

Introducing Jacqueline Oker: Our newest coordinator in Edmonton

I was born and raised in northern B.C. (Fort St. John) and have lived in Edmonton for 11 years. I have a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University of Victoria, in B.C. I am First Nation-Dunne-za and my first nation reserve is Doig River First Nation (just outside Fort St. John). I am learning a lot of new things and enjoying it. Contact with youth is the highlight of my day. I love helping youth achieve positive goals and I am here to not only encourage them but to support them in anyway I can. I am a mother of 2 teenagers. I am also a published poetry-writer.

Future Planning

Now is the time to start thinking about Spring...tulips and butterflies, patios and ice cream...oh yeah, and making ends meet when you're not in school!

For those of you who will be finishing up your school year in April, its time to start thinking about putting some money aside to ease the transition.

After all, most of you will finish classes and exams in late April, leaving less than a week to come up with rent money for May!



**Start planning
early to avoid crisis!**

Love is....

"Love is when you go out to eat and you give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs."

Chrissy - age 6

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

Danny - age 7

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day."

Noelle - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Mary Ann - age 4

"Love is when Mummy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross."

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If there is anything you would like to see featured in the newsletter, please let us know.
E-mail suggestions to Advancing.Futures@gov.ab.ca.
Or, if you have an update or story you would like published, send it our way!

Anti-Valentines?

Don't have a secret crush or a steady snuggle buddy for Valentines? Don't worry - we are here to help!



Here are some dating pointers for the singles out there...

Worst thing to say on a first date...

"I used to have a real bad bedwetting problem ... but the last couple of weeks I've gotten it under control."

"I know we just met and this might seem a little sudden ... but could I borrow five hundred dollars?"

"Go ahead and Super Size - I found spare change in the sofa today."

"Wait till my wife hears about this!"

Valentine's Day Ideas for Singles

Pamper yourself

Buy yourself a Valentine's Day gift! Singles may also indulge themselves by going to the spa or cooking a great meal. Indulging in books, CDs, and enjoying some "you time" can be a good way of enjoying the day for some.

Freak out with friends

Plan a dinner or movie with friends. You may also throw a "singles party" or "Un-Valentine's Day Party" at your home and have a blast. You will know that life is fun in the company of loving friends.

Dressing on a Budget Brought to you by



Don't fall for all those fashion magazines and commercials. All they're trying to get you to do is spend, spend, spend. Some ways to spend less is to do the following:

Visit some of your local consignment stores. They're likely to have many interesting items (like those you see in the fashion magazines and on runways) at a fraction of the cost. These stores feel and look like a regular clothing store, stacked with lots of clothes for the season. The retail staff sort through the clothing prior to putting it out on the floor to make sure that it's in good condition, clean and stylish.

If you're in for a bit more of an adventure, then you can try your hand in second-hand clothes shopping. Second-hand stores like [Salvation Army](#), [Value Village](#) and [WINS](#) also have a very wide selection of clothing. You'll pay even less at these stores than what you'd pay at a consignment store, but you'll probably need to put in a bit more time to find the treasures. Second-hand stores are not particular about what they put out on the floor. Although they request that donations be clean and undamaged, this may not always be the case. Also, second-hand stores don't pre-sort the clothes for style, so on their racks you'll find everything from designer jeans to your grandmother's sweaters.

Another great way to make sure that you don't over-spend is to go through your closet and create a closet wish-list (Ex: I need a black sweater and new winter boots). Stick to that list and don't buy anything that is not on it (even if it IS on sale).

If there are some things that you just can't imagine buying used, like shoes for instance, make sure to save for this additional expense prior to hitting the mall and always have a very clear idea of what you're going to the mall for. Rather than just shopping for shoes, be more specific on what you're looking for—e.g. comfortable black shoes I can regularly wear to work. It's very easy to get off track at the mall if you go without a plan.