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How to help make your money grow

(NC) In today's complicated financial environment, every dollar counts for Canadians. Many may miss the opportunity to maximize their money. The question is: how should Canadians allocate their funds? Should they put it towards personal spending, savings or high-interest debt? What if there was another way to use that money for more financial benefit? Consider investing.

A TD survey found that 47 per cent of Canadians have not made or are not planning to make any contributions to their investments this year. They do not feel confident in their investment knowledge or that they'll be able to retire by the time they plan to. This financial education gap may cause many to miss out on strengthening their investment portfolios.

Before making big investment decisions, meeting with an advisor or personal banker who can help you navigate your financial needs can be beneficial.

What should you be investing in to optimize your financial future? You may want to consider taking advantage of registered plans available in Canada, including

Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSPs). Whichever you choose, the important thing is to get into an investing habit and stick to it.

Contributing to investments is essential. If you're interested in starting your investing journey, financial institutions offer a variety of tools and resources, including personal bankers, to help Canadians reach their financial goals.

Learn more about personal banking at td.com.

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How newcomers can find meaningful careers in Canada

(NC) If you've recently moved to Canada and are frustrated by a tough job market, you're not alone. Many newcomers struggle to find similar positions to those they held back home and take on survival gigs to support their families. Fortunately, there are many things you can do to get closer to your dream job. Here are some tips to get started:

Research your field in the local economy

Learning more about your industry in Canada can help you understand the unique challenges and opportunities here, and better position yourself in cover letters and interviews. Plus, it can mean knowing which jobs and skills are most in demand and what competitive salary ranges are.

To get this key info, check out professional association websites, newspaper articles and industry publications. Even expensive insider conferences will post trends and event summaries on their websites.

Update your resume for the Canadian market

Did you know that in most fields, a resume should be a maximum of two pages? This is shorter than the norm in many other countries, so it's important to keep it brief and focus on your main achievements. Hiring managers like to see how past experiences directly relate to the job you're applying for, specific examples rather than generic skills and numbers to quantify your

success.

Use informational interviews to network

Informational interviews are popular in Canada, and a great way to get an insider's perspective from a leader in your field. During an info interview, you'll be able to have a friendly conversation with them over coffee or virtually and ask questions about their career path, education and more.

Not sure where to find an industry leader to talk to? Contact the CEO or other executives of companies you're interested in – you'll be surprised how many are happy to speak with you. Just make sure to keep it casual; this is a long-term networking play, not the time to ask for a job.

Look for a bridging program in your industry

Organizations dedicated to helping newcomers succeed are a great resource that can help you overcome barriers and get your foot in the door. If you're in the tech sector, check out ComIT, which provides free technology training and help with job skills like resume building and interviewing. The charity was started by an immigrant from Argentina and connects program participants with employers looking for IT professionals.

Learn more at comit.org.

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Tips on how to help save for your next vacation

(NC) As summer is in full swing, Canadians are planning their yearly vacations, looking forward to the travel season. However, the rising cost of living and higher interest rates make it challenging to budget for vacations. Here are some tips to help you plan and save for your next adventure:

Create a travel fund

Budgeting for a vacation can be difficult, but having a savings goal helps. Start by listing all your expenses and income to identify areas where you may be able to cut back and save. Try using a money management tool, such as TD's MySpend, that can help you keep track of your spending. For example, if your anticipated trip will cost \$4,000 and you have a year to save, the amount that you should consider setting aside is about \$330 per month. Consider opening a dedicated savings account for your vacation and use a pre-authorized

transfer service to automate your savings. Continue saving even after booking to help cover last-minute changes or spontaneous activities.

Search for deals and be flexible

Being flexible with your travel dates and destinations can help save you money. Research the most affordable times of year to visit your desired destination. If your top choice is too expensive, consider other destinations that may better fit your budget. Think about all-inclusive packages that cover food, drinks and lodging. If travelling with family or friends, try to determine which costs can be shared with them.

Leverage travel points

If you are a travel credit card holder, you could redeem your travel points you earned for flights, hotels and other travel-related expenses, which could help reduce your vacation costs. Remember to be cautious of vacation scams and

only book through trustworthy sites.

Factor in all costs

Consider all potential costs, including activities, souvenirs and other expenses like service tips, visas and pet sitters if you need. If you're planning an all-inclusive vacation, remember to account for incidentals, such as excursions and souvenirs. Don't forget travel and

medical insurance, and seriously consider including trip cancellation coverage.

Planning a vacation can be costly and stressful but with careful budgeting and the right tools, your dream getaway can become a reality.

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Setting your kids up for success

(NC) Setting children up for success goes beyond academic achievements and providing material things. It also involves instilling values of compassion, empathy and community engagement that lay the foundation for a fulfilling and purposeful life. Here are three key strategies to guide parents in nurturing well-rounded and successful individuals, with a focus on giving back to the community:

Education as empowerment:

Education is a powerful tool that equips children with the knowledge, skills and confidence to think critically and navigate the complexities of the modern world. Encouraging a love for learning, fostering curiosity and supporting academic pursuits are essential in preparing children for future success. For many families, however, the rising costs of food and goods mean many essential school supplies are simply not within their means. Luckily, there are programs out there to help, including Telus's Kits for Kids, that provide essential school supplies to children from families in need. Each backpack is filled with a pencil case, colouring pencils, HB pencils, blue pens, erasers, a flexible ruler, exercise books,

loose-leaf papers and a colouring book. By prioritizing education as a gateway to opportunity, parents can empower their children to reach their full potential and make meaningful contributions to society.

Cultivating resilience and grit:

Resilience and grit are invaluable qualities that enable children to overcome challenges, persevere in the face of adversity and bounce back from setbacks. Teaching children the importance of resilience through encouragement, support and positive reinforcement builds their capacity to tackle obstacles with determination and optimism. By fostering a growth mindset and resilience, parents can set the stage for their children to thrive in the face of life's inevitable ups and downs.

Giving back to the community:

Instilling a sense of social responsibility and empathy in children is a cornerstone of setting them up for success. Engaging in acts of kindness, volunteering and giving back to the community not only cultivates compassion and empathy but also fosters a deeper understanding of social issues and the importance of making a positive impact. One example of this is Telus

Days of Giving. Now entering its 19th year, team members, retirees, family and friends are encouraged to come together to make a meaningful difference in their communities. In 2023, they collectively provided close to \$100 million in cash, in-kind contributions, time and programs to global communities. By involving children in community service projects, charitable initiatives and volunteer opportunities, parents nurture a spirit of generosity and civic engagement that helps to shape their children into compassionate

and socially conscious individuals. By fostering a holistic approach to success that encompasses personal growth, social responsibility and a commitment to making a difference, parents empower their children to thrive in all aspects of life and contribute positively to the world around them.

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How to land a job in the tech industry

(NC) As the job market tightens post-pandemic and companies look to cut costs, many job seekers are once again finding there's greater competition for fewer roles. One field that's bucking the trend and projected to grow? Technology. According to the Information and Communications Technology Council, Canada's digital economy employment is forecasted to reach 2.26 million, triggering demand for an additional 250,000 jobs by 2025. So, focusing on the tech industry could be a smart move if you're looking for work. Even if it isn't your area of expertise, there are many ways to break into this thriving field. Check out these tips to get started:

Think outside the box

Don't have an engineering degree or have zero interest in coding? There are plenty of in-demand jobs in the sector that don't require specialized degrees or knowledge

of html. Most tech companies need employees in marketing, sales, customer support, HR, admin and more.

Level up your skills

Keeping up with the latest tools and programs in a constantly evolving field is important. If you have some background in IT, consider taking an online course – many are available for free straight from the software manufacturer or through your local library.

If you're new to tech, look for programs dedicated to helping newcomers to the field. One resource is ComIT, a Canadian non-profit offering job seekers free technology and professional skills training. Through government and partner funding, ComIT offers three-month-long specialized courses for in-demand technology jobs.

Create an online portfolio

Even if you're a newbie to the industry, you can show off your tech skills and go-getter attitude to a potential employer with a sharp website. Briefly touch on who you are, your transferrable skills, and what you're looking for in a job. List your achievements, including new certifications and ongoing training. Provide examples of cool projects

you've completed – at work, school, or in your spare time – that showcase your successes and why you'd be a good hire.

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Renting? Why you should look into tenant's insurance

(NC) If you're renting, having the right tenant insurance coverage is essential and may protect you and your finances when you need it most.

To make sure you're covered, you'll need a policy that suits your unique needs. Here's what you should keep in mind if you're shopping around this summer.

You're worth more than you think

Even if you're renting, it's important to take a personal inventory of everything you own. Many people underestimate the value of their belongings, sometimes thinking they don't need to insure them at all. If you ever need to submit an insurance claim, it's always useful to have an inventory list that indicates the full retail value of the items in your home as you may be eligible for reimbursement in the event of an emergency. This list can include items such as furniture, jewellery, money, family heirlooms

and electronics.

Shop around

Not every insurance policy is made the same, and it's important to find the policy that best suits your needs. The right insurance provider will make it very easy to understand what's covered and what's not and can help simplify the process.

Know your factors

Tenant's insurance is not one-size-fits-all and it's important to know the factors that may affect your rates. Premiums vary from one person to the next based on things such as the amount of coverage you need for your belongings, where you're located and your claims history. Insurance providers, such as Belairdirect, offer personalized insurance and will work with you to ensure you have the coverage that you need.

If you're still considering if you need tenant insurance, remember

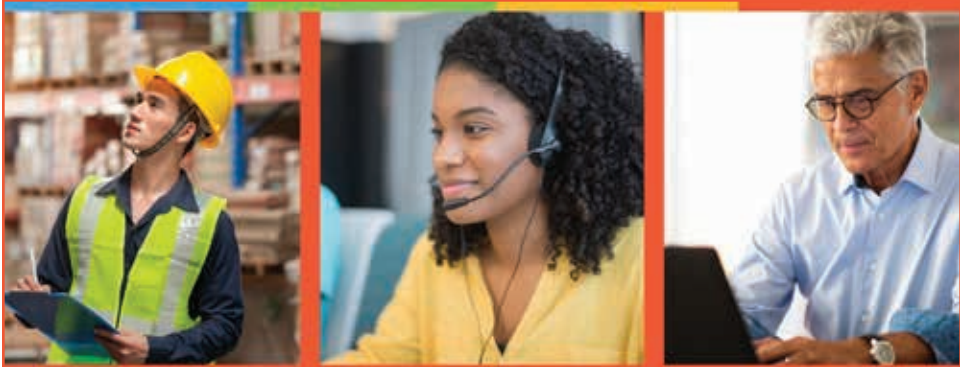
it can provide peace of mind and can help you get back on your feet after a covered incident. Many people think tenant insurance just covers your belongings, but if you're displaced and need temporary housing as a result of a covered incident you may be reimbursed for additional living expenses. In the event of an accident, your liability coverage may protect you if you

cause accidental damage to the property – whether to your unit or to the whole building.

Insurance is too important to be complicated. Learn more at belairdirect.com.

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