



CREDIT Union

AIL CANADA **Journal**

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR CREDIT UNIONS • SEPTEMBER 2011

THE BLUE PAPER

of the Month

“WE HAVE TO BALANCE THE BENEFITS OF CONFERENCES AGAINST THEIR COSTS TO THE CREDIT UNION”

In times of fiscal crisis, we have to scrutinize every line item of the budget.

And travel costs, especially to conferences, are expenses that need to be re-examined.

No one can deny the many benefits of conferences. But certain facts have to be faced. Travel is expensive. The tradition of meetings in exciting places is deeply embedded in the Credit Union world — and heavily promoted by CU associations. It could be difficult to curtail.

Last month, *Credit Union Journal* published a story about travel costs at NCUA during the last eight years. It stated, “As Credit Unions cut and cut expenses in an economy that demands frugality, NCUA is spending 10% of its annual budget on travel.” And travel included places like Italy, Kenya, Norway, Japan, and China, as well as Mexican and German resort cities.


Consequently, this month’s American Income Life *Blue Paper* states that “**WE HAVE TO BALANCE THE BENEFITS OF CONFERENCES AGAINST THEIR COSTS TO THE CREDIT UNION.**” The paper gives alternative ways to keep the benefits while lowering the costs. ♦

For your complimentary copy, just contact your AIL representative or call the AIL Credit Union Center at 800-278-6661.



Trends and Topics

MOST POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS STRESS ABOUT MONEY — BUT STILL MANAGE TO SAVE

With rising tuition and youth unemployment worries, more than half of Canada’s post-secondary students admit that  **Canada Trust** they are feeling the heat. Fifty-eight percent feel either anxious or stressed when they think about how they are going to pay their way through school. According to the 2011 TD Canada Trust Student Finances Survey, 64 percent expect to graduate with debt hanging over their heads, with one quarter anticipating that they will owe more than \$25,000.

Despite these concerns, 92 percent say they are still managing to save some money. Some of their top priorities are education savings (42 percent), debt repayment (34 percent), and a down payment on a home (31 percent).

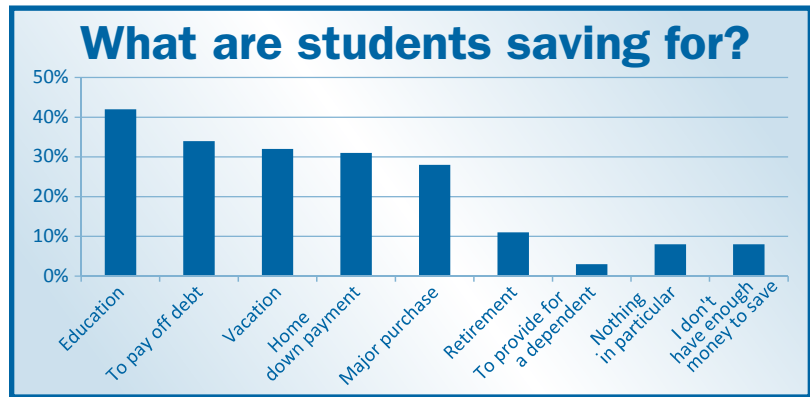
“Earning a post-secondary qualification requires a big investment, and it’s reassuring to see that so many students are taking their finances seriously, managing to save for the future or to pay down debt,” says Michelle Snow, Group Manager, Student Banking, TD Canada Trust. “We know that managing finances on your own can be stressful or even intimidating, so we encourage students to come talk to us if they need help figuring out how to best manage their money.”

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CU Trends and Topics

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The challenge for many is the cost. The average cost of a four-year university degree is \$80,000, and 81 percent of students say this feels like “a fortune.” To alleviate some of their concerns, almost seven in 10 students say they work during the school year (69 percent versus 55 percent in 2010). More than half (56 percent) work more than 11 hours a week to make ends meet. ♦



CREDIT UNIONS MAY SEE HIGHER-THAN-AVERAGE WAGE GAINS IN 2012

A recent survey of Canadian employers by Hay Group projects a national average salary increase of 2.8 percent in 2012, while credit unions and banks are forecasting increases higher than the national average (3.2 percent). The anticipated national average increase is higher than the 2011 projection of 2.6 percent, but well below the 2009 projection of 3.7 percent, just prior to the downturn.

More than 660 Canadian organizations in the public and private sectors, including many of Canada's leading employers, provided details of their planned salary adjustments for 2012 for the Hay Group survey, which was conducted in June and July 2011.

“Overall, the direction of the sentiment is positive. Still, the projections are not as high as they were before the 2009 financial downturn. Across sectors, there has been a significant recalibration of expectations; 2.8 percent represents a modest increase from the previous year,” explained Karl Aboud, Director of the Hay Group Reward Consulting Practice. “As an employee, you can expect to see your salary increase little more than inflation. Worldwide uncertainty continues to hamper wage expectations.”

Aside from the financial institutions, the “winners” in the survey included the mining sector (3.8 percent increase projected) and the oil and gas industry (at 3.7 percent). ♦

HayGroup®

CU BRINGS BACK FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Family Movie in the Park events are back this September at Kootenay Savings in Trail, B.C. Films are being shown on September 9 at Haley Park in Trail and at Coronation Park in Kimberly, and on September 10 at Arena Soccer Field in Nakusp. The films are free and are shown on a state-of-the-art, three-storey inflatable screen.

The credit union's website asks moviegoers to bring chairs, blankets, and something warm to wear, along with a non-perishable item for their local food bank. A concession also will be available.

During September 2010, more than 2,700 people enjoyed Kootenay Savings Family Movie Night, with cash and food donations going to local charities. “It feels great to be able to help the food banks stock their shelves at this time of year,” said Aron Burke, Community Relations Coordinator for Kootenay Savings. “It is amazing to see how generous our communities are, and I know the food banks certainly need and appreciate their donations.” ♦

Serving the Community



Annual Kootenay Savings FAMILY MOVIE IN THE PARK

FEATURING
KUNG FU PANDA 2

September 9 Haley Park, Trail
September 9 Coronation Park, Kimberly
September 10 Arena Soccer Field, Nakusp

FREE MOVIE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY ON A STATE OF THE ART 3-STOREY SCREEN!

Please bring a non-perishable food item for your local food bank.
Also bring lawn chairs, blankets and wear something warm.
A concession will be open. Movie starts at around dusk (7-8 pm).
For more information, contact Aron at 250.368.2683 or visit kscu.com.



Comments? Suggestions? Questions?

**Call the Credit Union Center Hotline:
1-800-278-6661**