



INNOVATION WEALTH

Young Investor Guide



Welcome to the Young Investor Guide

Starting your financial journey can feel overwhelming—but it doesn't have to be. Whether you're just beginning to earn, save, or invest, the choices you make now can set you up for long-term success. This guide is here to help you build a strong foundation, one step at a time.

We'll walk you through the essentials:

Building a Budget

Learn how to track your income and spending so you can take control of your money—not the other way around.

Creating Emergency Savings

Life happens. Having a financial cushion means you're ready for the unexpected without derailing your goals.

Paying Down Debt

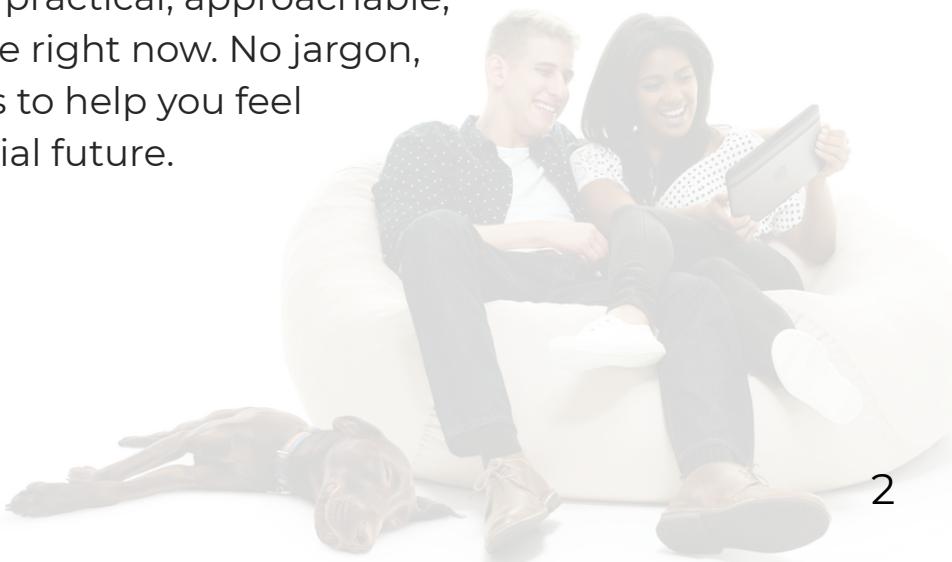
Whether it's student loans, credit cards, or other balances, we'll show you smart strategies to reduce debt and free up your future.

Saving for the Long Term

From retirement to big life goals, starting early gives your money more time to grow. We'll help you understand how to make it happen.

This guide is designed to be practical, approachable, and tailored to where you are right now. No jargon, no pressure—just clear steps to help you feel confident about your financial future.

Let's get started!



How to Build a Budget

Creating a budget is one of the smartest moves you can make early in your financial journey. It helps you understand where your money is going, stay in control, and make room for your goals—like saving, investing, or paying off debt.

Here's how to get started:

Know Your Income

Start with your total monthly income. This includes:

- Paycheques (after taxes)
- Side hustle earnings
- Any regular financial support or passive income

 *Tip: Use your net income (what actually hits your bank account), not your gross pay.*

Track Your Spending

Look at your last 1–2 months of expenses. Break them into categories:

- Fixed costs: Rent, phone bill, subscriptions
- Variable costs: Groceries, transportation, entertainment
- Occasional costs: Gifts, travel, annual fees

 *Use budgeting apps or our budget planner (page 5) to make this easier.*

Set Your Goals

Think short and long term:

- Short-term: Build emergency savings, pay off credit card debt
- Long-term: Save for a home, invest for retirement

 *Pick 1–2 goals to focus on first. You can always adjust later.*



How to Build a Budget

Create Your Budget Plan

Use the 50/30/20 rule as a starting point:

- 50% Needs: Rent, groceries, bills
- 30% Wants: Dining out, hobbies, travel
- 20% Savings & Debt Repayment: Emergency fund, investments, loan payments

 *Adjust the percentages based on your lifestyle and goals.*

Automate Where You Can

Set up automatic transfers:

- To savings accounts
- Toward debt payments
- Into investment accounts

 *Automation helps you stay consistent without thinking about it.*

Review and Adjust Monthly

Your budget isn't set in stone. Check in monthly:

- Did you overspend in any category?
- Can you save more?
- Are your goals shifting?

 *Budgeting is a habit, not a one-time task.*

Building a budget is the first step toward financial confidence. Once you've got the basics down, you'll be in a great position to grow your savings, invest wisely, and build the future you want.



BUDGET

planner

INCOME

AMOUNT

DEBT

PAID

FIXED EXPENSES

BUDGET SPENT

VARIABLE EXPENSES BUDGET SPENT

SAVINGS

SAVED

TOTAL BUDGET

TOTAL SPENT

—

How to Build Emergency Savings

Life is full of surprises—some exciting, others expensive. That's why having emergency savings is a key part of financial stability. It's your buffer for unexpected costs like car repairs, medical bills, or a sudden job change. Here's how to build it step by step:

Understand Why It Matters

Emergency savings give you peace of mind. Instead of relying on credit cards or loans when life throws a curveball, you'll have cash ready to cover it.

 *Think of it as financial self-care.*

Set a Realistic Goal

A good starting point is \$500 to \$1,000. Eventually, aim for 3 to 6 months of essential expenses.

Start small:

- Rent or mortgage
- Groceries
- Utilities
- Transportation

 *Even saving a little consistently adds up. Need help?*

Use our savings challenge tracker (Page 8)

Choose the Right Account

Keep your emergency fund:

- In a high-interest savings account
- Separate from your everyday spending account
- Easy to access, but not too easy to dip into

 *Look for accounts with no fees*

and good interest rates.



How to Build Emergency Savings

Make Saving Automatic

Set up automatic transfers:

- From each paycheque
- Weekly or monthly
- Even \$25/week builds over time

 *Treat it like a bill you pay yourself.*

Use Windfalls Wisely

Got a tax refund, bonus, or birthday money? Consider putting part of it into your emergency fund.

 *It's a great way to boost your savings without impacting your budget.*

Keep it for Emergencies Only

This fund is for true emergencies—not vacations, shopping, or impulse buys.

 *If you use it, make a plan to replenish it.*

It's not about perfection—it's about progress. Start small, stay consistent, and you'll be ready for whatever life throws your way.



SAVINGS challenge

SAVING FOR:

START:

GOAL:

END:

DATE	AMOUNT	BALANCE
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DATE AMOUNT BALANCE

How to Pay Down Debt

Debt can feel like a weight holding you back—but with a plan, you can take control and start moving forward. Whether it's student loans, credit cards, or a car payment, tackling debt early sets you up for long-term financial freedom.

Here's how to get started:

Know What You Owe

Start by listing all your debts:

- Type (credit card, student loan, etc.)
- Total balance
- Interest rate
- Minimum monthly payment

 *Seeing the full picture helps you build a strategy.*

Choose a Payoff Strategy

Pick a method that fits your style and goals:

- Snowball Method: Pay off the smallest debt first for quick wins and motivation.
- Avalanche Method: Focus on the highest-interest debt first to save more over time.

 *Both work—choose the one that keeps you going.*

Budget for Extra Payments

Look at your monthly budget and find areas to cut back:

- Can you reduce subscriptions?
- Cook more meals at home?
- Limit impulse purchases?

 *Even an extra \$50/month can make a big difference.*



How to Pay Down Debt

Automate Payments

Set up automatic payments for minimums and extra payments toward your target debt.

 *Automation keeps you consistent and avoids late fees.*

Avoid Adding New Debt

While you're paying down existing balances:

- Use cash or debit when possible
- Pause credit card use
- Build an emergency fund to avoid relying on credit

 *Focus on shrinking debt, not growing it.*

Celebrate Milestones

Paying off debt takes time—so celebrate progress!

- Track your balances monthly
- Reward yourself (in a budget-friendly way) when you hit a goal

 *Progress is progress, no matter how small.*

It's not just about numbers—it's about creating space for your future goals. Stick with it, and you'll be amazed at how far you can go. Need a little extra help? Check out the debt planner on page 11.



DEBT

planner

DATE

DEBT 1

DEBT 2

DEBT 3

DEBT 4

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How to Save for Your Future

Long-term savings are all about setting yourself up for future success—whether that's buying a home, starting a business, or retiring comfortably. The earlier you start, the more time your money has to grow. Here's how to build a solid long-term savings plan:

Define Your Long-Term Goals

Start by asking: What do I want to save for?

- Retirement
- Buying a home
- Starting a family or business
- Financial independence

 *Clear goals help you stay motivated and choose the right savings tools.*

Understand the Power of Compound Growth

The earlier you start saving, the more your money can grow thanks to compound interest. Even small, regular contributions can turn into something big over time.

 *Time in the market beats timing the market.*

Choose the Right Accounts

Pick accounts that match your goals:

- RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan): Great for retirement; contributions are tax-deductible.
- TFSA (Tax-Free Savings Account): Flexible and tax-free growth; ideal for medium to long-term goals.
- Employer-sponsored plans: Take advantage of matching contributions if available.

 *Use a mix of accounts to maximize tax benefits and flexibility.*

How to Save for your Future

Automate Your Contributions

Set up automatic transfers to your savings or investment accounts:

- Monthly or bi-weekly
- Align with your payday
- Start with what you can afford—even \$25/bi-weekly helps

 *Consistency is key, not perfection.*

Invest for Growth with Aviso Wealth

Long-term savings often benefit from investing:

- Consider low-cost index funds, ETFs or mutual funds
- Diversify across asset classes
- Match your risk level to your timeline

 *Investing helps your money grow faster than traditional savings.*

Review and Adjust Annually

Life changes—so should your savings plan:

- Revisit your goals
- Increase contributions as your income grows
- Rebalance your investments if needed

 *Think of it as a yearly financial check-up.*

Start small, stay consistent, and let time do the heavy lifting. Your future self will thank you.

Ready to take control of your financial future?

Chat with an Innovation Wealth and Aviso Wealth representative today and let's get you on the path to financial success—tailored to your goals, your lifestyle, and your dreams.

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innovationwealth.ca

