

Financial Literacy of Indigenous Secondary Students in the Atlantic Provinces



What is the Research About?

Previous research has identified a need for improved financial literacy education in Indigenous communities, particularly among youth and Elders. Recommendations have been made for continued engagement and data gathering to identify gaps so that appropriate resources can be developed to increase financial literacy levels.

The research addresses these recommendations by focusing on the financial literacy levels of Indigenous youth aged 14-18 years, and by developing a resource to make learning more accessible and engaging for them.

What does the Research do?

An environmental scan of existing literature was conducted to determine the landscape of financial literacy among Atlantic Indigenous youth; surveys were administered to the targeted age group to collect baseline data; and existing resources were reviewed to understand and utilize best practices in the gamification of learning.

After community consultation, and in partnership with the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), an online educational tool was developed to improve financial literacy levels for Indigenous youth. The tool is interactive and culturally appropriate in its approach to learning.

Why is the Research Important?

Economic exclusion and denial of access and rights have historically determined the livelihood of Indigenous peoples. To better understand the impact of this exclusion and denial in relation to financial literacy levels and participation in the mainstream economy, a clear understanding of the issues involved is required.

Improved financial literacy levels among Atlantic Indigenous youth is key to the economic development of Indigenous communities. Given the demographic of an aging population and that Indigenous youth are the fastest growing population in Atlantic Canada, it is essential to the overall Atlantic region economy that this issue be addressed.

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