



MICHAEL LIVINGSTONE, DR. MARY OXNER AND KARA PICTOU

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR GREATER FINANCIAL LITERACY AMONG FIRST NATIONS YOUTH

Financial literacy, the ability to discern financial choices, discuss money and financial issues, plan for the future, and respond to life events, is a pervasive challenge in society. Policy makers have identified the need for a Canadian financial literacy strategy. Recent programs have been developed to improve the financial literacy of high school-aged youth, the economically disadvantaged, investors, new parents, and retirees. This research outreach project has extended a community-based, financial literacy program begun by StFX business faculty in 2004 for First Nations youth, a growing segment of the population who face significant financial decisions, which have long-term consequences. Led by Business professor **Dr. Mary Oxner** with support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), this research project will assist financial decisions of youth in the Paq'tnkek First Nation community in a manner sensitive to community circumstances and needs. Co-investigators include Business professors **Drs. Tom Mahaffey** and **Ken MacAulay**, and **Dr. Joanne Tompkins** from StFX's Faculty of Education. Dr. Oxner and her team are developing and delivering a series of financial literacy workshops for youth; disseminating the curriculum and workshops through traditional print media and online and interactive content; and disseminating the findings of curriculum evaluations to the appropriate community partners as part of a larger discussion of broad-based strategies to improve the financial literacy of First Nations youth.