

10 Fast and easy to understand ways to manage your money better

1. Spend less than you earn. Save the difference.
2. If you're facing a pile of debts, make minimum payments on all of the debts but the one with the highest interest rate, then make the biggest payment you can each month on that high one. If you can refinance the high cost debt, consider it, but make sure you are not going to just repeat that mistake again. That's a recipe for disaster.
3. Never expect that your "future self" or anyone else will bail you out of your dumb mistakes today and remember that only you can make better choices for yourself.
4. The quickest way to financial recovery is to get a grip on your spending impulses.
5. Life is going to hand you emergencies, so keep at least \$1,000 in your savings account for those emergencies. The same goes for opportunities. No money means you have to pass them by. If you can, push this a bit further and try to have 3 months worth of expenses in a savings account to back you up at all times. Save to this account first, then to your longer term accounts like your RSP or your TFSA.
6. Be completely open with your spouse about every single dime that comes in and every single dime that you spend.
7. Buy items that will last for a very long time at the best possible price and you'll rarely be unhappy with them.
8. If your employer offers matching on your RSP plan, take as much of it as you can get.
9. When you're deciding how to invest, remember that investors working with an advisor typically end up with 2.5 times (or higher) the asset value compared to the DIY crowd. If you doubt this, call one, and ask why. The reasons are surprisingly simple really.
10. If you have dependents who rely on you, you ought to have life insurance. But ignore anything other than a term policy. Other types of life insurance are better suited to those who have business needs or who have too much money and the resulting 'too much tax' concerns to deal with.