



CREATING WEALTH THROUGH BUDGETING AND SAVING:

There isn't a secret way to create wealth. The only way to achieve financial security is to consistently make good financial decisions while saving and investing over time.

Here is a three-step strategy to create your own personal wealth:

1. Make a Plan

- To make a successful plan, determine where you are now and where you want to go. Create a Net Worth Statement (Summary of what you own and what you owe) find one [here](#) and a Statement of your Income and Expenses. (monthly summary of what comes in and out of your bank account) find a budget sheet [here](#)
- What are you saving for? A trip, a car, a home? Set your savings goals and start working towards them.
- Don't forget to include an emergency fund in your savings, useful for those unexpected expenses like getting your car fixed or another bigger than expected expense
- If you are spending all your income, and never have money to save or invest, look for ways to cut back on your expenses. When you keep track of where you spend your money, you will be surprised how small everyday expenses can add up

2. Pay off high interest credit card debt

- Pay off the card with the highest interest rate first
- Use credit cards cautiously - if you can't pay for the item with cash do you really need it?
- If you have a tendency to impulse spend leave your credit card at home and make it a rule that you will wait 24 hours before making a purchase

3. Start saving and investing

- Now that you have made a plan and have paid off credit card debt, you are ready to start saving
- Use the age-old saying and "Pay yourself first!", this means that before you spend all your money on all the fun stuff, make sure to put some money away for later
- Make your spending and savings decisions with your goals in mind to ensure success

In the next issue, I will discuss what to do next now that you're ready to invest.

Brenda Akins is an Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy in Calgary. The views of Brenda Akins do not necessarily reflect those of CIBC World Markets Inc. This information, including any opinion, is based on various sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed and is subject to change. CIBC and CIBC World Markets Inc., their affiliates, directors, officers and employees may buy, sell, or hold a position in securities of a company mentioned herein, its affiliates or subsidiaries, and may also perform financial advisory services, investment banking or other services for, or have lending or other credit relationships with the same. CIBC World Markets Inc. and its representatives will receive sales commissions and/or a spread between bid and ask prices if you purchase, sell or hold the securities referred to above. © CIBC World Markets Inc. 2018. Clients are advised to seek advice regarding their particular circumstances from their personal tax and legal advisors. If you are currently a CIBC Wood Gundy client, please contact your Investment Advisor.