BUDGETING CASE STUDY

Laura is a mother with two children, ages 10 and 12. Laura has been on Ontario Works for three months now and receives a monthly amount of $1,004.00. She also receives the maximum monthly Federal (CTB and NCBS) and Provincial (OCB) benefits that total $825.73. It is often her experience to get near the end of the month with very little money to spare.

Laura and her kids live in a friend's basement apartment where she pays $600/month for her rent. She also has to pay her hydro and gas separately, and it costs her around $144.00 per month for hydro and anywhere from $45 to $120 for her Union Gas bill, depending on the month and the season of the year.

Laura has a cell phone and is currently on a contract that runs at $100/month for her texts, calling, and 4 GB of data. She is thinking about getting cable, but, for now, seems happy enough with Netflix.

Laura has some credit card debt that she has carried over from when she got divorced. The credit card company is looking for $100/month, but she isn't always able to afford the full payment.

She is looking for work and has been to some interviews recently. She is still waiting on getting a bus pass, so for now, buys bus tickets for herself and her kids.

Laura likes to have a family night each Friday, a time where she and the children enjoy a meal out, usually keeping the cost between $20 and $25 per night, and then coming back to the house to watch a movie together.

The children are growing quickly and may need some new clothes for school and some of their extracurricular activities.

Laura walks the kids to school and will go to Tim Hortons for a medium coffee as she makes her way home.

Put Laura's Budget Together

Based on the information above, in your group, use Column B to begin building Laura's budget.
- Does she have enough money to pay for everything?
- What changes might you recommend to Laura?
- Can she afford adding cable at $60 a month?

LAURA'S BUDGET WORKSHEET

Budget Item	Column A (Previous Month)	Column B (Budget)	Column C (Actual Spending)	Column D (B – C = $)
INCOME				
Salary or benefits				
Child Tax Benefit				
Other				
TOTAL INCOME				
BASIC EXPENSES				
HOME				
Rent or mortgage				
Property tax/Condo fee				
Home insurance				
Utilities (hydro, gas)				
Cable				
Phone				
Repairs				
TRANSPORTATION				
Public transportation				
Car loan/lease				
Car repairs, gas				
Car insurance/license				
LIVING EXPENSES				
Groceries				
Child care				
Medical/dental				
Loan payments				
Basic clothing				
Life, housing insurance				
Emergency fund				
Hair				
Other				
OTHER EXPENSES				
Restaurant/Entertainment				
Clothing (extra)				
Gifts				
Other				
TOTAL EXPENSES				
INCOME – EXPENSES				