Process Documentation

# Exploring the Impacts of Financial Illiteracy on Marginalized Albertan Youth

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# What is systems-thinking?

Systems thinking is a way of seeing the world as a series of interconnected and interdependent systems rather than lots of independent parts.

Systems are like networks as they are made up of nodes or agents that are linked in varied and diverse ways. Through systems thinking we work to identify and understand relationships as part of the exploration of the larger systems at play.

Everything is interconnected as every system is made up of many subsystems, and is itself a part of larger systems. Seeing things in this way helps to create a more flexible view of the world and the way it works, and it illuminates opportunities for addressing some of its existing and evolving problem areas.

**Source:** Acaroglu, L. (2017, September 13). Problem Solving Desperately Needs Systems Thinking. *Disruptive Design.* https://medium.com/disruptive-design/problem-solving-desperately-needs-systems-thinking-607d34e4fc80

# Before the project

Before this systems-thinking course started, Marisa was involved in another project during her internship with ATB Financial which dealt with the topic of financial literacy. In this project, the goal was to create a financial literacy resources for K-12 students in Indigenous and marginalized communities. After this project was finished, Marisa was interested in researching the topic further and address the core systemic issues as to why youth aren't getting the resources they need for support.

*Screenshots of the community project worked on during the summer. For this project, Marisa and her group decided to go with a financial literacy card game for high school students.*

# The system-thinking process

The process of system-thinking requires many steps:

## 1 Topic Selection

Picking out a topic and our target audience.

## 2 Desk Research

Finding existing resources about the topic

## 3 Interviews/ Field Work

Talking to SME's and individuals who are affected by the problem

## 4 System Mapping

Explaining how the systems and structures interact with each other

## 5 Creative Output

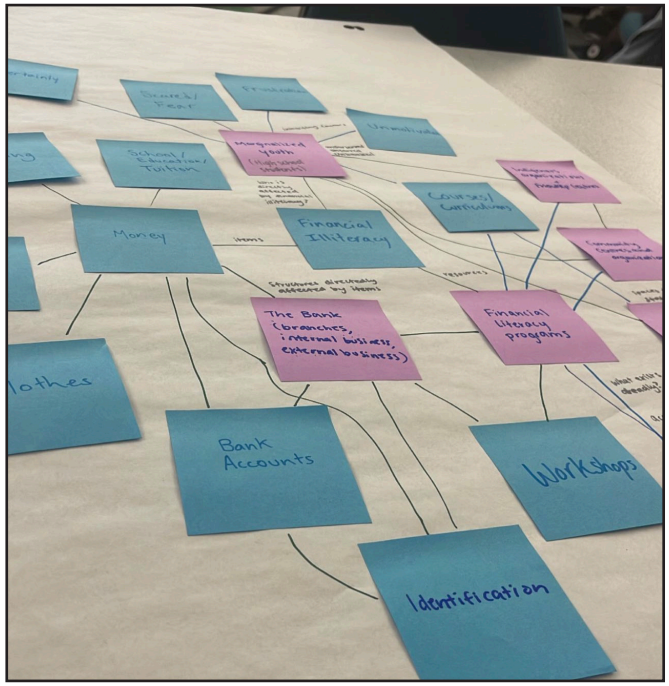
Finding ways to engage people into understanding and having these conversations

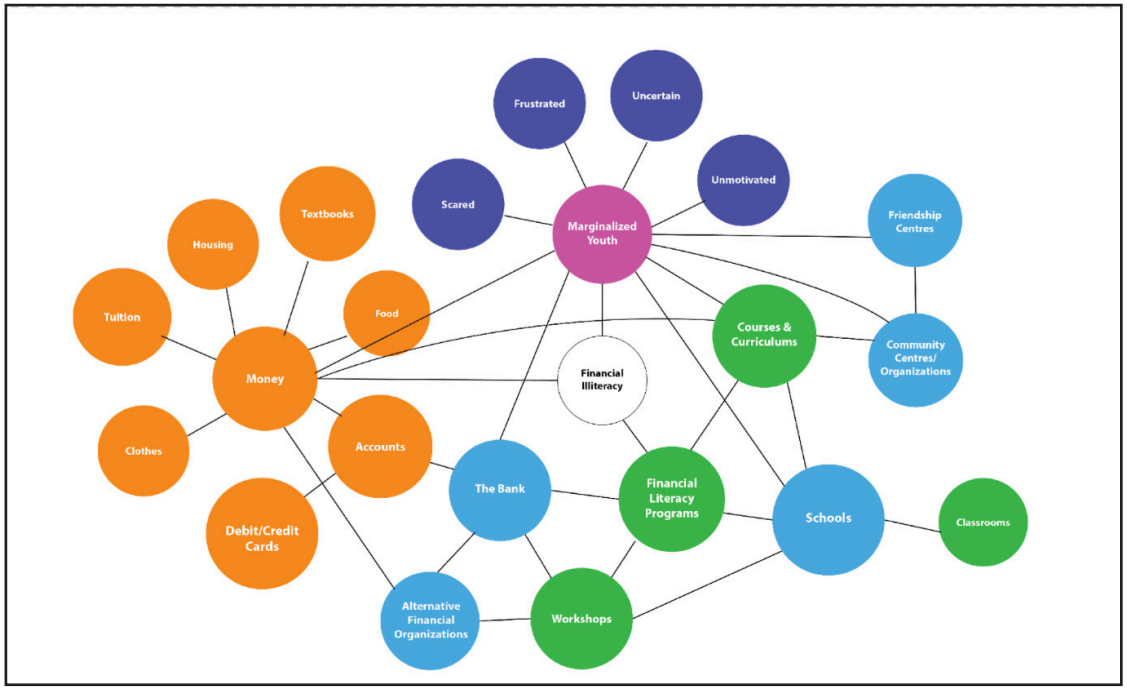
Throughout all of these processes, revisions and feedback are always occurring. The first three steps are further explained in our Research Dossier.

# Photo and process documentation

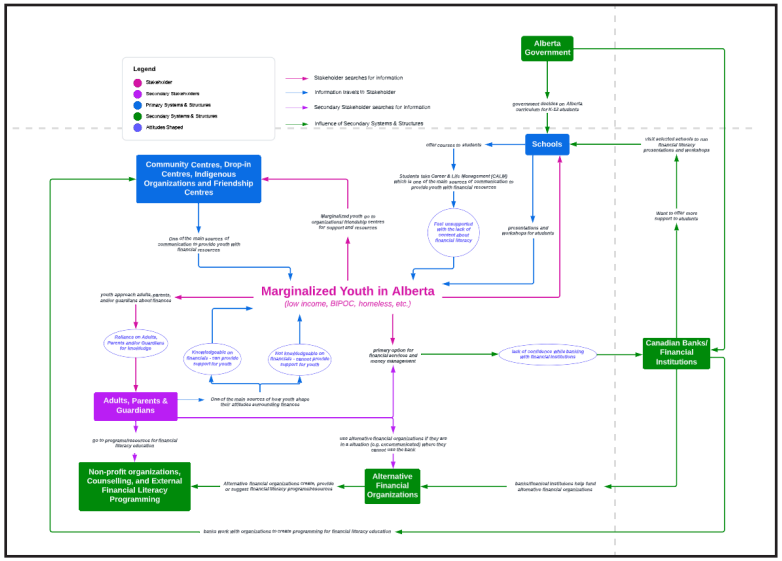
Process documentation such as sketches, pictures, and drafts of different elements of our project:

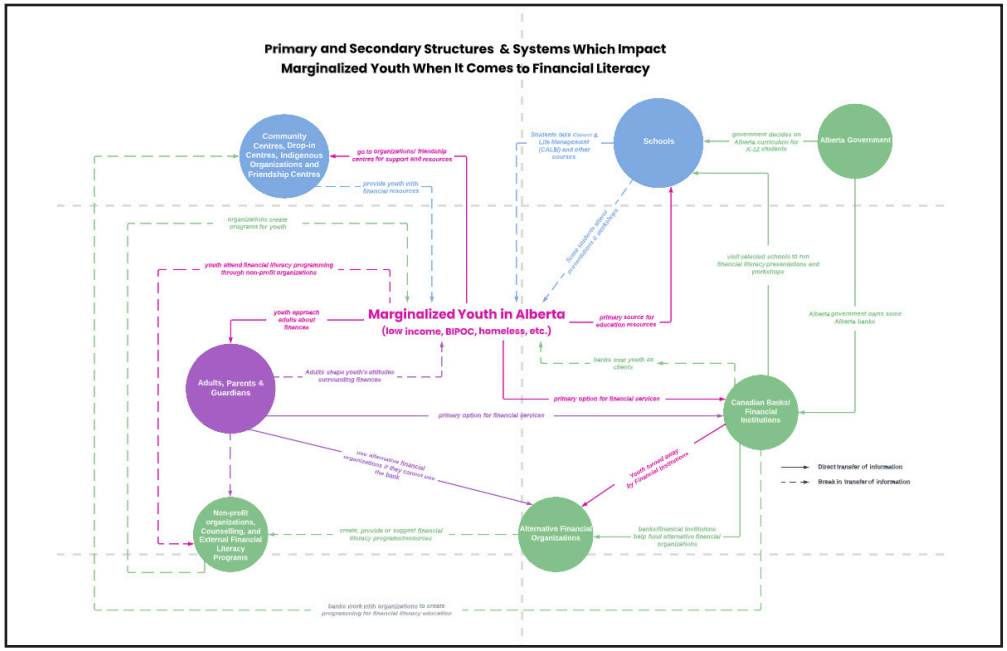
*Brainstorming for our system map.*

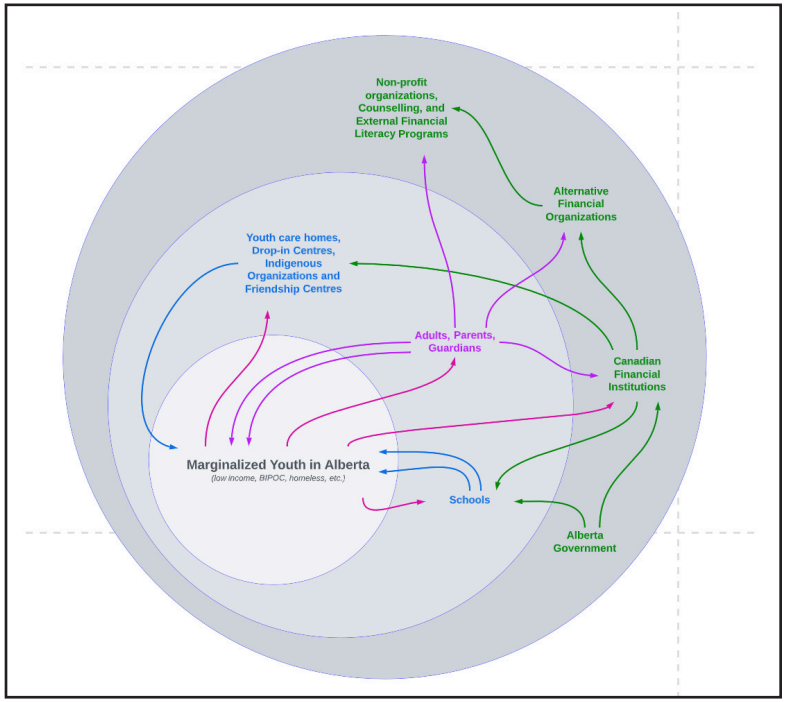


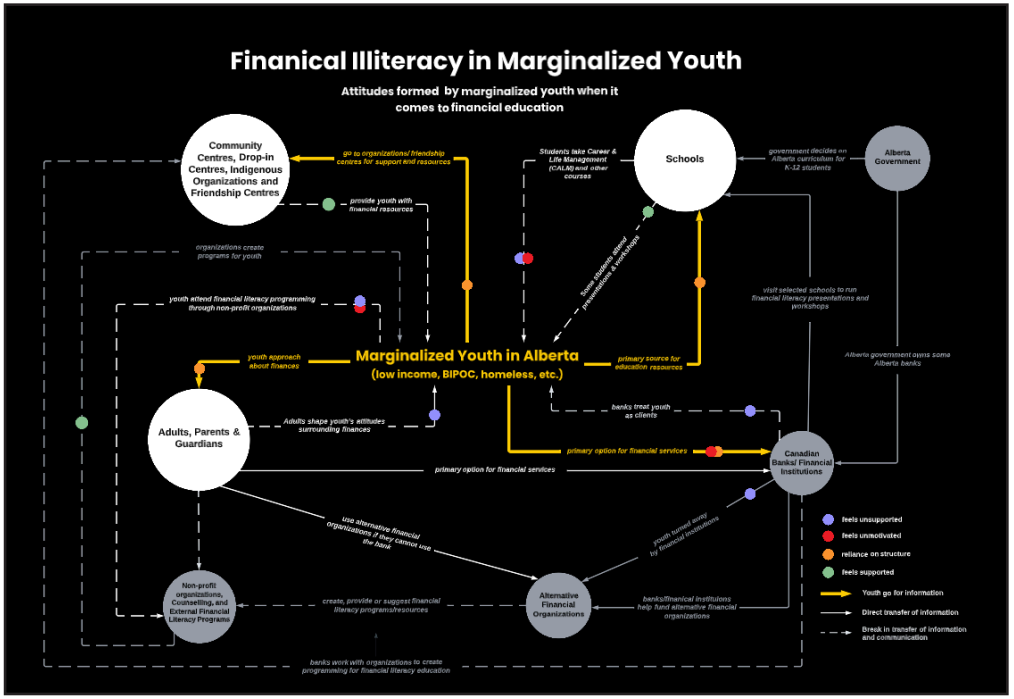
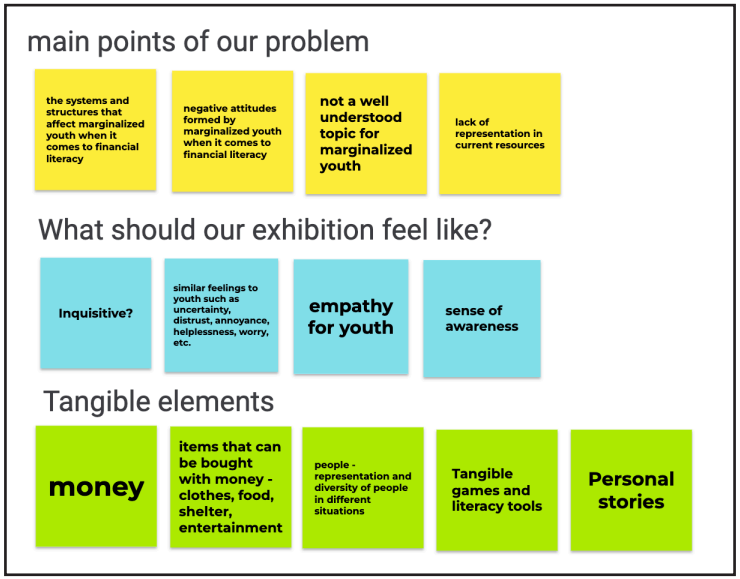
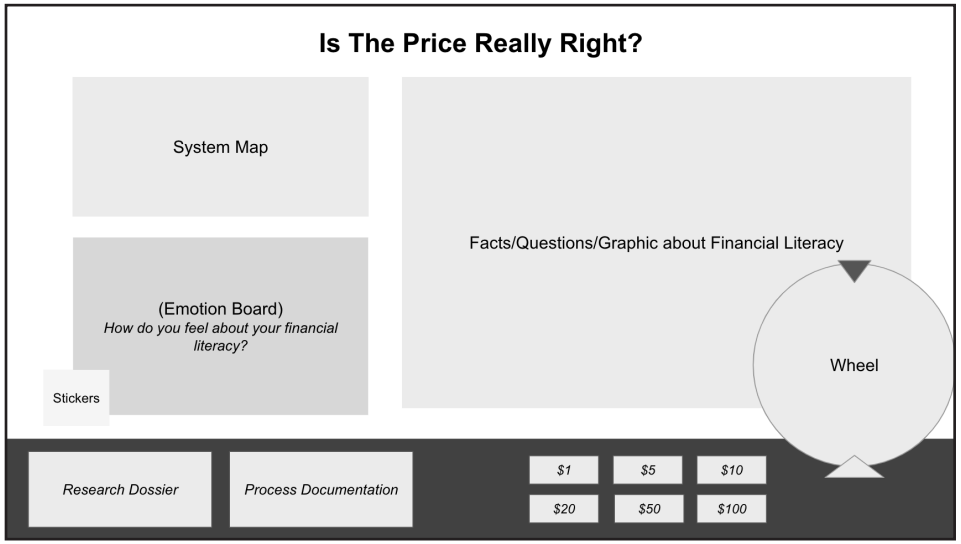
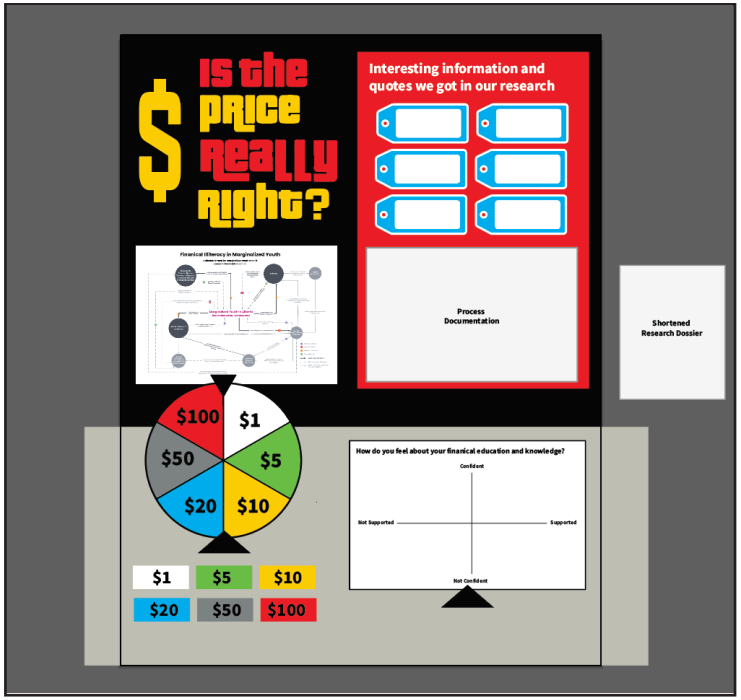
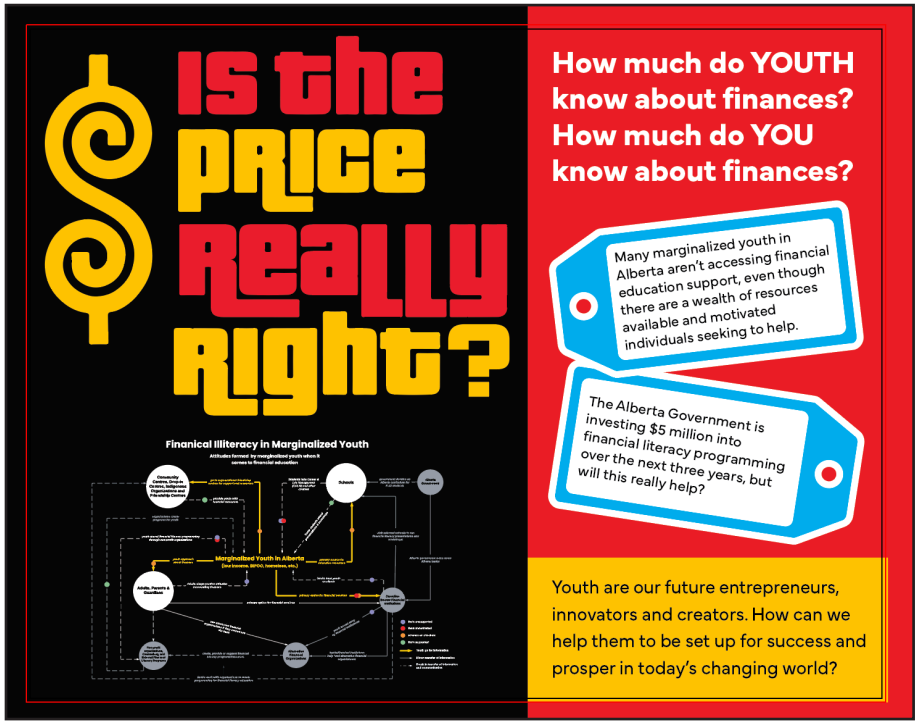



*Several drafts of our system map.*






*Exhibition planning.*