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Almost Six in ten (59%) Stayed on Budget during Holiday Shopping

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Toronto, ON – The results of a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Capital One finds that physical and financial health are topping the list of New Year's Resolutions this year. In fact, one quarter (24%) of Vancouverites indicate that when the clock struck midnight on Jan 1st their most important resolution was to 'become more physically fit' (15%) to 'lose weight' (6%), or to 'get or stay healthy' (3%). However, thinking about their financial health, 13% of Vancouverites' indicate that their most important resolution was to 'become more financially secure'.

When it comes to trying to act on those resolutions, most Vancouverites would rather follow a budget (71%), than follow a diet (26%). For example, with regards to their holiday shopping budget, most Vancouverites stuck right on their financial target (59%), while 7% even saved money this holiday season.

But some Vancouverites were not so diligent in sticking to a budget. Nearly two in ten (19%) spent more than they meant to and 'don't really care' about that fact, while 7% spent more than they meant to but 'now regret it', and 5% have 'no idea' how much they spent.

Managing one's credit cards is likely one of the best ways to become financially fit. However, almost one third (31%) of Vancouverites do not know what the interest rate is on their primary credit card. Furthermore, a majority (54%) of Vancouverites do not know of the existence of low-interest (prime + below 5%) credit cards on the market.

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These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Capital One from January 8 to January 10, 2008. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 455 adult Vancouverites was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ±4.59 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult working population of Vancouver been polled. The margin of error will be larger within r sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure that the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Vancouver population according to Census data.

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