

Fraud Prevention

The perfect time to refresh your knowledge of cybercriminals and how to spot them. Federal Retirees has collected five key tips to help you recognize phishing attacks, even some of the more sophisticated ones. If there's someone in your life who may be vulnerable to phishing or other forms of fraud, we hope you'll also take this opportunity to connect with them, share this article and talk about recognizing scams.

Here are the 5 tips:

- **There's a sense of urgency and panic.** If you're contacted – whether it's by phone, email, text, social media or in person – and pressured to take action right away. Stop, review and reflect.
- **The spelling and grammar are terrible.** Legitimate companies have professional staff to review their messages to you, so be wary of anything you're sent with typos, grammatical mistakes or weird turns of phrase.
- **There's something off about the domain name or greeting.** If the domain name in the email doesn't match the company name or the greeting sounds unusual or impersonal, you're right to be suspicious.
- **There's an odd request or demand for personal information.** Are you being asked to provide login credentials, sensitive data, personal information or payment? Play it safe. Contact that individual or company directly to confirm the request.
- **The message contains a suspicious link or attachment.** Watch out for links or attachments you weren't expecting. Fraudsters may even try to fool you with a login page or filename that looks legitimate. Be wary, especially if the demand sounds urgent or threatening.

Always report fraud

If you have been targeted in a scam or cybercrime, [report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre \(CAFC\) online](#) or by telephone at 1-888-495-8501 toll-free. Importantly, if you have fallen victim to fraud, always report it to your local police who can investigate.

The RCMP and CAFC are currently collaborating on a new system to report cybercrime and fraud. [The new National Cybercrime and Fraud Reporting System \(NCFRS\)](#) is expected to go live in 2023-2024 and is currently being tested. To that end, some visitors are being redirected to the new system each day in anticipation of the launch.