

# SCAM ALERT

## FRAUD PREVENTION

Keeping your money safe



The incidence and magnitude of both international and domestic fraud have increased dramatically over the past few years. The good news is that through education and awareness, most fraud can be prevented. Join in our fight against crime by sharing the following information to friends and family.

### UNDERSTANDING FRAUD ✓

#### What do scammers want?

Money and/or personal information.

#### Could it happen to you?

Most people think that scams can be easily recognized. However, new scams are being invented on a regular basis. It is important to know that fraudsters play on three powerful emotions to get you to act:

**Hope** - that you have won a prize or will benefit financially from their scheme

**Fear** - that you are going to be arrested or a loved one is in trouble

**Desire to help** - most of us want to assist others when we can


Don't let your emotions take over. When you receive an unsolicited email, text message or phone call, take the time to think about it. If you are unsure about whether it's a scam, ask others for their opinion. Talk to a trusted friend or relative, or call your local police service and request to speak to an officer.

### FRAUDS IN CANADA

In 2022, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre recorded:

 **\$531 MILLION**  
PAID TO FRAUDSTERS

 **92,078**  
REPORTS FILED

 **57,578**  
VICTIMS

### KNOW THE SIGNS! ✓

**1** It sounds **TOO GOOD** to be true.  
Fraudsters often make promises about how your small investment will result in great financial gains.

**2** It is **URGENT** that you act quickly.  
Always take the time to think about and verify what you are being told.

**3** You are sworn to **SECRECY**.  
Be very suspicious if someone tells you not to discuss the matter with anyone, including family and bank employees.

**4** You must pay in **GIFT CARD CODES, CRYPTOCURRENCY OR CASH**  
These payments are usually untraceable. Once the money is gone, it's usually gone for good!



## MOST COMMON SCAMS



Romance Scams



Investment Scams



Phishing Scams



Grandparent Scams



CRA Scams



Home Improvement

## PROTECT YOURSELF!

1. Always be suspicious when you receive an unsolicited email, text message or phone call.
2. Don't give out personal information (banking information, passwords, etc.) through email or over the phone. If you aren't 100% sure you know who you are communicating with, be CAUTIOUS!
3. Confirm that callers are who they say they are by calling them back at their VERIFIED phone number, or by "fact checking" the caller's story with friends and/or relatives.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED

### HANG UP.

Always attempt to verify the scammer's story with family/friends you trust BEFORE you act.

**IF THE SCAMMERS HAVE YOUR ADDRESS AND ARE COMING TO YOUR HOME, OR YOU FEEL THREATENED,**

Call **911** to report a fraud in progress

### IF YOU DID NOT LOSE MONEY:

Report to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at  
**1-888-405-8501**

### IF YOU HAVE BEEN DEFRAUDED OF MONEY:

Report to your local police service.

*Thank you for attending today's  
fraud awareness talk. Together,  
we can make a difference!*

*~Cst. Julie Reynolds  
and D/C Kris Nicolson*



110 Fairview Road, Barrie, ON L4N 8X8 NON-EMERGENCY: 1(705) 725-7025