

FRAUDS & SCAMS

IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE IT PROBABLY IS!



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What are Frauds and Scams?

FRAUDS & SCAMS (are used interchangeably) are deceptive acts intended to trick, deceive or cheat.
(Source Merriam-Webster)

This may surprise you but:

- \$17.2 Million was lost on Telemarketing / Door to-door fraud on Merchandise and Services not needed in Canada in 2020 (Source - Canada Anti-Fraud Centre 2021)
- \$18.5 Million was lost on reported Sweetheart / Romance fraud or more than \$20,000 per report in Canada in 2020 (Source - February 12, 2021 RCMP)
- \$144 Million was lost on ALL fraud between January 1st and August 31st, 2021 (Source - Canada Anti-Fraud Centre 2021)

Some common scams are:

SCAM	DESCRIPTION	HOW TO AVOID IT
Grandparent	Scammers pretending to be grandchildren in need of immediate financial assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Check with family that grandchildren are safe▪ Never wire money until their identity has been confirmed.
Sweetheart / Romance	While romancing their victim, fraudsters gain access to financial and personal information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keep all personal documents locked in a safe place▪ Never share them with anyone▪ Avoid making irrational, emotional decisions.
Affinity / Community	Fraudsters use group of friends, colleagues, ethnic groups who trust one other to gain trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Never accept a verbal agreement▪ Have a professional review legal documents
Telemarketing / Door-to-door	Sales people use high-pressure tactics to intimidate seniors into buying things they don't need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If you're uncomfortable, hang up or close the door.
Inheritance	Fraudster contacts victim posing as a lawyer, banker or official announcing they are beneficiaries of a relative's estate. Once the fee to claim the inheritance is paid, the scammer disappears.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Check with family and relatives to confirm.▪ Call your lawyer

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Who Can Help:

Investing / Insurance

L'Autorité des marchés financiers (514) 395-0337

Computer Security (online interaction, purchases)

RCMP: Internet Safety Resources

Consumer Rights

Office de la protection du consommateur

Canadian Consumer Handbook

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

Fraud

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre 888-495-8501

Sûreté du Québec 514-598-4141

Canadian Bankers Association

Elder Mistreatment

La Ligne Aide Abus Aînés / Elder Mistreatment Helpline

1-888-849-2287

SPVM (Police)

To reach your local police department or report a crime - there is a general number.

Local police stations can be reached using: 514-280-01xx

Add your local station number at the end. For example: Station 26 would be

514-280-0126. Some station numbers in our area:

CDN-NDG – Station 25, Cote St. Luc – Station 9, Westmount – Station 12

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAY HOW THIS STORY ENDS



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