

# FRAUD AWARENESS

Every year Canadians lose millions of dollars to scammers through online, mail, door to door, and telephone scams. Fraud and scams occur in all communities and criminals do not discriminate when it comes to potential victims. There are many different types of fraud and scams, some examples are:

- **Utility scams:** where an individual will call a consumer or business and impersonate a utility company.
- **Romance scams:** where an individual with false romantic intentions towards another individual gains their affection and trust and eventually gains access to the victim's money, bank account and credit cards.
- **Charity scams:** often use names that are very close to the names of legitimate and respected charities.
- **Phishing scams:** One of the most common types of fraud. It is an identity theft scheme that often uses emails.

It is important to be able to recognize fraud before you are targeted. Take a minute and Google common frauds and arm yourself with knowledge. If you think you have been a victim of fraud report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and your local police.

*Resources for the public:*

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre 1-888-495-8501/ [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca)

"The Little Black Book of Scams" [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca)