

Fraud Info

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RCMP Innisfail has seen a sharp increase in calls for assistance from people who are reporting frauds and scams.

The majority of these complaints involve someone calling the victim and asking for some money in return for a prize. The three most popular scams we are seeing are:

- The STARS prize scam. The fraudster cold calls a person and says they are from STARS and they are asking for the victim to buy tickets to win big prizes. The victim then pays them money for the tickets that of course don't exist and never receive a prize.
- The RCMP fundraiser scam. The fraudster cold calls a person and says they are the RCMP raising money for bowl for kids and asks for a donation. Of course the RCMP never ever solicit money for any reason and the victim ends up donating money to a criminal and not a charity.
- The Readers Digest Scam . The fraudster cold calls a person and says they are a big winner. The victim is instructed to send money to collect their prize. Of course there is no prize and the money goes to a criminal.
- The Canada Revenue Agency scam. The fraudster cold calls a person and says they are in trouble and owe money to the Canada Revenue Agency. They threaten police action and use intimidation to convince the victim to send them money.

The detachment has received upward of 10 calls per day. RCMP have released guidelines to the public to assist them in following property reporting channels for frauds in Alberta. These guidelines have been outlined on business cards and are available at the front counter of the detachment.

Reporting Scams and Frauds in Alberta

- If you have NOT LOST MONEY but suspect you have been targeted, contact the CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE 1-888-495-8501 / www.antifraudcentre.ca
- If you receive a suspicious e-mail soliciting your financial information, advise the bank/agency involved.
- If you are a VICTIM OF FRAUD, contact your local police and Canadian Anti-fraud Centre
- For more information visit: www.rcmp.gc.ca