

Grande Prairie RCMP Warns Public of new Pyramid Scheme

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Grande Prairie RCMP would like to inform the public in the hope to put a stop to a new pyramid scheme that targets law-abiding citizens who have no idea they are breaking the law.

The Gifting Pyramid Scheme usually targets groups of law-abiding women who are convinced to recruit their friends or acquaintances. New members have to pay their recruiter a \$5,000 'gift' to join. In turn, each member is expected to recruit eight new people so everyone can end up with \$40,000. Recruiters try to legitimize the buy-in payment by calling it a 'birthday gift,' a 'transaction,' or 'a gifting circle' and insisting that the payment is not taxable or illegal because it's only a gift.

You might be reluctant to talk to police because your friends are involved or you feel ashamed but Grande Prairie RCMP needs your assistance in spreading the word to prevent people from being victimized.

If you have been involved with such a scam report the matter to the Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment at 780-830-5700 and to the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre (CAFC) by calling 1-888-495-8501.

If you have information about this, or any other crime(s), and you want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by internet at www.tipsubmit.com/, or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers [www.crimestoppers.ab.ca/] for instructions on how to do it.) You do not have to reveal your identity to Crime Stoppers, and if you provide information to Crime Stoppers that leads to an arrest(s), the recovery of stolen property, and/or a seizure of illicit drugs, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

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