

For Immediate Distribution
August 21, 2015

Fraudsters at It Again!

St. Albert RCMP continue to hear from residents who have been defrauded by criminals. In July and August 2015, there have been 17 reports of scams and in some cases, people have lost thousands of dollars to these tricky criminals.

The three most common scams that are happening in St. Albert this summer are:

1) The Emergency Scam or Grandparent scam where a "family member" calls asking for emergency bail money to get out of jail. They ask for the money to be deposited into a trust account immediately, but in reality they are a Fraudster and there was never a family member in any emergency. St. Albert residents have lost almost \$6,000.00 to this scam this summer.

2) The Phoney Bank Inspector where a person claims to be a security inspector for a bank and asks the resident to withdraw cash to test the teller's honesty. The resident is asked to meet the undercover bank inspector in the parking lot and hand over the cash which will then be re-deposited into the resident's account. Only the money never goes back into the account. No Canadian Bank tests their tellers in this way or do business in this way. St. Albert residents have lost over \$9000.00 to this scam this summer.

3) The Canada Revenue scam where the Fraudster calls a resident telling them that they owe Canada Revenue back taxes. These Fraudsters may even threaten that they have a warrant for the resident's arrest or say that they have frozen the resident's bank account. They even threaten that they are going to come and seize the resident's property unless they pay money right away. Of course Revenue Canada does not operate this way. Revenue Canada asks that any such calls be reported to the RCMP immediately. St. Albert residents have lost over \$1000 to this fraud this summer, but many more people have been frightened by this scam.

Help us put these Fraudsters out of business. If you get a suspicious call asking for money to be deposited or sent urgently, call the RCMP or your bank before you do anything else. Do not send the money without discussing the situation with a trusted person. Even better yet, visit the www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca and learn more about common scams and how to report them.

Cpl. Laurel KADING, M.O.M.
Crime Prevention/Victim Services, Community Policing
Prevention Criminelle /assistance aux victimes
96 Bellerose Drive, St. Albert, AB T8N 7A4
780 418 - 6684 Office