



## Report Fraud

If you are a victim of fraud, please call police at 780-423-4567 or come into a police station.

The police need evidence to support that your complaint has the elements of criminal fraud, so please provide as much detail as you can in your witness Statement. Include copies of emails and/or text messages with the scammer, scammer's account information, related documents, receipts, etc.

Please see our website for complete details on how to report frauds:

[edmontonpolice.ca/reportfraud](https://edmontonpolice.ca/reportfraud)



## Red Flags

- Threatening you with deportation, arrest, etc.
- Telling you to lie to your family, store clerks, bank employees, and police about what you're doing.
- Telling you not to talk to anyone about what you're doing.
- Telling you to pay them in order to get a job, receive a prize, get your money back, etc.
- Asking for personal information, your SIN number, and/or financial information.
- Text or email has a lot of spelling and grammatical errors you would not expect from an employee of that company.
- Text or email includes a link for you to click.

**It's probably a scam if they ask for payment in:**

- Bitcoin
- Gift Cards / Prepaid Credit Cards
- E-transfer
- Wire transfer to foreign account



## Talk about it!

We cannot stress this enough... **talk about it.** Talk about frauds with your loved ones. Your teens, siblings, parents, grandparents, friends, coworkers... have open conversations about the common scams that target us all and the common red flags of frauds.

**Remember:** scammers prey on emotions, whether that's fear, love, panic, or guilt. Take a step back from what they are telling you and think about the legitimacy of the situation.

Pick up the phone and talk to someone you trust; family, friends, or police (780-423-4567).

## Fraud Prevention

**The best defence against fraud is knowledge.**

**If you are ever unsure,  
ask someone else.  
If someone thinks it's suspicious, listen!**

EDMONTON  
**POLICE**  
SERVICE

[www.edmontonpolice.ca/fraud](https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/fraud)

# Fraud Prevention for Edmonton's Common Scams



## Phone

### BE CAUTIOUS IF THE CALLER IS...

- Threatening you with deportation, arrest, etc.
- Requesting payment in unusual forms, like gift cards, Bitcoin, money orders, or commercial wire service transfer.
- Telling you to lie to your family, store clerks, bank employees, and police about what you're doing.
- Telling you not to talk to anyone about what you're doing.
- Telling you to pay them in order to get a job, receive a prize, get your money back, etc.
- Asking for personal information, your SIN number, and/or financial information.
- Leaving an alarming message, requesting you to dial a number to proceed or to call another number provided.

### **\*\*Beware of call spoofing\*\***

Scammers fake their caller ID names and numbers to appear to be calling from a company or government agency. You can hang up, find the organization's real number, and call to verify if the phone call was legitimate.



## Buy and Sell

### BE CAUTIOUS IF...

- A deal is too good to be true; it probably is.
- Any request for a deposit prior to any in person meeting, most commonly for Pets, Rental Properties and Vehicles.
- A buyer requests you ship an item they could purchase for the same value where they live.
- The Seller/Buyer is unable to meet in person.
- You are sent more money than you agreed on and they ask you to send back the balance.

**Meet during the day in a well-lit, public location, preferably video monitored.**



## Extortion

- **Explicit Images** - Threats are made to share explicit images of you with family or friends unless they are paid.
- **Ransomware** - Scammers have your business' data and demand payment in return of your data.
- **Investigation** - Scammers claim you are subject to a government investigation and you have to pay to clear your name.



## Romance

### BE CAUTIOUS IF...

- They want to move to a private mode of communication, therefore gaining your personal email or phone number.
- They cannot meet you, or they work overseas.
- They profess their love to you early on, especially if you haven't met in person.
- They are always available online. It is usually a group of individuals sending you messages working off a script.
- They will rarely have a voice or video conversation.
- **They give excuses for not being able to access their own funds, and need you to send money. They're not your honey if they're asking for money.**



## Employment

### BE CAUTIOUS IF...

- You didn't submit your application to their official career website.
- Your online resume is all they required to hire you.
- The job posting isn't on the real company's job page.
- They require your SIN, banking information, or driver's licence for the interview.
- You have to purchase equipment for the company with your own money.

## Take a step back

With any suspicious form of communication, take a moment to consider the offer:

- Why would this organization be contacting you?
- Why would a legitimate organization use informal communications and text you? Would they even know your cell phone number?
- Why would they have spelling errors, or send links to a website that's not their official website?

Take those few minutes away and conduct an online search of the person or organization who is contacting you. This includes searching the phone number/email address the person used to make contact. Does the legitimate organization come up in the results?

Look up the legitimate organization to find their proper website and phone number; call them to confirm what you were just contacted about.