

## Fraud Prevention Tips

### Signs of a Scam

- Pretend to be a person or organization you know
- Say there's a problem with your account or a prize
- Pressure you to act immediately
- Want you to pay in a specific way

### Phone Scams

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers
- Don't share personal information
- Be wary of calls asking for money
- There is no prize
- You won't be arrested
- You don't need to decide now
- Call banks and companies directly

Don't trust your  
call display!  
Fraudsters use  
technology to  
make any name  
and number they  
want appear.

### Email and Text Scams

- Don't open or respond to unsolicited emails or texts
- Never click on a link in a text or email until you confirm it's legitimate.
- Be wary of messages that ask you to update or verify your information
- Be wary of messages that convey a sense of urgency or tell you an account has been compromised
- Check the identity of the sender, fraudsters can pretend to be anyone.

### Social Media Scams

- Limit the amount of information you share online
- Check your privacy settings
- Limit contacts to people you know, don't accept requests from strangers.
- Fraudsters steal photos and can pretend to be anyone, even celebrities or your family.
- Don't send money for an item unless you have seen it in person

## Online Scams

- Only visit and shop on websites you know and trust.
- Watch out for “pop up” messages. Don't click on them or call the phone number.
- No legitimate company will call and claim there's a problem with your computer.
- Always keep your security software updated and back up your data
- Use difficult passwords and update regularly
- Never give anyone remote access to your computer.

## Identity Theft

- Protect your documents
- Be careful what you share
- Use strong passwords
- Protect your devices
- Monitor your accounts and statements

To help prevent identity theft, check your credit report regularly with Equifax  
1-800-871-3250 or  
TransUnion  
1-800-565-2280

## Catfishing and Romance Scams

- Verify their background: Look them up online and cross-check profiles.
- Run a reverse image search: Google to see if their pictures are being used elsewhere.
- Don't send money, gift cards, or invest in something they recommend
- Beware if they seem too perfect or fall in love quickly.
- They are often living or working outside of Canada
- They usually won't meet in person or video chat

## Resources

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

1-888-495-8501

Service Alberta

1-877-427-4088

Find Me on Social Media

