



LAKESHORE REGIONAL  
POLICE SERVICE

Lakeshore Regional Police Service  
Box 291, Driftpile, AB T0G 0V0  
Phone: 587-749-0421 Fax 587-749-0423

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### Local Current Fraud Awareness

Over the past two weeks, and as of yesterday, fraudulent phone scammers have been calling our local First Nation community residents using a technique called *spoofing*, using our local 523 / 536 and 507 High Prairie area prefix phone numbers to fool you into thinking it is a local caller and then pose as POLICE or Revenue Canada in order to compromise your personal financial integrity and then sell it to others. In most cases, Social Insurance numbers are requested.

Scammers usually start by asking you who they are talking to. If you answer them (then they have your name), they tell you that your Social Insurance Number (SIN) has been used illegally or someone has accessed your banking information. They say they are the Police (they aren't) and they want you to confirm your SIN or the last 3 SIN numbers by reading it to them (they record it) and say it matches what they have on file (they don't any numbers on file except for the ones you gave them). They use the same formula to get your banking information, your birthday and your address all in an effort to steal your identity, sell the information to criminals who will apply for credit under your name and/or access your bank accounts.

Please be also very wary that Scammers also pose as Revenue Canada Agents and demand immediate payment for back taxes or the local POLICE will be sent over to arrest you immediately. So people are sent out to convert thousands of their dollars into gift cards, gaming cards, bit coin to pay their imaginary debt over the phone in an effort to resolve an imaginary debt.

Do not be afraid to say "NO!" and hang up. Do not tell them anything about yourself. You worked hard for your money, don't share it with a stranger posing as a fake authority.

The Lakeshore Regional Police Service reminds you:

- If you receive a call from someone claiming you owe money, get as much information from them as possible: their name, agent number, mailing address, phone number, how many people work for the company, how long the company has been in service, who the owner of the company is and any other information that would apply to the matter. Tell them you will call them back.
- Ensure the call has been ended before discussing anything personal with a family member or close friend.
- **Do NOT share any personal information with a caller, such as your legal name, date of birth, social insurance number, address, etc.**
- **Do NOT provide any form of payment, any personal banking, or credit card details.**
- **Do NOT trust an email sent by a caller. Be careful before you click on any links in any email you receive. Some criminals may be using a technique known as phishing to steal your personal information when you click on the link.**



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- Verify who a caller is from a legitimate website. Do NOT trust the phone numbers provided by a caller. For example, CRA will have the legitimate numbers to call CRA online. This goes for any legitimate businesses as well. Do your research.
- Do NOT throw mail in the trash with your personal information on it, including simply your name and address. Shred unwanted documents, or store needed documents in a locked and secure place.
- CRA will contact you via your secure account online, which only you should have access. Do NOT share your passwords with anyone.
- CRA and businesses will NOT request outstanding monetary payments to be paid via prepaid credit cards, Google Play or i-Tune gift cards, or any other gift card or similar type of payments. These methods are used by the criminal element to hide their activities from police.
- The POLICE will NOT make arrests for overdue CRA fines.
- The POLICE will NOT request payments for any police matter to be paid via prepaid credit cards, Google Play or i-Tune gift cards, any other gift card or similar type of payment.
- The POLICE will NOT take any form of prepaid credit cards, or gift cards for payments in lieu of criminal charges being laid, pending, or as a form of restitution.

If you or someone you know has been scammed, offered up their SIN number or their banking information, it is recommended to do the following;

- 1. Have them immediately contact their Bank (1 800 Number on back of Debit Card) and / or Credit Card Company (1 800 Number on the back of the Credit Card) and tell them about being subject of the Fraud with the intention of flagging the Victim's accounts for suspicious transactions.**
- 2. Have them contact 2 different credit bureaus to set up accounts with them, to regularly monitor their credit to determine if anyone is applying for credit under their name and financial info.**

\* Equifax Credit Bureau 1(800) 465-7166

\* Trans Union Credit Bureau 1 (800) 663-9980

- 3. Advise them to report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online at: [www.antifraudcenter.ca](http://www.antifraudcenter.ca) or by calling 1-888-495-8501. They don't investigate it, they just record it.**

For more information on the Top 10 frauds affecting Canadians visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at [www.antifraudcenter.ca](http://www.antifraudcenter.ca). If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online at: [www.antifraudcenter.ca](http://www.antifraudcenter.ca) or by calling 1-888-495-501.

If you believe you may be the victim of fraud or have given personal or financial information unwittingly, contact the **Lakeshore Regional Police Service at 1-855-299-0138.**

Dean M. Syniak(Insp.)  
Operations Officer