

## COMMON SCAMS & FRAUDS – SYNOPSIS

### Top 10 Frauds affecting Canadians by number of reports - 2019

1. Extortion	(10,278)
2. Personal information	(7,642)
3. Phishing	(5,053)
4. Service	(3,547)
5. Merchandise	(2,452)
6. Sale of merchandise	(2,211)
7. Job	(1,702)
8. Prize	(1,200)
9. Bank investigator	(1,083)
10. Romance	(975)

### Top 10 Frauds affecting Canadians by dollar loss - 2019

1. Phishing	(\$21.4 million)
2. Romance	(\$18.3 million)
3. Investments	(\$10.7 million)
4. Extortion	(\$9.2 million)
5. Service	(\$7.2 million)
6. Prize	(\$3.4 million)
7. Bank investigator	(\$3.2 million)
8. Sale of merchandise	(\$2.7 million)
9. Merchandise	(\$2.6 million)
10. Timeshare	(\$2.5 million)

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

## PREVENTION TIPS & TRICKS

### Extortion Scams

- Don't take immediate action – hang up the phone and contact the agency directly
- Government agencies will not ask you to make payments by means of a prepaid credit card, or money wire services
  - The CRA accepted payment methods:
    - ❖ Online banking
    - ❖ Debit card
    - ❖ Pre-authorized debit
- Government agencies will not try to scare you, use aggressive language or threaten you with arrest
- Note: these agencies already have your personal information on file....why would they be asking you for it?

### Phishing & Smishing Scams

- If you receive emails/texts from unknown contacts:
  - Do not reply
  - Do not click on any links within the message, do not open any attachments, do not unsubscribe to any services
  - Delete email/text as soon as possible
- Never call the numbers or email the email addresses listed in the suspicious email / text → look up the company in the phone book or using a new google search
- Update antivirus software
- NOTE: banks, government agencies and other reliable organizations will NEVER ask you to share your personal / financial information via email or text

## PREVENTION TIPS & TRICKS

### Investment Scams

- 4 WARNING signs of a scam, according to the Ontario Securities Commission:
  - High returns and low risk
  - Hot tip or insider information
  - Pressure to buy now
  - Seller not registered to sell investments
- Protect yourself by checking the registration of an individual or business trying to sell you investments or investment advice at [checkbeforeyouinvest.ca](http://checkbeforeyouinvest.ca)

### Romance Scams

- Scammers often mimic real dating websites - research the dating website to ensure it is legitimate and reputable
  - Investigate if a dating website has a cost and how to cancel your account before signing up
  - Don't give out any personal or financial information via email or when chatting with someone on an online dating website
  - Don't accept or send money to anyone from dating websites
  - Consider it is a **red flag** if someone is declaring their love for you after a short time
  - **TRUST YOUR GUT INSTINCTS**
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## REPORTING OPTIONS

- **Police Emergency line** – 911
  - **Police Non-Emergency Elder Abuse Information Line** – 613-236-1222, ext. 2400
  - **Alert your bank and credit card company**
    - Report instances of suspicious correspondence / activity
  - **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre** – 1-888-495-8501 - [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca)
    - Report instances of fraudulent or suspicious activity
  - **Better Business Bureau** – 1-800-232-7298 - <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/reportscam>
    - Report instances of fake / faulty businesses and/or offers
  - **Competition Bureau** - 1-800-348-5358 - [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca)
    - Report instances of misleading or deceptive marketing practices
  - **Canadian Securities Administrators** – 514-864-9510 - [csa-acvm-secretariat@acvm-csa.ca](mailto:csa-acvm-secretariat@acvm-csa.ca)
    - Report instances of financial or investment scams
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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Elder Abuse Response and Referral Service (EARRS)** - 613-596-5626 ext. 230
- **Seniors Safety Line** - 1-866-299-1011 (24/7)
- **Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario** – [www.elderabuseontario.com](http://www.elderabuseontario.com)
- **211 Ontario** (24/7, in 150 languages)