

*Education is the best method  
of protecting yourself.*



WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE  
**A CULTURE OF SAFETY FOR ALL**



### **Connect with your Community Relations Officers**

To book a presentation, request officers  
attend an event, or for more information:

**204-986-6322**

**Winnipeg.ca/TakeAction**

### **Make the Right Call**

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 204-986-6222

Report a Crime Online: [Winnipeg.ca/police](http://Winnipeg.ca/police)

Financial Crimes Unit: 204-986-6231

# FRAUDS AND SCAMS

*Millions of dollars are lost through frauds and  
scams. Thousands of people are victimized  
each year. All segments of the population are  
impacted, no one is immune from this type of  
crime and anyone can be a target.*



## TYPES OF FRAUDS AND SCAMS

- Telemarketing
- Online
- Email/text message
- Identity theft
- Business
- Mail
- Door to door
- Romance

## COMMON TECHNIQUES USED BY FRAUDSTERS

- **RUSH DEALS** – you are told you have a limited amount of time to take part or you will lose the deal, pressuring you to act now.
- **SCARE TACTICS** – you are told a negative result or penalty will be imposed if you don't act quickly.
- **SECRECY** – you are told the deal is extremely special and you are one of the select few invited to participate but don't tell anyone.
- **PAYMENT** – is requested in the form of gift cards, prepaid credit cards, wire transfers or crypto currency such as Bitcoin.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Before entering into any transaction or “deal” read the full contract. Don't hesitate to contact the Consumers Bureau or The Better Business Bureau for more information.
- Understand any contracts, estimates or other documents before they are signed.
- Verify person's reason for attendance and ask for proper identification before allowing anyone into your home.
- Talk with a trusted family member or friend if you are unsure of legitimacy of an offer.
- Don't disclose any personal information, including information about bank accounts, personal identifications numbers (PIN), credit cards or personal finances to anyone.

IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT USUALLY IS.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME A VICTIM

Document all information about the fraud including receipts, copies of emails and/or text messages.

- Contact Winnipeg Police Service 204-986-6222 (non-emergency) to make a report.
- Contact your financial institutions, creditors and service providers that may be affected by Identity Theft or Fraud.

**Contact credit reporting agencies to flag your account:**

- Equifax 1-800-465-7166
- Trans Union 1-800-663-9980

If the fraud took place online through Facebook, eBay, a classified ad such as Kijiji or a dating website, be sure to report the incident directly to the website. These details can be found under “report abuse” or “report an ad”.

Remember, criminals will say anything to take your hard-earned money. Be cautious!

Even though parts of the scam may change and new scams are invented almost daily, the best way to protect yourself is to be informed.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and the Competition Bureau provide a wealth of information.

Visit [winnipeg.ca/police](http://winnipeg.ca/police)

Contact the **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre**

- 1-888-495-8501
- [www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)
- [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca)