



CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE BULLETIN

Top 5 Online Scams

2020-10-14

FRAUD: RECOGNIZE, REJECT, REPORT

With the ongoing pandemic, Canadians have increasingly relied on the Internet to conduct everyday activities, such as, buying and selling goods or looking for a job. During Cyber Security Awareness Month's Computer Week, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) would like to remind you to be vigilant when surfing the Internet.

This bulletin was prepared to highlight the Top 5 Online Scams and prevention tips.

2019 Top 5 Online Scams Targeting Canadians			
Fraud Type	Reports	Victims	Losses (CAD)
<u>Merchandise</u>	1,414	1,052	\$1,528,100
<u>Service</u>	1,366	1,018	\$1,461,200
<u>Sale of Merchandise by Complainant</u>	1,076	793	\$691,800
<u>Job</u>	560	232	\$710,000
<u>Counterfeit Merchandise</u>	309	281	\$100,000

Note: It is estimated that less than 5% of fraud victims report their occurrences to the CAFC.

Top Tips to Protect Yourself

- Be cautious of greatly reduced prices (e.g. 80%). Know the market value of products.
- Notice text with spelling errors or references to the product as "the item".
- Beware of pets offered at below market value or "free". Whenever possible, meet and purchase a pet in person.
- Locate and verify the company's contact information (address, phone number, email) before you buy.
- Look for customer reviews and ratings from third-party sources.
- Be mindful where you post your resume. Scammers use legitimate websites to seek out victims.
- Take the time to research an employer and confirm that they are hiring.
- Learn [more tips and tricks for protecting yourself](#).
- [Remain current on frauds](#) and protect others by sharing what you know. Tell two others and ask them to do the same. An unbroken chain of 25 people telling two would cover the entire population of Canada.

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Competition Bureau Canada Bureau de la concurrence Canada



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