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PROTECT YOURSELF BE AWARE OF FRAUD

EMERGENCY SCAMS— MONEY TRANSFER SCAMS

Every year, Canadians lose millions of dollars to the activities of scammers who bombard us with online, mail, door-to-door and telephone scams.

In the last few months the number of scamming attempts across the riding has increased significantly. My hope is that by sending information out to my constituents, you will be able to stay on top of scams, inform yourself on how to recognize the various types of scams and protect your personal information by visiting the links I have provided for you on the back.

Scammers target people of all backgrounds, ages and income levels. Scammers are imaginative and manipulative. They are experts in extracting personal information from their unknowing victims. Below you will find some information that will debunk some common myths. This should help minimize your chances of being scammed.

Remember, if you spot a scam, or have been scammed, don't be embarrassed to get help. Ensure you have contacted your local police for assistance.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schmale
Member of Parliament

Debunking these common myths will minimize your chances of being scammed.

- *There are short cuts to wealth that only a few people know:* This is not always true. Ask yourself the question: if someone knew a secret to instant wealth, why would they be telling their secret to others?
- *Scams involve large amounts of money:* This is not always true. Sometimes scammers target a large number of people and try to get a small amount of money from each person.
- *Scams are always about money:* This is not always true. Some scams are aimed at stealing personal information from you.
- *All internet websites are legitimate:* This is not always true. Websites are quite easy and cheap to set up. The scammers can easily copy a genuine website and trick you into believing it is legitimate.

INFORMATION

-EMERGENCY SCAMS-

Emergency scams target grandparents and play upon their emotions to rob them of their money.

In the typical scenario, a grandparent receives a phone call from a scammer claiming to be one of his or her grandchildren. Callers go on to say that they are in some kind of trouble and need money immediately. They claim to have been in a car accident, are having trouble returning from a foreign country or they need bail money.

You may get a call from two people, one pretending to be your grandchild and the other pretending to be either a police officer or lawyer. Your “grandchild” asks you questions during the call, getting you to volunteer personal information. Callers say they don’t want other family members to find out what has happened. You will be asked to wire through a money transfer company. In some cases, scammers pretend to be your old neighbour or a friend. Often victims don’t verify the story until after the money has been sent.

PROTECT YOURSELF: Never send money to anyone you don’t know or trust. Verify the person’s identity before you take any steps to help.

ASK YOURSELF: Does the caller’s story make sense?

WERE YOU A VICTIM?

If you believe you may be the victim of fraud or have given personal or financial information unwittingly, contact your local police service.

HELPFUL LINKS

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
www.antifraudcentre.ca

The Competition Bureau’s Information Centre
www.competitionbureau.gc.ca

Canadian Consumer Handbook on the Office of Consumer Affairs
www.consumerhandbook.ca

Canadian Council of Better Business Bureaus
www.cbccc.ca

Canadian Revenue Agency
www.cra-arc.gc.ca