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PROTECT YOURSELF BE AWARE OF FRAUD

PHONE SCAMS - TAX SCAMS - INTERNET 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

-INTERNET SCAMS-

Many internet scams take place without the victim even noticing. You can greatly reduce the chances of being scammed on the internet if you follow some simple precautions.

- Scammers can use the internet to promote fraud through unsolicited or junk emails, known as spam. Even if they only get a handful of replies from the millions of emails they send out, it is still worth their while. Be wary of replying, even just to “unsubscribe”, because that will give a scammer confirmation that they have reached a real email address.
- Any email you receive that comes from a sender you do not know, is not specifically addressed to you, and promises you some benefit is likely to be spam.
- Scammers use a wide range of tricks to get their software onto your computer. They may trick you into clicking on a link or pop-up message in a spam email, or by getting you to visit a fake website set up solely to infect peoples computers. Scammers can easily copy the logo or even an entire website of a genuine organization. So don't assume an email you receive is legitimate. If the email is asking you to visit a website to “update” or “confirm” your account information, be skeptical.

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.cbobb.ca

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