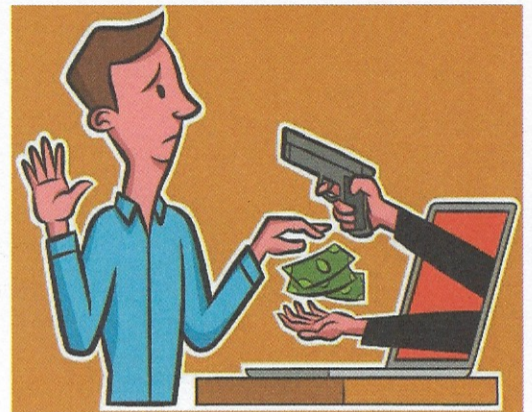


Extortion

Fraudsters call consumers impersonating the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) claiming a recent audit has identified discrepancies from past filed taxes. Repayment is required immediately. Fraudsters threaten consumers that failure to pay will result in additional fees and/or jail time. Fraudsters often request payment by a money service business or pre-paid cards or gift cards (iTunes).

Warning Signs – How to Protect Yourself

- Contact the CRA to confirm you owe back taxes or are entitled to a refund.
- Never provide personal information on inbound phone calls. Ask who is calling, document information and do your homework.
- For more information about fraud scams involving the CRA, visit www.cra-arc.gc.ca
- The CRA would never request payment by money service business or iTunes gift cards.
- If you have shared personal information, contact Equifax and Trans Union to place fraud alerts on your account.
- If you have shared banking information with the scammers, contact your financial institution to place alerts on your account.



Recovery Pitch

If you have been victimized in the past, you are likely to be contacted again by someone promising to get your money back. The imposter may claim to be an investigating agency, law enforcement representative or lawyer. The fraudster will claim a recent investigation has found a guilty party and money was recovered from a previous scam. Often, victims are promised a portion or all of their lost funds, only if legal fees and taxes are paid. Scammers may purchase lead lists, which include your information and involvement in past scams.

Warning Signs - How to Protect Yourself



- If you are the victim of a scam, you are likely to be called again by someone promising you a refund. Be careful not to lose more money.
- No government or law enforcement agency will ask you to participate in a sting operation.
- Do not pay money to get money.

Are you a victim? If you suspect that you may be a target of fraud, or if you have already sent funds, don't be embarrassed - you're not alone. Report to your local Police and the CAFC.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC): www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

or call: 1-888-495-8501 (Mon.– Fri. 9am to 4:30pm EST)

