



BE AWARE OF COVID-19 SCAMS

The **COVID-19 pandemic** is obviously worldwide news, it is causing emotions to be anywhere from disbelieving to outright panic. Fraudsters are again taking advantage of the landscape and using the virus as a means to defraud innocent, and perhaps scared, individuals. We all need to be aware of how our members or ourselves could be taken in by fraudsters and scammers. With that I mind we are publishing a list of some of the activities that are occurring in Canada regarding the use of the pandemic as a vehicle for fraud.

- Duct cleaning or heating companies offering duct cleaning services or “special’ filters to protect from COVID-19.

FALSE - those filters don’t exist.

- Phone calls impersonating local and provincial hydro/electrical power companies threatening to disconnect power for non-payment.

FALSE - they are not doing that.

- Impersonating Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the World Health Organization (WHO) offering fake lists for sale of COVID-19 infected people in your neighbourhood.

FALSE - they would never provide that.

- Impersonating Public Health Agency of Canada giving false results saying you have been tested positive for COVID-19 tricking you into confirming your health card and credit card numbers for a prescription.

FALSE - if you weren’t tested (nasal and/or mouth swab) no results can





be obtained AND they never ask for money for a prescription over the phone.

- Impersonating Red Cross and other known charities offering free medical products (e.g. masks) for a donation, over the phone or door to door.

FALSE - no charitable agency is doing that.

- What looks like Government departments sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails tricking you into opening malicious attachments and to reveal sensitive personal and financial details.

FALSE - government agencies will not ask you to provide that information through a link, never click on an attachment or link if the email was not anticipated and you don't know the sender.

- Financial advisers pressuring people to invest in hot new stocks related to the disease offering financial aid and/or loans to help you get through the shut downs.

FALSE - unsolicited calls offering too good to be true stock/investment advice ARE too good to be true and FALSE.

- Door-to-door sales people selling household decontamination services, 'special' filters, masks, gloves, etc.

FALSE

- Private companies offering fake COVID-19 tests for sale.

FALSE - while there are some under development and one may be in use in the US shortly, there is controlled distribution and not door to door or over the phone.

