

For Immediate Release

**KNOW ABOUT A FRAUDULENT CRIME? THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF CASES,
AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS LOST, EACH YEAR IN CANADA**

Report your fraud tip to Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers and remain anonymous

Vancouver, B.C. (March 22, 2021) - Fraud remains one of the most troublesome and persistent crimes for Canadians, costing us millions of dollars each year.

Canada's Top 10 Frauds (by number of reports in 2020 – [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#))

1. Extortion	17,390
2. Identity fraud	16,970
3. Personal information	6,649
4. Phishing	3,672
5. Merchandise	3,354
6. Victim vendor (payment scam)	2,320
7. Job scams	2,297
8. Service oriented	2,009
9. Spear phishing (targeting business)	1,049
10. Emergency (fraudulent calls)	924

In addition to the tens of thousands of fraud cases reported each year, many more go unreported. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers encourages you to anonymously report what you know about any incident of fraud to them if you don't want to be identified, or fear giving out your name to anyone.

- Canadians lost \$106.4 million to fraud in 2020, \$62.6 million of which was related to online fraud.
- 11,789 Canadians have lost \$7.2 million to COVID-19 related fraud since March last year.
- Canadians lost \$18.5 million to a growing number of romance scams in 2020; fraudsters targeting victims by offering companionship or love online during the pandemic.
- In just the first two months of 2021, 7,646 Canadians have already lost \$34.6 million to all manner of fraud.

“Those who commit these kinds of crimes are rarely amateurs and know how to prey on people's fears,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers.

(more)

“March is Fraud Prevention Month in Canada and it’s a good time to remind everyone that no one can identify who you are when you call Crime Stoppers anonymously with information that could lead to these criminals being found and arrested. We’re available 24/7, we can take your information in 115 languages and you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$5000.”

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers’ downloadable **“P3” app for Apple and Android phones**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-855-448-8477 (new number)** or **1-800-222-8477**, online at solvecrime.ca, or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#). Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards. Find MVCS on Twitter: [@solvecrime](https://twitter.com/solvecrime).

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