

For Immediate Release

**A RISING TIDE OF SCAMS TARGETING SENIORS, AND OTHER FORMS OF ELDER ABUSE  
ARE CRIMES, AND MAY BE REPORTED TO CRIME STOPPERS ANONYMOUSLY**

*This is BC Seniors Week June 1-7*

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (June 1, 2026):** Abuse of elderly people is one of the most underreported crimes in Canada, and scams like online and telephone fraud are leaving some seniors increasingly concerned.

**BC Seniors Week (June 1-7)** is a time to recognize the contributions of our senior citizens and help protect them from an increasing number of scams and organized fraud designed to take advantage of seniors who might not be proficient in operating computers and mobile devices.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers works year-round with seniors to create awareness with its *“See Something, Say Something” Elder Abuse Awareness Program*. Presentations are offered at retirement homes, regional community centres, strata councils, anywhere where seniors may gather to let them know they don’t have to suffer from any abuse in silence.

“At our presentations, we’re hearing increasingly from seniors about scams that target them,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “This and many other forms of elder abuse are considered a form of violence against some of our most vulnerable citizens. It’s a cowardly act and we want to emphasize that Crime Stoppers can help if you have information about someone committing any form of elder abuse. Your tip to us will remain ANONYMOUS.

“Crime Stoppers has operators who accept tips around the clock in 115 languages including Punjabi, Hindi, Mandarin and Cantonese,” Annis adds. “Metro Vancouver is home to many immigrant families which may result in language and cultural barriers that can hinder immigrant seniors especially from reporting abuse. You don’t have to speak English or French to get help.”

**HELPING SENIORS STAY SAFE**

The [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) lists a number of ways everyone, including seniors, can protect themselves from fraud attempts including:

**Hanging up on high-pressure sales tactics**

If a telemarketer tries to get you to buy something or to send them money right away, request information in writing or hang up.

**Doing your research**

Always verify that alleged charities or collection agencies that call you are legitimate before sending money to anyone. If you receive a call from someone who claims a family member is in trouble, talk to other family members to confirm the situation.

**Never giving out personal information**

Beware of unsolicited callers who ask you for personal information, especially Social Insurance Numbers or banking information. If you didn't initiate the call, you don't know who you're talking to.

**Being wary of upfront fees**

Many fraud attempts ask you to pay fees in advance of receiving goods, services, or a prize.

**Protecting your computer from viruses and spyware**

Don't click on urgent-looking messages that pop up while browsing online. Do not respond or click on a link in emails from strangers or with spelling and formatting errors. Make sure you have anti-virus software installed.

**Being careful who you share images with**

Disable your webcam or any other camera connected to the internet when you aren't using it. Hackers could get remote access and record you.

**Protecting your online accounts**

Create a strong password with at least eight characters including upper- and lower-case letters, and at least one number and a symbol. Creating unique passwords for every online account including social networks, emails, financial and other accounts. Enable multi-factor authentication.

**Recognizing spoofing**

Never assume that phone numbers appearing on your call display are accurate. Hang up and contact the company or agency directly when someone claims to be contacting you from your financial institution, service provider, law enforcement or government agency.

**About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers**

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators. Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers' downloadable **"P3" smartphone app**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477**, online at [solvecrime.ca](http://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 an arrest, a charge, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns, or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Find MVCS on X: [@solvecrime](#), Instagram: [metrovancovercrimestoppers](#) and You Tube: [@metrovancovercrimestoppers](#).

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## **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

### **ELDER ABUSE IN ITS MOST COMMON FORMS**

#### **Emotional or psychological abuse**

- Withholding basic rights and privileges
- Restricting freedom to socialize with others
- Denying a safe secure environment
- Removing decisions making powers
- Bullying - insults, threats, intimidation, yelling, ignoring and isolation.

#### **Financial abuse**

- Withholding, misusing, exploiting funds and assets
- Selling property or using funds without the owner's consent
- Forcing elders to alter a will, or abuse power of attorney.

#### **Physical or sexual abuse and neglect**

- Acts of violence and other ways to coerce elderly victims
- Depriving them of life essentials
- Using medication to incapacitate them
- Locking seniors in their homes
- Not providing adequate hygiene or meeting personal care needs.

#### **Recognizing Abuse in Seniors**

- Physical signs such as fractures, bruising or burns; unusual patterns/location of injury
- Signs of being unkempt or not well nourished
- History of unexplained accidents or injuries
- Behaviours that provoke fear of violence, isolation or diminish dignity or self-worth
- Lack of money for necessities when income appears to be adequate
- Sudden withdrawal of money; unexplained or forced changes to legal documents such as property titles, wills, powers of attorney or representation agreements
- Excluded from social gatherings, inaccessible to family members or long-term friends
- Being agitated, anxious or fearful of being alone with a specific person
- Change in social patterns, interactions and buying habits.