

Beware of the Fraudsters!

Tax Scams Targeting Older Adults

Fraudsters impersonate the real Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) by telephone or by email, looking for your identification or asking that outstanding taxes be paid by a money service business or by pre-paid debit/credit cards. There are two variations:

1. There is message by phone or email from the "CRA" claiming there is a refund pending. In order for the recipient to receive the refund they must provide personal information (Driver's license, Social Insurance number, credit card information etc).
2. Seniors receive a notification by phone or email that they owe "back taxes" as the result of an audit. The criminal demands payment must be made immediately to avoid further action. The criminals will report that there is an outstanding warrant that can be avoided if the payment is made promptly. In many cases, seniors are told they will be deported, threatened with jail time, threatened with the police and/or collection agencies if the taxes are not paid right away. They demand a money transfer or credit card information. **THE CRA DOES NOT OPERATE THIS WAY.**

Prevention Tips

- Do not take immediate action. Ask for their name, employee number and phone number
- Contact the CRA to confirm that you owe back taxes or are entitled to a refund. If you owe back tax only pay at the bank.
- Contact someone you trust, a family member, a service provider and ask for help verifying the claim that you owe back taxes