

Canada Revenue Agency

Alert

Beware of telephone and email scams

Ottawa, Ontario, February 27, 2015... The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) warns you to beware of telephone calls or emails that claim to be from the CRA but are **not**. These are phishing and other fraudulent scams that could result in identity and financial theft.

You should be especially aware of phishing scams asking for information such as credit card, bank account, and passport numbers. The CRA would never ask for this type of information. Some of these scams ask for this personal information directly, and others refer to a website resembling the CRA's, where you are asked to confirm your identity by entering personal information. You should not click on links included in these emails. Email scams may also contain embedded malicious software that can harm your computer and put your personal information at risk.

Some recent telephone scams involve threatening or forceful language to scare you into paying fictitious debt to the CRA. If you get such a call, hang up and report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre —see contact information below.

Some recent email scams involve telling you that you are entitled to a refund of a specific amount or telling you that your tax assessment has been verified and you are getting a tax refund. These emails often have CRA logos or Internet links that look official. Some contain obvious grammar or spelling mistakes.

These types of communication are not from the CRA. When the CRA calls you, it has established procedures in place to make sure your personal information is protected. If you want to confirm the authenticity of a CRA telephone number, call the CRA by using the numbers on its [Telephone numbers](#) page. The number for business-related calls is

1-800-959-5525 1-800-959-5525 FREE . The number for calls about individual concerns is 1-800-959-8281 1-800-959-8281 FREE .

To help you identify possible scams, you can use the following guidelines:

The CRA:

- **never** asks for information about your passport, health card, or driver's licence;
- **never** shares your taxpayer information with another person, unless you have provided the appropriate authorization; and
- **never** leaves personal information on your answering machine or asks you to leave a message containing your personal information on an answering machine.

When in doubt, ask yourself the following:

- Am I expecting money from the CRA?

- Does this sound too good to be true?
- Is the requester asking for information I would not include with my tax return?
- Is the requester asking for information I know the CRA already has on file for me?
- How did the requester get my email address or telephone number?
- Am I confident I know who is asking for the information?
- Is there a reason that the CRA may be calling? Do I have a tax balance outstanding?

The CRA has strong practices to protect the confidentiality of taxpayer information. The confidence and trust that individuals and businesses have in the CRA is a cornerstone of Canada's tax system. For more information about the security of taxpayer information and other examples of fraudulent communications, go to www.cra.gc.ca/security.

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

For information on scams, to report deceptive telemarketing, or if you have given personal or financial information unwittingly, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

online at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca or toll free at 1-888-495-8501 1-888-495-8501 FREE .

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For media information:

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