

## Protecting Yourself and Others

- Don't be afraid to say no
- Be alert to the fact that scams exist
- Know who you are dealing with
- Don't respond to suspicious texts or pop up windows. Delete immediately!
- Avoid pressure
- Stay safe online
- Be careful when shopping online
- Keep personal information secure
- Choose all passwords carefully
- Keep mobile devices and computers protected
- Review your privacy and security settings on social media
- Be careful who you share images with
- Never send intimate photos or videos of yourself
- Protect your online accounts
- Protect your Social Insurance Number
- Check your credit report regularly

## RESOURCES

### Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

If you suspect or are experiencing a fraud/scam, report it.

**1-888-495-8501**

[www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

### Competition Bureau

File a complaint about a false or misleading advertising

**1-800-348-5358**

[www.competitionbureau.gc.ca](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca)

### Crime Stoppers

Report crimes anonymously.

**1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**

[www.canadiancrimestoppers.org](http://www.canadiancrimestoppers.org)

### Seniors Safety Line (SLL)

A 24/7 crisis and support line for seniors, available in over 200 languages.

**1-866-299-1011**

[www.awhl.org/seniors](http://www.awhl.org/seniors)



**Elder Abuse  
Prevention  
Ontario**

For more information

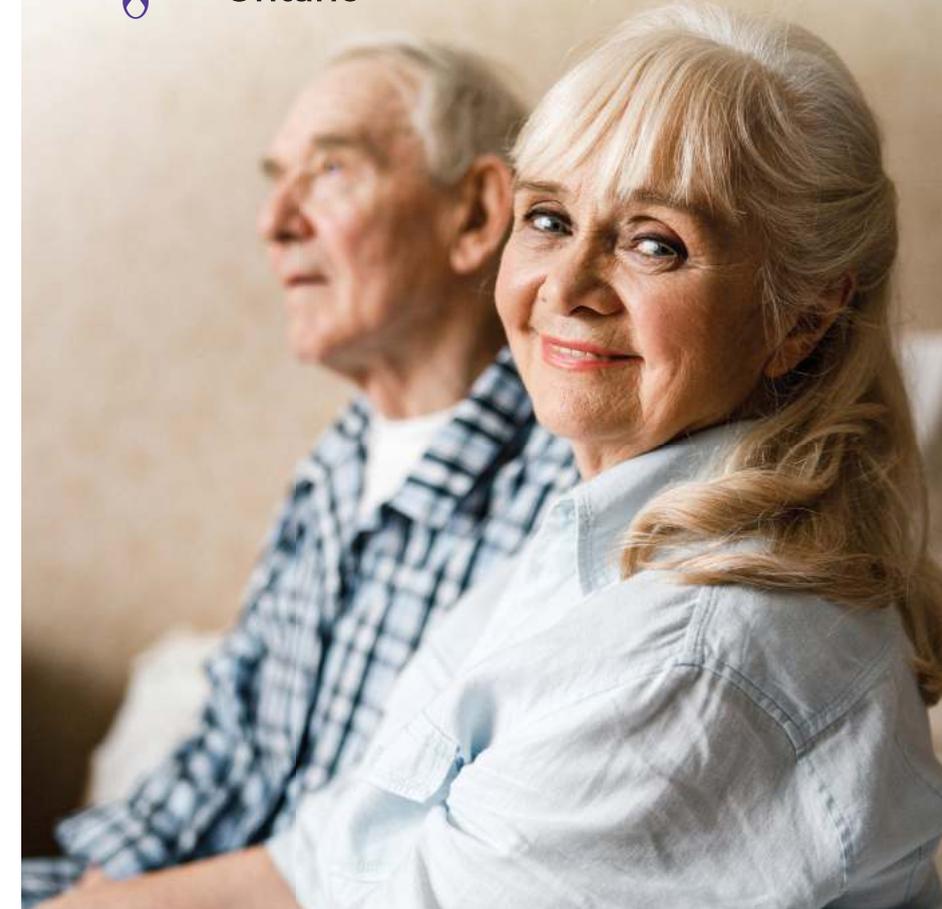
**Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario**

416-916-6728 | [www.eapon.ca](http://www.eapon.ca)

[admin@eapon.ca](mailto:admin@eapon.ca) | [@EAPreventionON](https://www.instagram.com/EAPreventionON)



**Elder Abuse  
Prevention  
Ontario**



# Protecting Each Other From Scams

## Preventing Scams

We all deserve to feel safe as we age, but currently older adults report higher rates of scams than younger populations. This is an injustice that we can all prevent and address through awareness, social support, and reporting.

These scams not only impact the individuals who experience theft, but also the broader community. Lost incomes from scams can compromise a person's standard of living, especially when we are older and may be living on a fixed income. It can also cause physical and emotional stress which can cost our broader society in healthcare and social service costs.

### Know the Signs

- The communication is unexpected.
- The request makes you feel pressured to act immediately.
- You are asked to send the money via wire transfer service, courier, E-Transfer or prepaid cards.
- You receive bills from companies you did not sign up for.
- You receive unsolicited emails from individuals or organizations prompting you to click on an attachment or link.
- You are told you are lucky and that such offers are rare.

- You are offered prizes or cash.
- Calls or emails claiming to be from the government that ask you to pay money.
- You are asked not to discuss the purchase/offer details with others, so the scam is not discovered by family members, neighbours, etc.

### Types of Scams

**Telemarketing Fraud:** Hiding behind anonymity, this scam involves pretending to work for a legitimate business to request personal and financial information.

**Identity Theft:** Someone steals your personal information for criminal purposes. Theft can be done by mail theft, phishing, or computer spyware. claiming fraudulent activity with your credit card. By invoking fear this scam obtains the necessary information to exploit one's identity.

**Prize Scam:** Someone offers a prize such as money or a car, but you must submit a payment to cover costs such as taxes or shipping in order to obtain the prize.

**Romance:** A scammer convinces you to enter a virtual, online relationship so they can gain your trust and affection. This can occur through email, fake profiles on social media and dating sites. Eventually, they may ask you for money for travel, a medical emergency or family assistance – making it seem urgent or like an emergency.

### What Can We Do?

A just society preserves the safety and dignity of all its members, across the lifespan, but scams are more common than we think. Education about scams is important for protecting each other, but there are other solutions we can take.

Society is like a structure. A structure needs multiple beams to support and hold it steady and strong. Like structures, we need multiple support beams to help keep us safe from harms like scams. We need education, but we also need social support and reporting.

Research has shown that social support can reduce the risk factors associated with scams, so we should recognize the significance of social settings like libraries, parks, and community centres in protecting communities. When we are given opportunities to socialize and engage in our communities, there are more opportunities for people to spot scam signs, prevent it and intervene.

Supporting older adults after they have experienced scams can also go a long way. If we listen to their experiences, we can validate their feelings and make them feel more open to reporting. **We all have a role to play in preventing and addressing elder abuse. Let's all do our part.**