

Toronto Police Service
News release



40 College Street • Toronto, ON • M5G 2J3

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Four arrests made in a telemarketing ring investigation

Broadcast time: 10:53
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Fraud Squad
416-808-7300

The Toronto Strategic Partnership in Deceptive Telemarketing have made four arrests in a telemarketing ring investigation.

On Monday, September 26, 2005, search warrants were executed at two Toronto telemarketing locations, which resulted in the telemarketing rooms being shut down. At the same time, another telemarketing room in Calgary was simultaneously shut down by the Alberta Partnership during a search warrant.

The Toronto Strategic Partnership is a multi-law enforcement agency response to Mass Marketing Fraud. It includes the TPS Fraud Squad, Ontario Provincial Police, Phonebusters, York Regional Police Service, RCMP-GTA Commercial Crime Section, Competition Bureau, Ministry of Government Services formerly MCBS, Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.K. Office of Fair Trading.

It is alleged that:

- from 2002 through to 2005, a telemarketing scheme was set up and perpetuated in Canada,
- the targeted victims were mainly United States citizens,
- the investigation was of entities and persons carrying on business as, but not limited to, the following business names: Centurion Financial Benefits, Guardian Financial Benefits, Spectra Financial Benefits, Integra Financial Benefits, Sureway Financial Benefits, Simple Choice Financial Benefits, Oxford Financial Benefits and Prosperica Benefits
- United States consumers were contacted through direct telephone communications and/or through the Internet and were offered a guaranteed unsecured credit card with a credit limit of \$2,000
- the unsecured low interest credit cards had 0% interest on purchases and no annual fees. To complete the sale, some consumers were persuaded to divulge their bank account information so that an advance fee of approximately \$249 (USD) could be withdrawn from their account.
- consumers made the payment and no credit cards were received.

It is believed that in excess of 70,000 consumers were victimized, involving millions of dollars (USD).

Arrested and charged with Fraud over \$5,000:

1. Eric Folgora 34, of Mississauga.
2. Sean Carlos Somma 30, of Toronto.
3. Antonio Marchese 42, of Bolton.
4. Claire–Stephanie Tan 35, of Toronto.

They were scheduled to appear at the College Park Provincial Courts, 444 Yonge Street, in room 501, on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, at 10 a.m.

The investigation is ongoing and further arrests are anticipated.

For more information, please contact Detective Sergeant Joe Zwambag at 416–808–7325 or Detective Garry Hickey at 416–808–7324.

The Toronto Strategic Partnership assisted the Competition Bureau of Canada last week, in closing down another telemarketing room –“Pacific Liberty” which was running a similar scam.

For further details refer to the web site of: www.competitionbureau.gc.ca

Constable Isabelle Cotton, Corporate Communications, for Detective Sergeant Scott Bronson,
Fraud Squad