

Information

Back by popular demand: Manitoba's Top 10 List of Scams

WINNIPEG, March 8, 2006 -- Law enforcement in Manitoba has teamed up again this year to highlight the most common types of fraud targeting consumers throughout the province. The Competition Bureau, the RCMP "D" Division, the Winnipeg Police Service and the Manitoba Consumers' Bureau have compiled a **Top 10 List of Scams** in an effort to help Manitobans recognize, report and stop fraud:

Deceptive Prize Notices / 900 Scams

Employment Opportunities

Pyramid Schemes

Identity Theft

Advance Fee (West African / Loans)

Cheque Overpayment

False Charities

Office Supplies / Directories

Phishing

Recovery Pitch

March has been designated Fraud Prevention Month by the Fraud Prevention Forum (FPF). The FPF, which is chaired by the Competition Bureau, is a concerned group of 75 private sector firms, consumer and volunteer groups, government agencies and law enforcement organizations, who are committed to fighting fraud aimed at consumers and businesses.

The best way to avoid becoming a victim of fraud is through education and awareness:

- Shred any unwanted personal documents.
- Don't provide confidential information over the phone, such as credit card or bank account numbers.
- Never send money to collect a prize. If it's really a prize, it should be free.
- Make sure you read and understand the "fine print".
- Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!



Other initiatives for Manitobans to watch out for during Fraud Prevention Month:

- Brown Bag Lunch Safety Seminar at the Millennium Library in Winnipeg on March 15 featuring law enforcement officials who will educate the public on how to recognize, report and stop fraud;
- Winnipeg is one of 19 cities across Canada participating in the first ever National Community Shredding Event on March 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Winnipeg Police Service District 6 Police Station;
- Manitoba Consumers' Bureau will launch an ID theft Web site later this month.

To learn more about the Fraud Prevention Forum, including the complete list of FPF partners, visit www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/fraud.

For more information, please contact:

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