

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Internet Security Statement

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Government) provides Internet services by which people may transact business with Government and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador on-line. Outlined below are the security measures we have taken to protect customer information, including credit card data.

Encryption of Information

This website uses an encryption method known as SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), the industry standard security protocol. Encryption is the process of scrambling data into an unreadable format that is more secure for transmission over the Internet. SSL first verifies the identity of the secure site with an electronic certificate. It then provides a secure connection to prevent information from interception and misuse. In short, information is encrypted at the originating computer and is not de-encrypted until it reaches its destination.

To enable confidentiality and security, Government and the Office of High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador will not conduct a transaction with a customer unless their Internet browser (such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer) has at least a 128-bit level of encryption. To determine the level of encryption that your browser has, see the section below called "Determining Your Encryption Level".

Storage of Information

As a further precaution, once a transaction request is received by Government and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador, customer information is maintained on a segregated server, protected by a firewall. Credit card information will not be stored anywhere at the Government's and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador's website. Firewalls use features to protect the server from external security threats. Therefore, Government also has a high level of confidence in the security of information actually received by Government and stored behind the firewall.

Security Assessments

Government and the Office of High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador perform regular security assessments on its websites to keep security policies current. Government and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador will upgrade their computer environment as necessary to keep pace with emerging technologies.

Liability

Although unlikely, it is technically possible that encrypted data sent over the Internet can be accessed. Consequently, Government and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador cannot warrant that credit card or other customer information sent over the World Wide Web will be free of unauthorized interception. Therefore, Government and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador shall not be liable for any losses incurred due to unauthorized interception of credit card numbers or other customer information.

Determining your Encryption Level

Netscape and Microsoft browsers are equipped with the capacity to send and receive encrypted information over a secure Internet link. Government and the Office of the High Sheriff of Newfoundland and Labrador enforces 128-bit encryption, the highest level of encryption available today. You can check your browser's level of encryption by following the steps below. This process may vary depending on the version of browser you have installed.

Netscape Communicator/Navigator

Click the Security button and then click Open Page Info. Security information is in the bottom half of the Document info window.

Internet Explorer

Click the Help and then About Internet Explorer.

Confirmation that your computer is communicating with a server in secure mode using SSL

When accessing a server which uses SSL, a browser in secure mode will display a website address beginning "https://", rather than the standard "http://". The "s" stands for "secure." Most browsers in secure mode also display a blue line along the top of the browser window. In Netscape Navigator (versions 3.0 and earlier), the broken key symbol in the lower left corner of your browser window will become a solid key in secure mode. If you're using Netscape Communicator 4.0, look for the padlock in the same space: it's open in standard mode and closed in secure mode. In Microsoft's Internet Explorer«, you'll see a padlock symbol at the bottom of your browser window when the browser is in secure mode.