

THE INVESTIGATOR



About Us

Since 2000 BCSI has performed hundreds of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted in a timely fashion with leading edge techniques.

BCSI is considered the platinum standard of the industry based on the quality and the wide spectrum of its services as well as the expertise of the investigators.

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Scammers Targeting the Elderly in Tax Season

Tax season is upon us and with it comes the onslaught of scam artists hoping to trick unsuspecting elders into turning over their life savings. A phone call from the CRA can make anyone nervous without the added pressure of someone on the other end who's well versed in manipulation. This can be extremely tough on the elderly community who are often quicker to trust someone who says they are from the government.

Firstly, all communication from the CRA will be accompanied by formal mail so, if you receive any phone or electronic communication, but have not received a written letter regarding the same, you can be sure that further investigation is required.

The Government of Canada [website](#) has provided the following guidelines to identify a legitimate CRA agent on the phone:

The CRA may:

- verify your identity by asking for personal information such as your full name, date of birth, address and account, or social insurance number
- ask for details about your account, in the case of a business enquiry
- call you to begin an audit process

The CRA will never:

- ask for information about your passport, health card or driver's license
- demand immediate payment by Interac, e-transfer, bitcoin, prepaid credit cards or gift cards from retailers such as iTunes, Amazon, or others
- use aggressive language or threaten you with arrest or sending the police
- leave voicemails that are threatening or give personal or financial information

Once they have been defrauded, seniors are often too embarrassed to say anything and somehow feel it was their fault that the [fraud](#) happened. In some cases, seniors have fragile health issues or some level of diminished capacity, including failing memories, which make the fraud harder to prove. A conversation with elderly parents can go along way in preventing the devastating experience of being scammed. Discuss with them some common CRA scammer tactics and even rehearse with them how to protect themselves from potentially problematic scenarios. Ask to be involved in any major financial transactions and above all keep lines of communication open. When in doubt, hang up and call the CRA directly at 1-800-959-5525 to discuss your account. If there is a problem, they will be able to address it and if there isn't, you may have just avoided losing a lot of money.

If you or a loved one has been a victim of a CRA scam or want to learn more about prevention, we can help! Contact us at 604-922-6572 or visit our website at www.picanada.ca.

Contact Us

Please contact our offices at **604-922-6572** or by email at info@picanada.ca, we would be happy to speak with you.



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