



THE INVESTIGATOR

Romance Scams



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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[Online dating](#) and social media play a large role in how society finds love today, making romance scams a popular method for fraudsters to entrap their victims. According to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#), the reported loss from romance scams in Canada was just under \$25 million in 2018.

The devastating stories of [romance scams](#) are in the news more frequently while the financial loss to its victims are becoming even more substantial. According to a recent story on [Global News](#), a B.C woman, who's name has not been released to the public, lost nearly a million dollars after getting caught in a romance scam that ended with her tragically taking her own life. After meeting a man named "Ryan" online who said he worked overseas on an oil rig in Kuwait, their relationship quickly escalated. Within only days of talking online, "Ryan" claimed to have fallen madly in love and the two spoke quickly of marriage. There was one catch, "Ryan" was claiming to have money problems, apparently his bank accounts were tied up and he needed her help. "Ryan" and the woman had never met in person or spoken on video chat over the 22-month period they were involved. As "Ryan" kept requesting money, the romance turned into intimidation and she began receiving threats. The woman's sister believes there were multiple [scammers](#) involved. The romance scam claimed \$960,000 of the woman's money and left her with nothing. As a result, she took her own life at the age of 61.

Signs of a Scam

Scammers often have a seemingly "perfect" profile. Good looking, charming and successful, the exterior almost seems too good to be true and in most cases, it probably is. The conversation will often move into talk of love, marriage, and the idea of "trust" quickly. They will begin manipulating their victim's emotions by playing on their hopes and dreams and by saying exactly what they want to hear. If you've met on a third-party website, the fraudster may also prefer to change the form of communication to that of text or email. Be wary when the person your chatting with consistently avoids meeting in person or using video chat. If the person you are communicating with claims to be local but has poor spelling or grammar or uses phrases that don't make sense, that's a red flag. Before moving on to asking you for money, the scammer may hint at financial troubles, money "tied up" in an investment, or they may share a sad story from their past. Of course, the most obvious red flag of them all is the actual request for money in any shape or form.

If you have been a victim of a [romance scam](#) or know someone who is, we can help! Contact us at 604-922-6572 or visit our website at www.picanada.ca to learn more.

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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