



The Investigator Newsletter

Online Christmas Scams



As Christmas is coming up, it is known to be one of the busiest and most joyful times of the year! Consequently, although the holidays can be great, we must be mindful of the rise of online scams and cybercriminals that tag along with the hustle and bustle of the season.

About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted promptly with leading-edge techniques.

With over 40 years of combined experience, BCSI Investigations Inc. is the platinum standard for private investigations.

What is a Christmas Scam?

Christmas scams are fraudulent activities, which take place during the holiday season to victimize unsuspecting holiday shoppers. The goal of these scams is to gain sensitive personal information from victims, which can later be used to commit crimes such as identity theft, fraudulent online transactions with stolen credit card information, or attempts to access bank accounts. These scams can appear in multiple different forms as listed down below.

- **Fake website scams** create websites that look almost identical to official websites; however, these fake websites tend to contain suspicious URLs, errors/typos, or incorrect customer service contact information.
- **Gift-Giving Pyramid Scheme** which may seem like gift-giving/trading Christmas activities; however, they are illegal pyramid schemes.

Contact us at 604-922-6572 or visit our website at www.picanada.ca to learn more.

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Website

- **Travel Phishing** scammers attempt to entice eager vacation seekers during the holiday season by offering too-good-to-be-true vacation deals.
- **Fake Job Posting** scammers pretend to be employers with the aim of “looking to hire” eager and unsuspecting job searchers, whom they will then “give you the job” if you hand over your personal information.
- **The Grandparent** scammers cruelly call older individuals and/or grandparents, claiming that their grandchild or other young family member needs help and is urgently requesting money. In the end, elderly victims may send the money over to the cybercriminal and never see that money again.

BCSI has undertaken numerous cases involving cyber crimes such as fraud or enticement leading to fraud. If you or anyone you know has been a victim, please contact us for a free consultation with one of our experienced investigators at 604-922-6572 or via email at info@picanada.ca.



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