

ANISHINABEK POLICE SERVICE

1436 Highway 17B • Garden River, Ontario • P6A 6Z1 • Tel. 705-946-2539 • Fax 705-946-2589

Beausoleil First Nation

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging
Anishinaabek

Curve Lake First Nation

Dokis First Nation

Fort William First Nation

Garden River First
Nation

Ginoogaming First Nation

Kettle & Stony Point
First Nation

Magnetawan First Nation

Nipissing First Nation

Pic Moberg First Nation

Sagamok Anishinabek

Shawanaga First Nation

Wahnapiatae First Nation

Wasauksing First Nation

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM: Anishinabek Police Service

DATE: April 20, 2020

CRIMINALS PREY ON YOUR FEAR DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

Protect Yourself From COVID-19 Related Scams

The Anishinabek Police Service the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Anti-Rackets Branch and the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) (CAFC) say COVID-19 related scams are ploys to extort money and personal information from fearful, trusting victims.

As COVID-19 continues to spread across Ontario and Canada, fraudsters are taking advantage of citizens' fear during uncertain times. Fraudsters are exploiting this pandemic to facilitate fraud through cybercrime and any other means to obtain your information.

Police are seeing various scenarios but most are the typical urgency and time sensitive circumstances that criminals place on individuals in order to receive personal and financial information. Many of the reports have a medically related theme in order to instantly set further anxiety in order to gain information. From spoofed government, healthcare or research companies to unsolicited calls, emails and texts giving medical advice or requesting urgent personal information, scammers are looking at gaining information about you during these times.

According to information received by the CAFC, some of the more popular scams are:

- Cleaning or heating companies offering duct cleaning services or air filters to protect from COVID-19
- Local and provincial hydro/electrical power companies threatening to disconnect your power for non-payment
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization offering fake lists for sale of COVID-19 infected people in your neighbourhood
- Public Health Agency of Canada giving false results saying you have been tested positive for COVID-19 tricking you into confirming your health card and credit card numbers for a prescription
- Red Cross and other known charities offering free medical products (e.g. masks) for a donation
- Government departments sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails tricking you into opening malicious attachments tricking you to reveal sensitive personal and financial details.

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Beausoleil First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial advisors pressuring people to invest in hot new stocks related to the disease offering financial aid and/or loans to help you get through the shut downs.
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg	Private companies offering fast COVID-19 tests for sale
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Only health care providers can perform the testsNo other tests are genuine or guaranteed to provide accurate resultsselling fraudulent products that claim to treat or prevent the diseaseUnapproved drugs threaten public health and violate federal laws
Curve Lake First Nation	TIPS
Dokis First Nation	<p>If you were using your computer when you were scammed, it's possible a virus or malicious software was installed on your computer. Run a full system check using reliable security software. If you do not have security software such as virus scanners and a firewall installed on your computer, a trusted computer professional can help you choose what you need. Scammers may have also gained access to your online passwords or other personal information. Change these using a secure computer. If you paid someone by credit card or through an electronic funds transfer, contact your financial institution or credit card company immediately. They may be able to stop or reverse the transaction.</p> <p>Learn more from trusted resources and advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Government of Canada COVID-19 health, financial and security resourcesRefer to Financial Consumer Agency of Canada COVID-19 informationReference the latest health information from these legitimate sources:Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (Public Health Agency of Canada)Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak (World Health Organization)Contact your insurance provider to answer any health insurance benefits questions <p>If you or someone you know suspect they've been a victim of a COVID 19 related scam or any other scam, contact your local police service. You can file a complaint through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website or by phone at 1-888-495-8501.</p> <p>"Recognize, Reject and Report Fraud"</p>
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Magnetawan First Nation	
Nipissing First Nation	
Pic Moberg First Nation	
Sagamok Anishinabek	
Shawanaga First Nation	Thanks to Detective Sergeant Ted SCHENDERA - OPP Anti-Rackets Branch ted.schendera@opp.ca
Wahnapiitae First Nation	
Wasauksing First Nation	