



Abbotsford Police Department

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"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE # 2009 – 31516, 31535 RELEASE # 1

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Incident: Scams and Scam Artist

Abbotsford – August 26, 2009.

The release serves as a reminder to the public to be alert to potential scams and frauds that take place regularly through letters, telephone calls, electronic device communications and direct personal contact.

They are all variations on general themes. Three of these general themes are: that despite tremendous odds you have been fortunate enough to have won some cash or a prize but need to forward money in order to obtain it; that there is an urgent need for you to respond to a communication from a person apparently known to you in some way (at your expense for the exorbitantly priced return communication); or, that your generosity, civic duty or goodwill is required by someone collecting for a bogus cause, or pretending to be a banking official/investigator, or who is in the middle of a crisis that requires your immediate financial assistance.

In the last month in Abbotsford we have had numerous examples of the last category. A man is targeting "good Samaritans", usually seniors, by approaching them and requesting rides and money because he has locked his keys in his car or needs to get his car back from a tow company. He obtains between \$40 and \$80 from the victims and leaves the impression that he will return the funds. In one instance he obtained the home address of the victim under the guise that he would repay the funds via cheque. Instead, he attended the home and extracted even more money from the victim. The suspect in these incidents is a 41 year old, Caucasian man, 5'9", 180 pounds with brown hair and sometimes wears glasses. The man appears to be targeting people in the Clearbrook Road and South Fraser Way corridors.

For more information about Frauds and Scams the public is encouraged to refer to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Centre - Phone Busters. Their website is www.phonebusters.com.

*Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

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