



Abbotsford Police Department

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Bob Rich
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"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE #

RELEASE # 1

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Incident: "Grandparent" and Employment Frauds Revisited

Abbotsford – November 28, 2012.

In recent weeks the Abbotsford Police Department has received an increased number of fraud and attempted fraud reports. The frauds are essentially variations on familiar themes but the specifics are particularly troubling to citizens in Canada, the United States and to the APD.

Many individuals will be aware of the "Grandparent" scam. This is where a fraudster researches and locates a target that is generally older and has family members who can be easily identified through Social Media and open source data searches. The fraudster poses as a person in authority who is dealing with the relative and the target is asked to provide funds through money transfer in order to help their loved one. The unique twist this November is that the people receiving calls appear to live in the southern United States and the caller purports to be affiliated with the Abbotsford Police Department. The fraudster claims that a money transfer is required to establish bail money to release the relative from custody.

Another resurgent scam involves the promise of a job. An Abbotsford resident will respond to an employment advertisement. They will then receive an email advising them that they were the successful applicant for the job and their first paycheck will arrive in the mail with further instructions. The cheque will arrive and be in excess of the agreed weekly wage. The new employee is instructed to cash the cheque and to transfer the remaining funds back to an orphanage/medical facility/etc. in Africa.

Both of these frauds obviously strike close to home despite the fact the calls originate from locations outside of North America. We believe the most effective approach to these frauds is prevention through increased awareness. Please discuss these frauds with friends and family members.

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

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