

NSCCC

MONDAY MEETING

Location: Newton Senior Center

Date: 05/04/2026 @ 1:00pm

Attendees: 40 members

Chairperson: Vicci Burnett

Speaker: Margarett Lange

House Keeping

1. Alta called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and reminded members that they should have scanned your membership cards at the front desk as you came in to check in. This is how the City keeps track of how the attendance are at various centres. There has been talking about eliminating the last senior center in Surrey. If you don't scan your card, we are going to lose the centre, so it is REALLY IMPORTANT to do that.
2. Please silent your smartphone.
3. We have 1 new member today.
 1. Athena read the minutes of April 27th Topics: Apple iPhone, iPad, YouTube Podcasts, Online Music.
 4. No errors or omissions noted. Seconded by Vicci.
 5. Reminder to save the date for AGM is at 1:00 pm on Monday, June 1st. There will be computer related door prices. All executive positions will be open for nominations. Alta will step aside and withdraw his name from any nomination after 4 years of services. Encourage someone else should step up and take a turn at supporting our president and chairperson. We will also need a nominating chair for that AGM meeting on June 1st.
 6. BBQ is at 11:00am on Monday June 8th in a Hazelnut Meadows Community Park on 70th Avenue. We will have 2 barbeque machines. We will need some chefs, choppers, volunteers to set up, clean up, etc. **Cost is \$7.00**. Athena will collect your \$7.00 starting in May.
 7. Linda Yauk will be the next week speaker, she is from Seniors First BC, formerly known as the BC Centre for Elder Advocacy & Support.

Main topic started around 13:10pm

Topic: Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers is celebrating its 50th anniversary and it has been around in the lower mainland around 42 years.

Crime Stoppers is anonymous tip line where we need information about crime from the public. And that information is then forwarded to the appropriate departments for investigation.

Crime Stoppers is a completely independent non-profit organization where we take information about crimes from the past, present, and the future. We operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, where you will always talk to a lot of human being. We also offer translation services and more than 115 different languages. In order to keep you anonymous, we never ask your name, your phone number, we don't use caller ID, and we do not track IP addresses. So before your information is forwarded to the appropriate departments, our tip Atlas will block out any information that can be used to identify you.

There are three ways that you can leave a tip. We have a website, a mobile app, and a phone line. So our website is solvecrime.ca, and if you have any information about a crime, you can visit this website and we don't track IP addresses. We have their mobile app, which is called **P3 Tips**, and this works for IOS and Android mobile. and we also have our phone number **1-800-222-8477** where you will talk to a live operator 27 and we do offer translation services.

In terms of stats, last year we received more than 5,000 tips, and 35 charges were laid and 15 arrests were made.



So this equals to solving crime every 14 minutes with the help of Crime Stoppers tipsters. So for demographics, over eight million on Canadians over the age of 65, make up 20% of Canada's population. Those 50 over have about 80% of the wealth to target rich demographic. So Elder, is not a specific crime in Canada, but it is included in the criminal code under assault, fraud, forgery, and theft. And we predict that 78% of seniors will experience financial abuses and 8% of the seniors will not know which support services are available to them and if they wanted to report. Over 112,000 Canadian seniors have recorded being targeted by scammers last year and we lost over 74 million to fraud and Cyber scams.

Common Scams

Grandparent Emergency Scams is very common for seniors. Scammer will pretend to be a family member who is in distress or a police officer claiming that a loved one is in trouble. So we should end the call immediately when you are suspicious and you instead of sending money, you should call the love in question to ask them if they are really in trouble. So the moral of the story is, take that extra 10, 15, 20 seconds to double check that dot that family member is okay, right? Because everything sounds convincing and with artificial intelligence, voice cloning is very, very huge right now.

Investment scams where the scammers will call people, and they promise high return on investment and they'll often use the subjective advertising, fake investment platforms, and even cryptocurrency. They will impersonate a seemingly reliable company, and they'll use digital pop ups to emotionally manipulate their victims. So the pig butcher scam (Fattening the pig, and then at the end, you're basically being butchered,) is a new scam going around where the fraudster will act like they made a wrong number contact. and eventually the victim will ask the fraudster if they can do anything to help. This happens for a long period of time, so there will eventually be some sort of trust established between the two, and eventually the scammer will start talking about making investments. They'll convince the victim to download certain apps, to start investing, and scammer will also emphasize that they've made so much profit and money from investing. And this leads to the victim to put in more money so that they can make more profits with this money. But really, the fraudster will get away with all this money that they've invested and they just get away with it.

Last year in BC, BC Securities Commission and the police caught 58 of these platforms that were doing the scanning, and there was about \$20 million lost.

Romance scams are also pretty common, and this is where the scammer will develop a romantic relationship with the victim through an online dating site or other social media platforms. Some red flags to look out for is if the person seems perfect and they have no flaws, and they start confessing their love too quickly. They ask for a more private method of communication. And in person meetings are always cancelled and they never seem to work out.

So to protect yourself from romance scams, you should never give out your personal information to someone you don't know. Don't accept from request from people that you don't know and never send money or give a personal information to someone that you have not met.

Service Scams are also another type of scams that are pretty common. So this is where the fraudster will pretend to provide a variety of the services. For example, someone might call you and they'll try to impersonate a company like Telus or Shaw, and they might tell you that there's something wrong with the billing information on your account and they'll try to get your credit card information. Some other examples include things like home repairs, the immigration companies, insurance companies.

You should be cautious of unsolicited offers and get them in writing. You should never pay up right in full and you should always protect your personal and financial information, and trying to not ever give it over the phone. You should use secure payment methods. And if you do suspect any suspicious activity, you should always report it to the police or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. You should always be suspicious of anyone who is trying to contact you about a previous scam, and you should never pay fees for these recovery services.

Scammers will often use phishing out of spoofing fake tactics to get their money immediately. **Phishing attacks** involve triggering users into downloading malware or like downloading apps and websites that have a lot of horrible viruses so that you can share your sense of information or data. If you ever see links or attachments that don't look very legitimate or really don't need to click on it, you should verify with the company directly. Spoofing involves digital methods to converse the method convince the victims that they are communicating with people that we know.

Artificial Intelligence scams are getting way more common because it is so easy to use. AI can make it easier, to create realistic voices, images, messages, and identities. You should always be cautious of urgent or request your money in high pressure, you should always verify identity by calling back on a known number, should avoid linking unknow links, so just trust your gut.

Job scams are where these scammers will target and take advantage of people that they know are trying to look for a job. Some variations that have been reported to us include Courier, trying to the check, cryptocurrency, crypto job fraud, financial agent, and business shopper. For example, I've also got a text messages about like Amazon delivery and something like that.

According to court documents obtained by CBC News, the Job hunter accepted an unsolicited offer of what he thought was courier work. He was in a vulnerable position said that he was looking for employment. His job was to pick up cash four times over two days, about 30 grand at locations across Greater Victoria. After each pickup, he was told to deposit it in a bank account or currency exchange. And each day, he was told to keep 200 for himself, but on the second day, the courier felt something wasn't right. He went to police to see what he was doing was legal and turned over the \$75,500 he still had on it. We were grateful that he came forward and was willing to give us all the information that he had at the time, so we could open our investigation. Canadian anti-fraud Centre reports the number of job scam victims went up a third from 2022 to 2024 and tricking them into being a so called money mule is not unheard of. Your intuition is actually really good detector of something that is unusual. So if you feel suspicious or see something that doesn't make sense, trust yourself.

Being a victim of scams can be hard, here are some steps that you can take. So first, you should collect your thoughts and just contact your financial institutions to prevent future harm and to ensure that everything you still have is still safe. You should contact the police and report the instead. It's a good idea to report to government agencies as well, and you should also take steps to protect yourself from future fraud.

Parking scam was a scam which just came out is. Now a lot of the parking lots are taking away the manual machines and you see the big parking sign that says the rates, and then you've got a QR code that click on the QR code with your phone, and then you're able to pay for parking. We've been told is those QR codes, the scammers are actually creating their own QR codes then sticking it over top of the original QR code. So it be very mindful of you are going to the parking lots or anywhere that has a public display of the QR code.

What I do is I go up and I actually kind of pick it with my nail. And if I feel that there is a sticker over top of it, I either try to peel it off, or if I have a panel, you, cross it off or something because you don't want to happen with the next person.

Q&A

What is Secure payment methods? It's the multi factor authentication. When I do my payments online from my accounts, for example, it's that multifactor authentication that comes into play. So it's that password that they send you to verify.

A lot of companies now are getting scammed so your personal info is in jeopardy. An example, we went and stayed at a hotel in Vegas for my birthday. And several years later, they got hacked. And so I was notified that they were hacked, but what the hackers do is they send you an email as if they're notifying you and offering you free stays and hotels and things like that.

I still get a lot of those emails where people are asking for [gift cards](#) as well. It's coming from a friend or from a family member. But you're not realizing that that is a scam.

The other one I failed to mention earlier was [your computers](#). I have a good friend of mine, her mom loves playing games on her laptop. And one day she was on her laptop, and all of a sudden, her computer started acting funny. A pop up came on her screen and said, "Do you need help with your computer?" Her mom clicked "Yes", this enabled the scammer to get access into her computer, into her bank account and took out \$15,000 from her account.

And I'm getting reports that many people getting [phone calls between 3:00 and 6:00 in the morning](#). Whenever if I get this call at 4 in the morning, I'm thinking it's an emergency from someone, right? But the scammers contacting in the early hours because they know we were sleep and we're not thinking clearly. You know you're going to pick up the phone and they're going to say, hey, it's RBC calling. What's your bank account number? You've been hacked, we need to deal with it." And you're going to say, "Oh, sure, okay, let me get my purse 'cause you're not thinking," And that's what they want. So be very careful of that, saying, "Thanks so much, I will call my name when they wake up, and hang-up.

The other thing is the social media platforms. We put so much information on there, which we don't realize, you know, and or we'll put on there, oh, I'm leaving from Mexico tomorrow for two weeks. See you later. Like, you just told the whole world that your home is... Empty. right? Because remember what you're putting on Facebook or Instagram. On it's on there, it's not ours anymore.

How to protect your finance and personal info. Keep looking at your account periodically to see what's going on. Shred your mails with your name and address on. If you're going on vacation ask your kids to check your mails.

Definitely having the [virus protector](#) on your computer and making sure it's updated.