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## **COMMUNITY** theifp.ca

## Arrests in India have put a dent in the CRA scam, says the RCMP

The RCMP estimates the arrest of 70 suspects in several Indian call centres has had a significant impact on the infamous Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) scam plaguing GTA

Police in Thane, India said the suspects, and the approximately 700 people working in the call centres, were claiming to be with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and telling victims to send money for a tax debt they did not owe.

The scenario is identical to the CRA scam, in which victims are told they owe money and are threatened with arrest if they don t pay, according to the RCMP.

The RCMP said the arrests were made Oct. 5.

After the police operation in Thane, the RCMP observed that the number of reports related to the CRA scam had significantly decreased to a small fraction of what was reported for the weeks and months leading up to the arrests, according to an RCMP news

But the Mounties caution that the dent made does not necessarily mean the scam has stopped, and they urge vigilance.

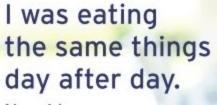
The RCMP is currently working to track down Canadian-based collaborators.

Local variations of the telephone and email scam include imposters claiming to be with Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, or claiming to be police officers.

The scam has defrauded approximately 1,900 Canadians of more than \$5.7 million in the past three years, according to the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre (CAFA).

But CAFA says that likely represents only five per cent of the actual number of victims and losses, a disheartening fact attributable to victims reluctance to report being defrauded, according to the RCMP.

There are multiple variations of the scam, and the culprits are either phishing for your identification or demanding payment of outstanding taxes or fees.



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