

# Residents can fight back at phone scams

## COMMUNITY

Recently, a number of people have been telephoned by telemarketing firms, who are located across Canada.

They are calling people to say that they have won a large sum of money.

They will tell you to send money in advance to pay for the taxes or lawyer fees for this prize.

The victim, enticed by the chance of getting a prize, sends this money in but gets nothing back in return. This is a scam and people need to be aware of it to avoid becoming a victim.

A number of police agencies, the Better Business Bureau, the Canadian Bankers' Association and the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, have joined together to combat this growing crime of Telemarketing Fraud.

This National Task Force is called "Phone Busters."

It is the central source for telemarketing complaints throughout Canada.

Victims from all age groups, but a high number of senior citizens, are being targeted because they are perceived to possess large sums of money.

Community members need to be alert:

☐ If a caller claims you have won a prize, it should not cost you any money.

☐ If a caller claims you have won a cash prize or a car, be alert if you need to pay in advance for the shipping or the taxes.

☐ Don't believe everyone is trustworthy who calls with exciting promotions or investment opportunities.

☐ Don't disclose information about your bank account, credit card number or give out other personal information.

☐ Don't be afraid to hang up the telephone if a caller is rude or persistent.

☐ Don't be afraid to seek further information about companies you don't know.

If you become a victim call Phone Busters at 705-495-8501 or Metro Toronto Police at 808-2222.

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