



MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC WARNING ABOUT CHINESE POLICE EXTORTION SCAM

York Regional Police is alerting members of the Chinese community about a recent surge in police extortion scams targeting the Chinese community residing in our region.

In recent weeks, York Regional Police has received multiple reports of individuals being contacted by scammers posing as Chinese law enforcement officials. The scammers use various tactics, including phone calls and social media messages, to deceive victims into believing that they are in legal trouble in China. They often claim that the victims' personal information has been compromised or that they are involved in criminal activities such as money laundering or drug trafficking.

The scammers then demand that victims transfer money or provide personal information to resolve the fabricated legal issues. In some cases, the scammers threaten victims with arrest or deportation if they fail to comply with their demands.

In three incidents, victims that have come forward have been defrauded of more than \$1 million combined.

Ways you can protect yourself from such scams are:

- Verify the caller's identity through documentation or by contacting the relevant law enforcement agency to independently confirm the caller's legitimacy
- Be skeptical of threats. Official agencies do not typically threaten arrest or legal action over the phone without proper due process
- Do not share personal information over the phone or through email
- Discuss the phone call with friends or family before taking action
- Report the incident

Always exercise caution and skepticism when dealing with unsolicited communication, especially those that involve legal matters and financial transactions.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call the York Regional Police Financial Crimes Unit at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 6611. Alternatively, anyone who wishes to provide information anonymously can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

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