



Ontario Provincial Police  
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

## News Release/ Communiqué

**FROM/DE:** Elgin County Detachment

**DATE:** June 12, 2024

### FRAUD ATTEMPT IN MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN

**(WEST ELGIN, ON)** - The Elgin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), St. Thomas Detachment are investigating a recent report of attempted fraud in the Municipality of West Elgin.

On June 7, 2024, an employee from the Municipality of West Elgin contacted the Elgin OPP to report a fraudulent email was sent to an unknown number of recipients.

The fraudulent email, varying only by one letter from a legitimate email account, was drafted to appear as a communication from the Municipality of West Elgin informing the recipient of changes to direct deposit information for future payments.

At the time of the initial report, no victims have come forward or have been identified.

The Elgin OPP want to make the public aware of this fraud and additionally, remind the public to always take time to verify content received from any unsolicited communication, such as an email, phone call, or text.

Information received from an unsolicited communication can be verified by contacting the business or agency directly. Always use contact information that you acquire yourself and never use the contact information contained within the unsolicited communication.

How else can you protect yourself from fraud?

- **DO NOT** give out your personal information (name, address, DOB, SIN, banking credentials).
- **DO NOT** accept friend requests from people you do not know.
- **DO NOT** invest your money in platforms provided by people you do not know.
- Be careful who you share images with. Suspects will often use explicit pictures to extort victims into sending more money.
- Protect your online accounts.
- Get more than one quote for home repair work and never feel pressured.
- Never send money to someone you have not met.
- **DO NOT** respond to text messages from phone numbers you do not recognize.
- Learn more tips and tricks for protecting yourself at [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre \(antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca\)](https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

Consider attending or arranging a fraud prevention presentation for you and your local community group by contacting your local police service.



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If you fall victim to a fraud or know someone who has, contact your local police service to report the crime and report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at 1-888-495-8501 or online on the Fraud Reporting System (FRS), even if a monetary loss did not occur.

FRAUD: Recognize. Reject. Report.

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