

Cheque and Money Order Fraud

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHEQUE AND MONEY ORDER FRAUD

Cheque fraud is one of the fastest-growing financial crimes today. Projections indicate that cheque fraud will grow by 25 per cent each year. Cheques remain the dominant form of payment in North America despite technological advances. Incidents of fraud have also been reported in Canada involving counterfeit Canadian postal money orders.

FAST FACTS

- Although debit payments are very popular, approximately five million cheques and money orders are cashed on a daily basis in Canada.
- In 2006, the amount of money being exchanged in Canada in the form of cheques and cash represented close to 1.3 trillion dollars.
- It is estimated that commercial fraud, including cheque fraud, costs North American business in excess of Can \$20 billion annually.
- A money order that offers a validation service should be validated at all times.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- If you see that a mailbox has been overturned or vandalized, contact Canada Post at 1 800 267-1177.
- If you suspect that a money order may be counterfeit, always verify the validity of the document by calling 1 800 563-0444
- Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Centre (PhoneBusters at 1 888 495-8501 or www.phonebusters.com)
- To verify your credit rating contact Equifax Canada at 1 800 465-7166 or Trans Union Canada 1 877 525-3823 or www.equifax.com/EFX-Canada or www.transunion.ca/
- Consult the ABCs of Fraud: www.abcfraud.ca