



Do you know how to spot a CRA scam? These tips will help.

Tax season will soon be here, so you know what that means—Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) scams will start ramping up. One of the most important ways to protect yourself from a CRA scam is to know what the CRA will never do when it comes to contacting Canadians. Armed with this information, you'll be able to tell immediately if a CRA communication is legitimate or not.

Head's up: This information may be especially important to young people- as first time tax filers, their inexperience can make them vulnerable to CRA scams. Please be sure to pass this on.



When it comes to contacting & interacting with you, the CRA will never:

- ▶ threaten you with arrest, deportation, lawsuits, police action or warrants
- ▶ use abusive language or profanities
- ▶ request a payment through:
 - Interac e-transfer
 - pre-paid credit cards
 - gift cards (such as iTunes)
 - online currency like bitcoin
- ▶ ask you to click on an email link to access your refund or as a means to provide personal information
- ▶ send you a text message. This means that any text supposedly from the CRA is a scam—no matter how many smiley emojis they use



How should I report a CRA scam?

-**File a report with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre** at 1.888.495.8501

-if you've paid money (through Interac e-transfer, a pre-paid credit card, etc.) **report the incident to your local police**

-if you've sent or shared financial information, **report it immediately to your financial institution**. For Coastal Community members, stop by your branch, phone us at 1.888.741.1010 or use our Contact Us online form

-If you've disclosed your Social Insurance Number, **contact Service Canada** at 1.800.206.7218

For more on fraud awareness and online security, watch for our weekly #BeCyberSavvy tip shared every Wednesday on our social media channels.

Source: Government of Canada Antifraud Centre's tax scam page.