

# IBC Alert

## **Fraudsters Take Advantage of Pandemic**

These are difficult times, and the COVID-19 pandemic has suddenly and dramatically changed the way we live and work. Unfortunately, criminals are using this opportunity to exploit vulnerable Canadians. IBC is closely monitoring this situation.

COVID-19 scams are on the rise, and many criminals are targeting Canadians for identity fraud through phishing texts, emails, phone calls and insurance fraud scams.

We know from experience there may be specific "bad actors" and organized crime groups who will take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic for financial gain. We have recently seen on-line advertising that offers assistance in making fraudulent insurance claims (eg. staged collisions), as well as an increase in organized fraudulent activity related to inaccessible storage lots - resulting in excessive fees for customers.

Through IBC's Investigation Coordination and Support Service, members are investigating these activities and monitoring closely to identify emerging fraud trends.

[Canada's Anti-Fraud Centre](#) is a great source of information on the many mechanisms criminals use to target all industries. It also maintains a list of [COVID-19 related scams](#) consumers should be aware of.

IBC will continue to notify you when new issues arise, in an effort to support your management of the COVID-19 crisis for your employees, customers and stakeholders.

If you have new fraud trends to share or have questions about IBC's activities, please contact:

**Bryan Gast, CFE**

National Director, Investigative Services

**[MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "casIU.us7.listmanage.com" claiming to be www.ibc.ca](#)**