

# March 2023 Marks the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fraud Prevention Month in Canada

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Canadian reports of *all* frauds:

91,190

(74,525 in 2021)

Canadian victims of fraud:

57,055

(50,666 in 2021)

Lost to fraud:

\$531M

(\$269M in 2021)

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## BACK TO BASICS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Over the past four years, Internal Audit Services has published fraud prevention and awareness bulletins in *MacEwan Today* to recognize Fraud Prevention Month. These were created to educate and create awareness to help members of the MacEwan community understand what fraud is, how to detect it, and what to do in case they become a victim or become aware of a fraud.

This year we are highlighting the previous fraud bulletins by encouraging you to visit our website where you can find all our previous fraud bulletins and fraud prevention resources at this link.

<https://www.macewan.ca/about-macewan/administration/internal-audit-services/>

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## Did you know?

The following is taken from the [Edmonton Police Service Website](#)

Identity theft and identity fraud incidents occur when someone uses someone else's identity for personal and/or financial gain. In 2022, The Edmonton Police Service received 528 reports of identity theft scams with a total financial loss of \$9,337,369.

Although not the sole reason, over 80% of the identity fraud occurrences were related to people leaving utilities, identity, and banking documents in their vehicle.

In order to protect your identity:

- Limit the identity documents you carry with you to your driver's license, or an identity card issued at a registries office.
- Keep your vehicle registration and insurance documents in your wallet not the vehicle;

- NEVER give out your SIN Number. The only organizations who need your SIN are your employer and your bank for federal tax purposes; NEVER provide your SIN to a landlord, phone company, etc.
- Keep your vehicle clear of any identity documents, membership or credit cards, utilities documents or any documents that have your name, address or account information on it;
- Keep the following items in a safe place, as you do not need to have them with you every day:
  - Birth certificate
  - Social insurance number
  - Immigration card
  - Passport

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### What to do if you suspect a fraud

You can report a suspected fraud to:

- Your supervisor, director, chair or dean
- Any member of senior administration
- Internal Audit Services (should be *informed* of all frauds)

Or you can contact the University's Whistleblower Hotline, ConfidenceLine: Toll-free at 1-800-661-9675 or online at [MacEwan.ConfidenceLine.net](http://MacEwan.ConfidenceLine.net)

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