

Baddie Alert 12 SCAM AVOIDANCE TIPS

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Hello. As life slows down and we hunker down 'til spring comes, I wanted to reiterate the advice I provided on @OPCUG twitter account and will reiterate during the upcoming Ottawa Public Library <https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/program> presentations. I ask we share this with family & friends to avoid being a victim and fully enjoy what 2020 brings us.



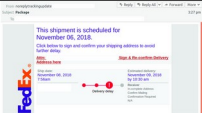
When buying a Gift card for that special someone, be careful to check that a scammer hasn't altered the card to give it the same the value as a lump of coal. Don't rush and take time to confirm before you buy.



When presented with an unexpected electronic threat, use "Wise Trust" and call a friend - confidant before acting. A scammer wants to catch you off guard; don't allow that to happen.



Scammers are emailing, calling, messaging and using any manner possible to get you respond and act without thinking. Don't rush into rash decisions and pause before responding.



Ever wonder why you're lucky enough to receive notification of an unexpected delivery and all you have to do is just click on this link to confirm? Chances are the only thing being delivered is the opportunity for a scammer to lure you in to their trap.



Last minute shopping and someone in a parking lot is offering a great gift suggestion at a fantastic price? Keep your money and proudly walk away knowing you won't be another victim.



Take the time to enjoy the company of people you trust, and pass the word that if they feel threatened, they know who to call to get the advice needed before performing "Blind Trust" actions.



Looking for a friend online? Be careful on what you commit to the relationship as scammers find it very easy to build a seductive online and fake persona, with its only purpose being to reel in your money.



When people / organizations in need are looking for donations to a worthy cause, be careful to check their credentials before you contribute with your hard-earned funds.



Think carefully about anyone in authority making you think that the only payment they're accepting is either Bitcoin or Gift Cards. Call a friend before committing.



Getting contacted without warning from an authority figure (bank, police, taxes)! Write down the information, hang up, contact a friend first to discuss the threat, then use another advertised number / link (back of card, website) from separate line / phone to confirm if it is real.



Received a message or phone call that claims a loved one is in danger and needs money right away, or else? Take a breath, check the facts before allowing a stressful situation take advantage of your good nature.



While you're celebrating, be aware that the scammers know you're also at your most vulnerable and will do their best to take advantage of you. Don't start 2020 being scammed, and have a Happy New Year.

Take care,