



# ***2024 Annual Statistical Report***



## Table of Contents

### INTRODUCTION

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre Overview	3
Foreword	3
Executive Summary	5

### 2024 FRAUD REPORTING

#### OVERALL

Top 10 Frauds by Number of Reports	7
Top 10 Frauds by Dollar Loss for	8
Age Range breakdowns	
Age Range breakdown	9
Top 3 Frauds by Number of reports	10
Top 3 Frauds by Dollar Loss	11
Payment Method Breakdowns	
Dollar loss by Payment Method	12
Payment Methods Year over Year Growth	13
Solicitation Method	14
Individuals vs Business reporting	14

#### CANADA

Provincial Reporting Breakdown	
Provincial Breakdown by Number of reports	15
Top 3 Frauds by Number of reports	16
Top 3 Frauds by Dollar loss	17

### 2020-2024 COMPARISON

#### OVERALL

International Reporting	18
Number of Reports	19
Dollar Loss	20

#### CANADA

Number of Reports	21
Dollar Loss	22

### FRAUD PITCH OFFERINGS DEFINITIONS

Appendix A	23-25
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## Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

Established in January of 1993, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) is currently operated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), in partnership with the Competition Bureau of Canada and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The CAFC is a recognized [National Police Service](#) (NPS). As an NPS the CAFC collects information and produces intelligence and reports with regards to fraud and fraud-related offences for the benefit of other regulatory, domestic and international criminal law enforcement agencies. CAFC's efforts focus on:

- prevention of fraud through education and awareness;
- prevention through disruption of key fraud enablers;
- providing operational support to investigations by sharing fraud-related reports and intelligence with law enforcement and regulatory partners

As Canada's central repository for data, information and resource material as it relates to fraud, the CAFC commits to providing timely, accurate and useful information to assist citizens, businesses, law enforcement and governments in Canada and around the world.

### Foreword

Fraud is continuing to cause significant harms to Canadian consumers and businesses. From increases in financial losses to devastating emotional and psychological impacts, the CAFC continues to document victim accounts of fraud that show the ever-evolving complexity, sophistication and scope of this crime.

This report is intended to highlight some of the primary statistical findings based data captured by the CAFC in 2024.

The CAFC currently documents more than 30 different fraud types that target both Canadian consumers and businesses. There are some common hallmarks found in the various scams. Some of the hallmarks include:

- Deception – leading the victim to believe they are dealing with a legitimate organization (e.g. bank, government, corporation, etc) or a person (family member, friend, lawyer, law enforcement officer, etc.) often in an attempt to gain trust.



- Urgency - the frauds often involve creating a sense of urgency to get victims to send money or provide personal information before they realize it is a scam. This includes high pressure tactics to get victims to act now before it is too late.
- Victimization - it is a game of numbers; the more people are targeted, the more likely you will be successful. Ultimately, the criminals involved do not discriminate when choosing targets. Certain demographics may be more susceptible to certain scam types and solicitation methods.
- Scope - fraud is often national and international in scope. Most frauds today involve solicitations originating in one country targeting victims in another country with money going to yet a different country.
- Loss – as noted above, frauds are designed to get intended victims to part with their money or personal information. Individual victim losses can range from hundreds of dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars, even millions.





## Executive Summary

Statistics presented in this report are based on what has been captured by the CAFC at a given point in time and are subject to change resulting from the inputting and processing of back log reports and quality assurance efforts. In 2024, the CAFC logged 108,878 reports. Data for this report was pulled as of 2025-02-19. Available CAFC data shows that as of the end of January 2025 the CAFC had processed 50,676 reports<sup>1</sup> of the 108,878-meaning data presented in this report is a snapshot in time of processed reporting received by CAFC in 2024.

The graphs to follow provide various breakdowns based on all reports (overall) and Canadian reports (Canada) received at the CAFC during 2024 and also provides a comparison from 2020-2024. This report presents statistics on Canadian based fraud operations targeting both Canadian and international victims as well as international based scams targeting Canadians.

### **Key Trends:**

Overall, the CAFC saw increases in victimization with the Top 10 Frauds, with Bank Investigator Fraud (16.5%) and Phishing (6.8%) being the two largest increases. Extortion was the only fraud where a decrease was seen (10%).

Investment scams make up 49% of the overall dollar loss (\$643,716,736 CAD) reported to CAFC. Although the CAFC saw a decrease in victimization with Extortion scams, there was a significant increase in the dollar amount lost by victims (\$8.6M increase).

The CAFC saw the largest increase in losses with job scams (\$17M increase).

Individuals aged 19 and under are more likely to be victimized by fraud.

The total amount lost by seniors makes up 27.9% of the overall dollar loss (\$643,716,736 CAD) reported to CAFC.

ID Fraud impacts all ages with those aged 30-39 victimized the most.

Service scams impacted victim's aged 30 and older, with seniors targeted the most.

Reporting shows that individuals under the aged 50 are more likely to be victimized by fraud and that those over the age of 50 lose more money on average per fraud.

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<sup>1</sup> Processed reports refers to reports that have been reviewed and qualified by CAFC staff as accurate and valid. Statistical reporting only uses processed reports.



Investment scams affect all ages with those aged 60+ reporting the highest losses, making up 36% of the total dollar loss associated to investment scams.

Individuals aged 30 + lost a significant amount of money (\$42.5M) to romance scams.

Victims sent the highest number of payments and most amount of money via cryptocurrency, averaging \$23,815 CAD per transaction due to investment, job and romance scams.

Direct deposit payments dropped by 4.6% yet increased 98.8% in terms of dollar loss.

The dollar loss associated to e-Transfer payments increased 26.1% due in part to the 10K limit increase implemented by financial institutions in May 2024.

Cyber-Enabled Fraud accounts for \$481.6 M in losses, making up 75% of the total dollar loss.

The average dollar loss in 2024 was \$18,071 CAD.

The CAFC received the most amount of reports filed by consumers located in Ontario, followed by Quebec and then British Columbia.

Overall the percentage of victimization remains relatively consistent across Canada, ranging from 65-77.5%.

Based on reporting, Service scams are the most consistently reported fraud by Canadians, leading to a victimization rate of 76-100%.

Based on dollar loss, Investment scams are the most consistently reported fraud by Canadians, accounting for 3,276 reports and a reported dollar loss of \$237M.

The CAFC has seen a steady decrease in international reporting since 2020.

The CAFC continues to see a decrease in the total number reports logged each year, this decrease correlates to the spike in pandemic reporting seen in 2020 and 2021, the CAFC's capacity to process reports, and the more complex types of reporting the CAFC is receiving, including an increase in investment scam reporting.

Although there has been a decrease in the number of reports received at the CAFC, the CAFC has been able to show an increase in total dollar loss by prioritizing its work around high value and high impact frauds.



### 2024 Fraud Reporting - Overall

The CAFC receives fraud reporting from Canadians targeted and victimized by fraud and from international filers reporting on Canadian based fraud operations<sup>2</sup>. The graphs below are based on all reports received at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre during 2024<sup>3</sup>.

The following graph presents the top 10 frauds reported to the CAFC based on the number of reports received. The CAFC continues to see ID Fraud being the top reported fraud followed by Service and Merchandise. It’s important to note that merchandise is the combination of merchandise and counterfeit merchandise reporting. Overall the CAFC saw increases in victimization with the Top 10 Frauds, with Bank Investigator Fraud (16.5%) and Phishing (6.8%) being the two largest increases. Extortion was the only fraud where a decrease was seen (10%).

#### Top 10 Frauds Based on Number of Reports

Fraud Type	# of Reports	%GT Report	# of Victims	% Victimized
Identity Fraud	9,683	19.0%	9,683	100.0%
Service	5,191	10.2%	3,951	76.1%
Merchandise	4,676	9.2%	4,142	88.6%
Investment	4,214	8.3%	3,998	94.9%
Extortion	4,045	8.0%	952	23.5%
Personal Info	3,945	7.8%	3,051	77.3%
Phishing	3,532	6.9%	1,007	28.5%
Bank Investigator	2,844	5.6%	1,516	53.3%
Job	2,768	5.4%	2,284	82.5%
Emergency (Jail, Accident, Hospital, Help)	1,225	2.4%	546	44.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,123</b>	<b>82.8%</b>	<b>31,130</b>	<b>73.9%</b>

The following graph presents the top 10 frauds reported to the CAFC based on dollar loss and provides the average dollar loss per victim report. Though investment scams ranked number 4 based on number of reports, it is number one based on dollar loss. Investment scams make up

<sup>2</sup> Operation locations are based on suspect addresses reported by filers. It is important to note that suspect addresses aren’t always known and the addresses that are reported may be mail drop or fictitious locations.

<sup>3</sup> This includes anonymous reports and reports where the victim’s address wasn’t provided when reporting.

Note: Column %GT report is the comparison of that fraud to the grand total reporting.





49% of the overall dollar loss (\$643,716,736 CAD) reported to CAFC. Although the CAFC saw a decrease in victimization with Extortion, there was a significant increase in the dollar amount lost by victims (\$8.6M increase). The CAFC saw the largest increase in losses with job scams (\$17M increase) due mostly in part to “task driven” job scams<sup>4</sup>. It is important to note is that spear phishing is a fraud captured only for businesses, therefore the associated loss is based only on business reporting.

### Top 10 Frauds Based on Dollar Loss

Fraud Type	Dollar Loss	Average Dollar Loss per Victimization
Investment	\$313,080,388	\$78,309
Spear Phishing	\$67,349,355	\$107,415
Romance	\$58,871,388	\$55,697
Job	\$48,199,776	\$21,103
Extortion	\$21,070,752	\$22,133
Service	\$20,588,902	\$5,211
Bank Investigator	\$17,144,662	\$11,309
Merchandise	\$9,857,587	\$2,380
Recovery Pitch	\$9,197,349	\$28,213
Vendor Fraud	\$8,335,409	\$15,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$573,695,568</b>	<b>\$29,596</b>

#### Narrative of a “task driven” job scam report

I got a part time job offered about a week ago for an Optimizer position. I had to complete some tasks and I was supposed to receive a profit out of it. In order to complete that tasks, I had to maintain the 100 USDC in my account so the coach/ support guided me to open a wallet and from the created wallet I transferred three transaction to the wallet address of the company. It sounded legitimate at first since I was able to withdraw the profit for the second day of work but it asked for more funds to unlock more tasks and I deposited to my account around \$1500 (in three different transactions) and then right after that they made my balance negative and I was not able to access my deposited funds. I tried to contact the support from that website, they did not respond and their customer service also did not respond.

<sup>4</sup> Jobs advertised online where they are given tasks to complete- rate products, vacation packages, programs and more to make earnings (commission based). People who are hired are told they must complete a minimum number of reviews/tasks before withdrawals can be actioned. Victims become aware of the scam once they attempt to pull their ‘profits’. Of note, some victims report receiving an initial withdrawal from their account.



The following graph presents an age range<sup>5</sup> breakdown based on all reports received at the CAFC. The category “Not Specified & Unknown” capture reports where the victim’s age range wasn’t provided or the victim filed anonymously. Reporting shows that individuals under the aged 50 are more likely to be victimized by fraud and that those over the age of 50 lose more money on average per fraud. The total amount lost by seniors (60 and above) makes up 27.9% of the overall dollar loss reported to CAFC.

### Age Range Breakdown

Age Range	# of Reports	# of Victims	% Victimized	Dollar Loss	Average Dollar Loss per Victimization
19 and under	1,201	1,115	92.8%	\$1,103,302	\$990
20 - 29	5,186	4,275	82.4%	\$15,291,870	\$3,577
30 - 39	6,336	5,048	79.7%	\$39,442,512	\$7,813
40 - 49	5,910	4,546	76.9%	\$60,336,571	\$13,272
50 - 59	5,556	3,997	71.9%	\$87,926,642	\$21,998
60 and above	12,801	8,327	65.0%	\$179,900,453	\$21,604
Not Specified & Unknown	13,830	8,279	59.9%	\$259,104,569	\$31,297
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,820</b>	<b>35,587</b>	<b>70.0%</b>	<b>\$643,105,919</b>	<b>\$18,071</b>

The following graph presents the top three frauds per age range category based on number of reports received. Based on reporting, ID Fraud impacts all ages with those aged 30-39 victimized the most. Service scams impacted victim’s aged 30 and older, with seniors targeted the most. Individuals aged 19 and under were targeted and victimized by extortions scams more than any other age range category. A large number of these reports relate to sextortion scams. See Appendix B for more information on Sextortion.

<sup>5</sup> Age range is based on based on the reporting victims age.

### Top 3 Frauds Based on Number of Reports

Age Range	# of Reports	# of Victims	% Victimized
<b>19 and under</b>			
Identity Fraud	627	627	100.0%
Personal info	206	199	96.6%
Extortion	66	38	57.6%
<b>20 - 29</b>			
Identity Fraud	1,542	1,542	100.0%
Merchandise	577	514	89.1%
Personal info	528	470	89.0%
<b>30 - 39</b>			
Identity Fraud	1,790	1,790	100.0%
Service	661	539	81.5%
Personal info	584	511	87.5%
<b>40 - 49</b>			
Identity Fraud	1,542	1,542	100.0%
Service	559	459	82.1%
Investment	557	527	94.6%
<b>50 - 59</b>			
Identity Fraud	1,173	1,173	100.0%
Investment	643	611	95.0%
Service	511	403	78.9%
<b>60 and above</b>			
Service	1,887	1,477	78.3%
Identity Fraud	1,684	1,684	100.0%
Investment	1,285	1,229	95.6%

#### *Narrative of a Sextortion scam report*

I was using a dating app when I added this person’s phone number. I thought it was a person with whom I connected with and eventually we shared nude photos/ videos of each other. I found out that she was only posing as someone else. She threatened to post my nude vids online and share them with my friends and family if I didn’t pay her.

The following graph presents the top three frauds per age range category based on dollar loss. Based on reporting, investment scams affect all ages with those aged 60+ reporting the highest losses. The dollar loss reported by those aged 60+ associate to investment scams, make up 36% of the total dollar loss associated to investment scams. Individuals aged 30 + lost a significant

amount of money (\$44.5M) to romance scams. This is due largely in part to Relationship Investment Fraud, a relationship scam where victim payments are for investment purposes.

### Top 3 Frauds based on Dollar Loss

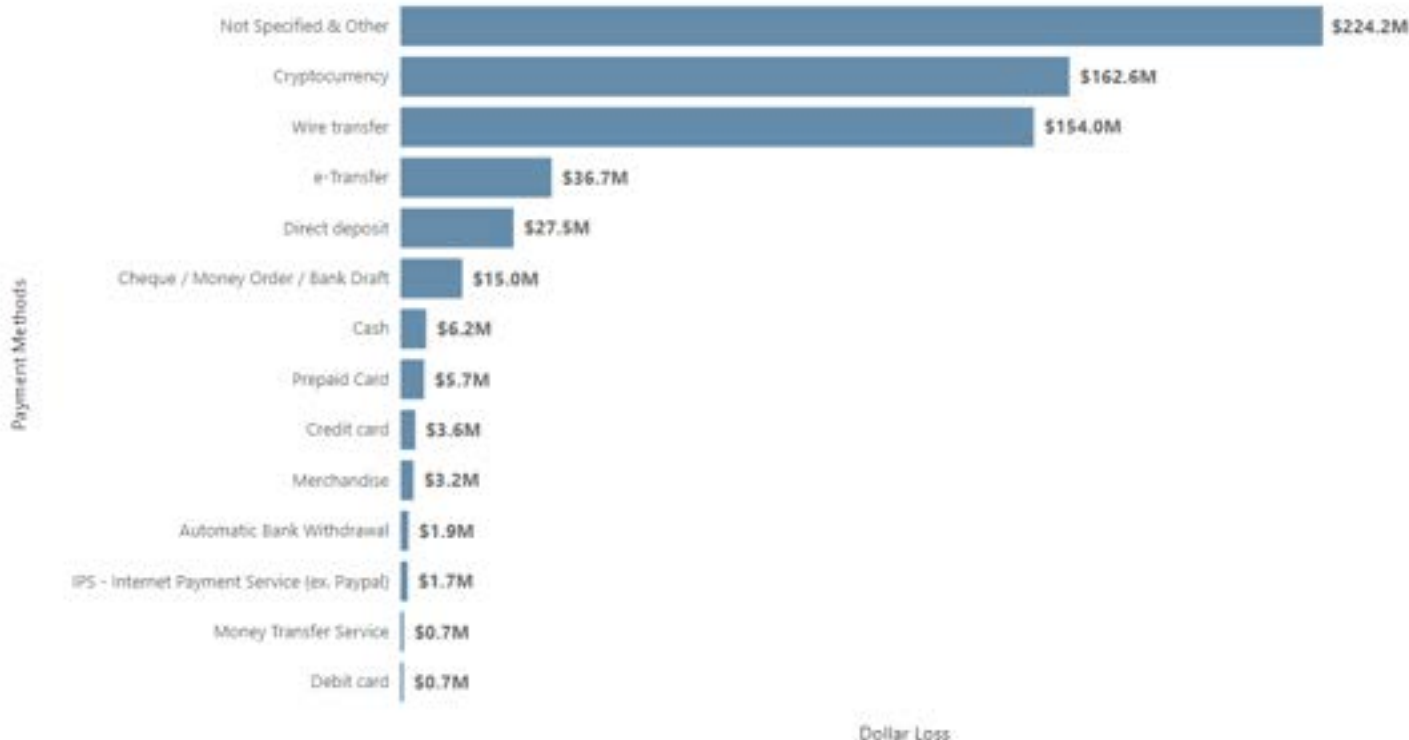
Age Range	# of Reports	Dollar Loss	Average Dollar Loss per Victimization
<b>19 and under</b>			
Extortion	66	\$518,117	\$13,635
Investment	20	\$219,429	\$10,971
Job	61	\$146,869	\$2,824
<b>20 - 29</b>			
Extortion	339	\$3,275,409	\$19,972
Investment	170	\$3,374,784	\$20,832
Job	518	\$3,907,944	\$9,067
<b>30 - 39</b>			
Investment	407	\$21,326,995	\$55,539
Job	474	\$6,264,075	\$15,022
Romance	115	\$3,323,956	\$31,358
<b>40 - 49</b>			
Investment	557	\$34,539,421	\$65,540
Job	344	\$6,862,256	\$22,648
Romance	124	\$6,969,350	\$62,226
<b>50 - 59</b>			
Investment	643	\$58,412,233	\$95,601
Job	238	\$7,104,836	\$33,994
Romance	166	\$11,079,706	\$72,893
<b>60 and above</b>			
Investment	1,285	\$111,291,019	\$90,554
Romance	359	\$23,110,671	\$72,447
Service	1,887	\$9,762,504	\$6,610

### Narrative of a Relationship Investment Fraud report

I met someone on a dating app. She then convinced me into investing in an intraday Trading platform. Started small, but then she got me to sign up for a bounty deposit event where I deposit a certain amount and receive a certain percentage of that amount in trading credit. After reaching the \$30K bounty she kept trying to increase the amount I deposited. I noticed an issue when I tried to withdraw some of the funds. The platform flagged me and froze my account asking me to pay 'fines' and 'fees' to unfreeze it.

The following graph presents a payment method breakdown and the associated dollar loss per payment mechanism. The “Not Specified & Other” payment method captures reports where a dollar loss was provided in the report but it was not linked to a specific payment method. In 2024 the CAFC saw an increase in cryptocurrency payments and the associated dollar loss due to investment, job and romance scams.

### Dollar Loss by Payment Method



The following graph presents a payment method breakdown providing a year over year growth comparison. Based on reporting, victims sent the highest number of payments and most amount of money via cryptocurrency averaging \$23,815 CAD per transaction. Although the number of payments dropped by 4.6% for direct deposits, the CAFC observed an increase of 98.8% in terms of dollar loss. Showing that although victims are sending less direct deposit payments, they are still sending large amounts of money. The CAFC also saw an increase of 26.1% for the dollar loss associated to e-Transfer payments due in part to the 10K limit increase observed in May 2024<sup>6</sup>. At this time the CAFC observed an increase in bank investigator scams where scammers were capitalizing on the limit increase.

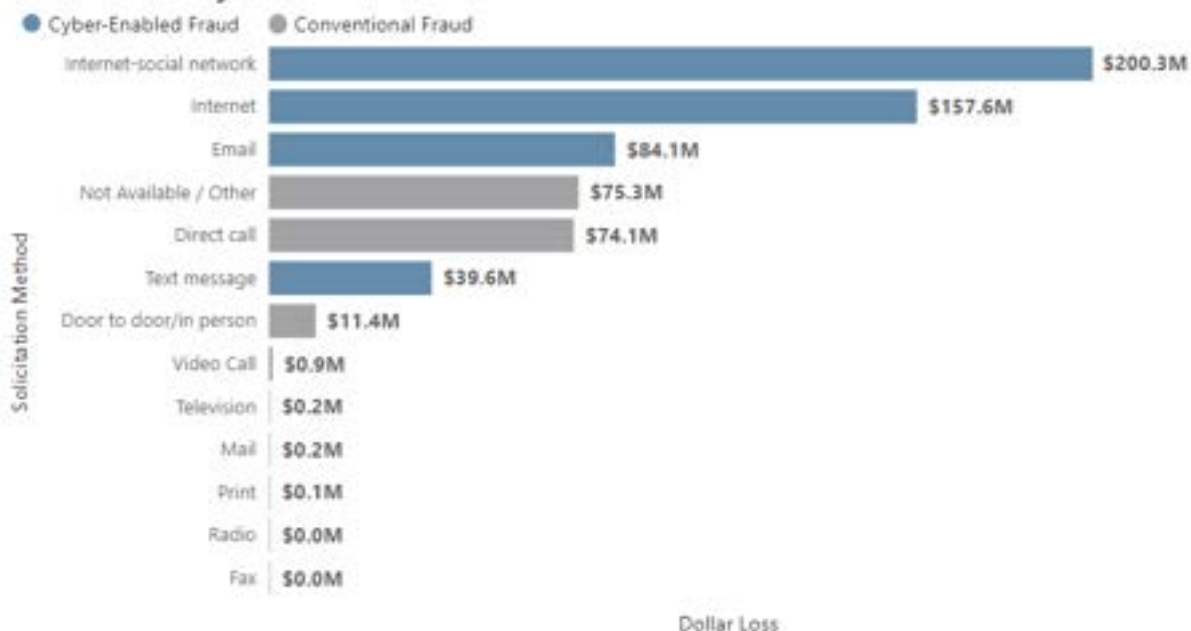
### Payment Method- Year over Year Growth

Payment Methods	# of Payment	YoY % - # of Payment	Dollar Loss	YoY % - Dollar Loss
Not Specified & Other	3,523	21.0% ↑	\$224,207,311	32.5% ↑
Cryptocurrency	6,827	32.2% ↑	\$162,584,434	5.0% ↑
Wire transfer	1,600	-15.3% ↓	\$153,959,102	-10.7% ↓
e-Transfer	5,746	9.4% ↑	\$36,729,804	26.1% ↑
Direct deposit	2,793	-4.6% ↓	\$27,470,396	98.8% ↑
Cheque / Money Order / Bank Draft	450	1.4% ↑	\$14,987,989	21.0% ↑
Cash	733	-31.3% ↓	\$6,240,022	-29.1% ↓
Prepaid Card	1,350	-24.2% ↓	\$5,743,502	8.4% ↑
Credit card	3,252	-30.9% ↓	\$3,587,719	-1.8% ↓
Merchandise	462	-48.4% ↓	\$3,154,893	48.4% ↑
Automatic Bank Withdrawal	451	39.2% ↑	\$1,902,805	15.1% ↑
IPS - Internet Payment Service (ex. Paypal)	588	-0.7% ↓	\$1,735,284	-22.8% ↓
Money Transfer Service	289	-34.5% ↓	\$740,092	-50.6% ↓
Debit card	625	23.3% ↑	\$673,383	-0.4% ↓

<sup>6</sup> In May 2024 a daily limit increase for e-transfer was available to all Canadian financial institutions, for individual clients. When this increase was observed the CAFC also saw a “new twist” on bank investigator scams resulting in larger losses to victims.

The following graph presents a solicitation method breakdown by dollar loss per communication mechanism. Cyber-Enabled Fraud relates to 4 of 13 solicitation methods captured at the CAFC yet it accounts for \$481.6 M in losses. Making up 75% of the total dollar loss.

### Solicitation Method breakdown by Dollar Loss



The following graph presents a comparison between individual and business reporting. In 2024 over 34,000 individuals were victimized by fraud, averaging a dollar loss of \$15,028 CAD per victim. Though the CAFC received significantly more reporting from individuals than businesses, on average businesses lost more money per victimization (\$110.4K) than individuals.

### Individual vs Business Reporting<sup>7</sup>

Individuals vs Business	# of Reports	# of Victims	% Victimized	Dollar Loss	Average Dollar Loss per Victimization
Business	1,661	1,137	68.5%	\$125,534,911	\$110,409
Individual	49,199	34,480	70.1%	\$518,176,229	\$15,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,860</b>	<b>35,617</b>	<b>70.0%</b>	<b>\$643,711,140</b>	<b>\$18,073</b>

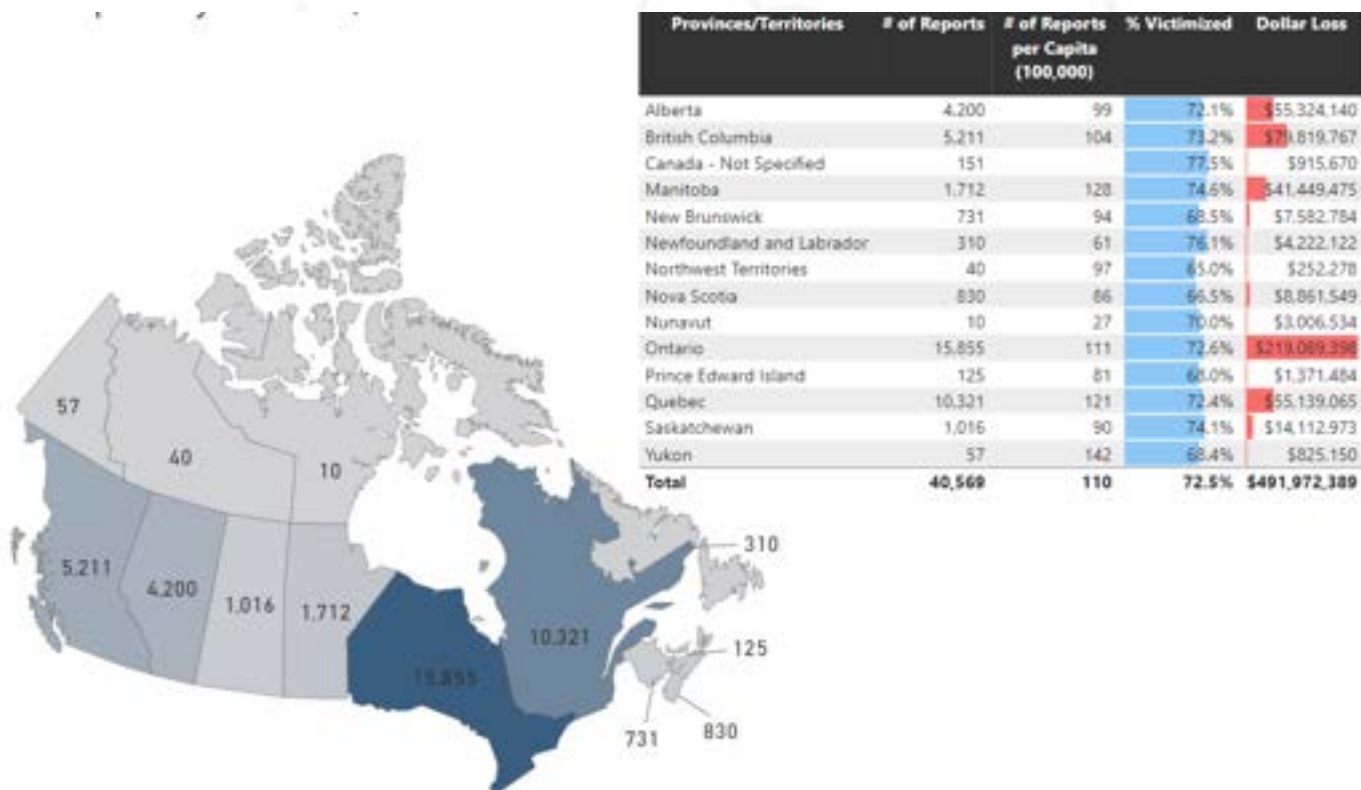
<sup>7</sup> This reporting does not capture reports filed anonymously.

## 2024 Fraud Reporting - Canada

The CAFC receives fraud reporting from Canadians targeted and victimized by fraud<sup>8</sup>. The graphs presented below are based on reports received at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre from Canadians during 2024.

The following graph presents a provincial breakdown based on number of reports received at the CAFC in 2024 filed by Canadians. The CAFC received approx. 41,000 reports from Canadian's with a total dollar loss of almost \$492M. Based on reporting, the CAFC received the most amount of reports filed by consumers located in Ontario, followed by Quebec and then British Columbia. Overall the percentage of victimization remains relatively consistent across Canada, ranging from 65-77.5%. Canada-Not Specified refers to when the country is listed as Canada but no Province/ Territory was filled out.

### Provincial Breakdown by Number of Reports



<sup>8</sup> Canadian reporting is based on reports where the victim's location was provided and is listed in Canada.

The following graph presents the top three frauds per Province/ Territory based on number of reports. Based on reporting, service scams are the most consistently reported fraud by Canadians. Falling in the top three for 10 out of 13 provinces/ territories and leading to a victimization rate of 76-100%. Service scams are followed closely by ID Fraud, reported by 9 out of 13 provinces/ territories and Investment scams, reported by 8 out of 13 provinces/ territories.

### Top 3 Frauds Based on Number of Reports

Province/Territory	Fraud Type	# of Reports	# of Victims	% Victimized
Ontario	Identity Fraud	3,233	3,233	100.0%
	Service	1,927	1,513	78.5%
	Extortion	1,350	326	24.1%
Quebec	Identity Fraud	3,247	3,247	100.0%
	Personal Info	1,264	1,117	88.4%
	Bank Investigator	698	316	45.3%
British Columbia	Investment	698	650	93.1%
	Identity Fraud	850	850	100.0%
	Service	689	581	84.3%
Alberta	Merchandise	468	389	83.1%
	Identity Fraud	773	773	100.0%
	Service	456	365	80.0%
Manitoba	Investment	402	393	97.8%
	Identity Fraud	263	263	100.0%
	Service	244	201	82.4%
Saskatchewan	Investment	163	158	96.9%
	Identity Fraud	150	150	100.0%
	Investment	93	90	96.8%
Nova Scotia	Merchandise	92	77	83.7%
	Service	145	115	79.3%
	Identity Fraud	107	107	100.0%
New Brunswick	Merchandise	81	67	82.7%
	Service	136	108	79.4%
	Identity Fraud	111	111	100.0%
Newfoundland and Labrador	Investment	54	47	87.0%
	Service	60	46	76.7%
	Identity Fraud	41	41	100.0%
Prince Edward Island	Investment	34	32	94.1%
	Service	21	18	85.7%
	Identity Fraud	14	14	100.0%
Yukon	Bank Investigator	13	9	69.2%
	Extortion	13	0	0.0%
	Phishing	8	3	37.5%
Northwest Territories	Merchandise	7	7	100.0%
	Emergency (Jail, Accident, Hospital, Help)	6	2	33.3%
	Identity Fraud	6	6	100.0%
Nunavut	Bank Investigator	9	5	55.6%
	Investment	5	4	80.0%
	Service	5	5	100.0%
Nunavut	Unknown	2	1	50.0%
	False Billing	1	1	100.0%
	Investment	1	1	100.0%
	Job	1	0	0.0%
	Merchandise	1	0	0.0%
	Personal Info	1	1	100.0%
	Prize	1	1	100.0%
	Service	1	1	100.0%
Spear Phishing	1	1	100.0%	

The following graph presents the top three frauds per Province/ Territory based on dollar loss. Based on reporting, investment scams are the most consistently reported fraud, based on dollar loss, by Canadians. Falling in the top three for 12 out of 13 Provinces/ Territories and accounting for 3,276 reports and a total dollar loss of \$237M.

### Top 3 Frauds Based on Dollar Loss

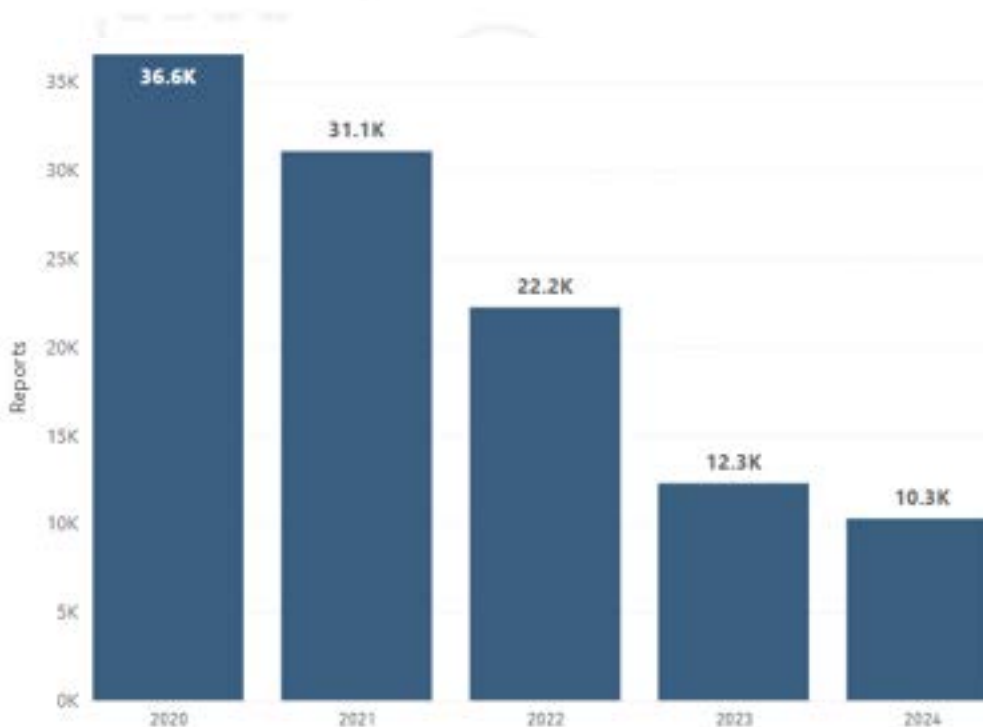
Province/Territory	Fraud Type	# of Reports	Dollar Loss	Average Dollar Loss per Victimization
Ontario	Investment	1,311	\$102,696,350	\$82,953
	Spear Phishing	275	\$39,625,777	\$193,296
	Romance	301	\$19,181,073	\$70,779
British Columbia	Investment	440	\$42,848,758	\$101,297
	Romance	130	\$11,047,717	\$93,625
	Spear Phishing	123	\$5,569,313	\$61,881
Alberta	Investment	402	\$32,783,691	\$83,419
	Job	228	\$4,834,278	\$25,179
	Bank Investigator	280	\$4,304,459	\$23,018
Quebec	Investment	698	\$29,372,915	\$45,189
	Romance	221	\$7,024,914	\$37,768
	Spear Phishing	166	\$5,516,483	\$52,538
Manitoba	Unknown	33	\$23,644,968	\$2,364,497
	Investment	163	\$8,263,604	\$52,301
	Spear Phishing	33	\$1,880,450	\$75,218
Saskatchewan	Investment	93	\$6,469,760	\$71,886
	Service	84	\$1,762,541	\$25,179
	Merchandise	90	\$1,258,274	\$16,777
New Brunswick	Investment	54	\$6,113,550	\$130,076
	Romance	21	\$405,774	\$20,289
	Spear Phishing	15	\$363,618	\$36,362
Nova Scotia	Investment	57	\$3,617,415	\$66,989
	Extortion	51	\$2,064,565	\$137,638
	Spear Phishing	11	\$885,487	\$98,387
Newfoundland and Labrador	Investment	34	\$3,292,565	\$102,893
	Romance	12	\$234,400	\$19,533
	Job	20	\$149,922	\$7,891
Nunavut	Spear Phishing	1	\$2,956,654	\$2,956,654
	Service	1	\$48,580	\$48,580
	Unknown	2	\$900	\$900
Prince Edward Island	Investment	14	\$1,195,017	\$85,358
	Job	7	\$54,373	\$9,062
	Bank Investigator	13	\$53,800	\$5,978
Yukon	Investment	5	\$465,950	\$116,488
	Merchandise	7	\$129,528	\$18,504
	Spear Phishing	4	\$86,781	\$28,927
Northwest Territories	Investment	5	\$114,531	\$28,633
	Bank Investigator	9	\$72,005	\$14,401
	Spear Phishing	1	\$32,419	\$32,419

## 2020-2024 Comparison - Overall

The CAFC receives fraud reporting from Canadians targeted and victimized by fraud and from international filers reporting on Canadian based fraud operations<sup>9</sup>. The graphs below are based on all reports received at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre during 2020-2024<sup>10</sup>. These graphs are being presented to provide a year to year comparison of international reporting, overall reporting and total dollar loss.

The following graph presents a breakdown of the total number of international<sup>11</sup> reports received at the CAFC between 2020 and 2024. These reports are filed by victims located outside of Canada reporting on a Canadian based fraud operations<sup>12</sup>. The CAFC has seen a steady decrease in international reporting since 2020.

### Number of International Reports Received



<sup>9</sup> Operation locations are based on suspect addresses reported by filers. It is important to note that suspect addresses aren't always known and the addresses that are reported may be mail drop or fictitious locations.

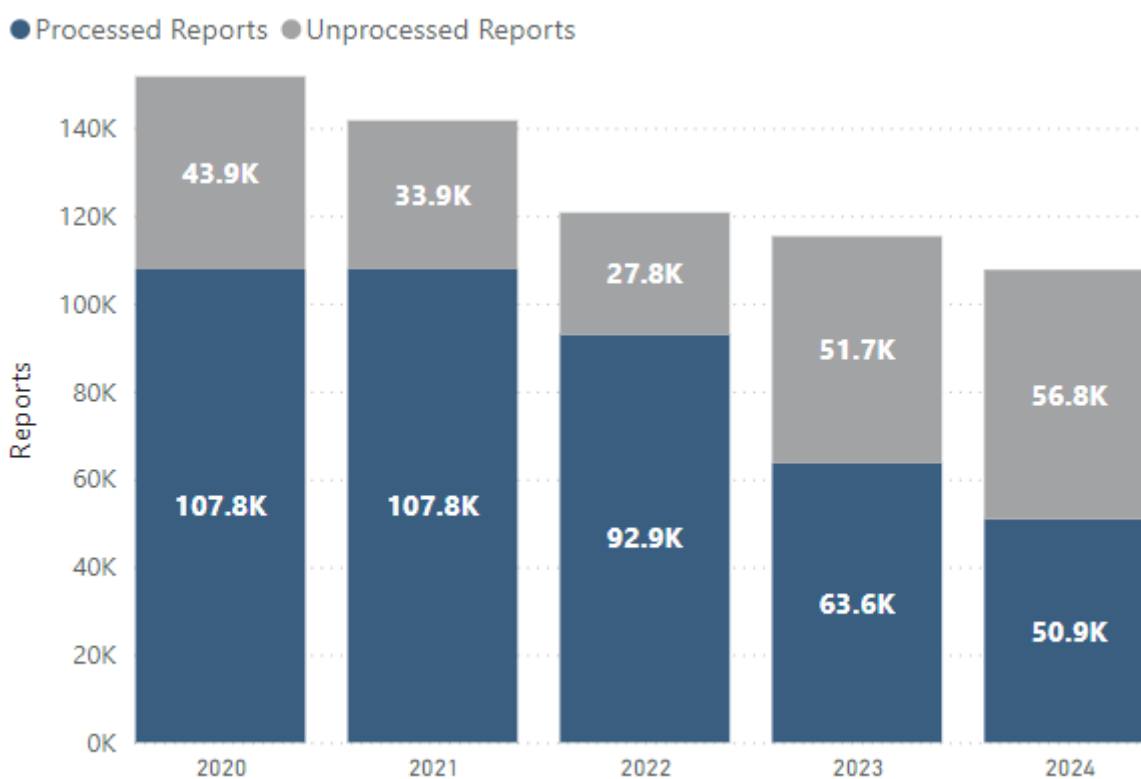
<sup>10</sup> This includes anonymous reports and reports where the victim's address wasn't provided when reporting.

<sup>11</sup> International reporting is based on reports where the victim's location was provided and is listed outside of Canada, anonymous reporting and/or where no address is listed.

<sup>12</sup> Canadian operation locations are based on the suspect addresses reported by filers. It is important to note that suspect addresses aren't always known and the addresses that are reported may be mail drop or fictitious locations.

The following graph presents a report breakdown based on the number of processed<sup>13</sup> and unprocessed<sup>14</sup> reports by the CAFC between 2020 and 2024. These two make up all reports received<sup>15</sup> at the CAFC each year. The CAFC continues to see a decrease in the total number reports received each year. The CAFC saw a large spike in reporting in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and associated pandemic reporting; government benefits (CERB), counterfeit merchandise- PPE, vaccine reporting, etc. This spike in reporting is part of the reason the CAFC has seen a decrease in reports received since 2021. The CAFC processed the least amount of reports in 2024, only 47% of reports were processed. This decrease is attributed in part to CAFC capacity to process reports they are receiving.

### Overall Report Breakdown



<sup>13</sup> Further to previous footnote: Processed reports are the number of reports in submitted status at the CAFC. A report is put into submitted status if the report is created by a call taker on behalf of a filer and/or once a report received via the FRS is reviewed by CAFC.

<sup>14</sup> Unprocessed reports are the number of reports filed at the CAFC via the fraud reporting system (FRS) that haven't been reviewed by the CAFC.

<sup>15</sup> Reports received is the number of reports filed at the CAFC via the fraud reporting system (FRS) and the Call Centre that are processed and unprocessed.

The following graph presents a dollar loss breakdown based on the total dollar loss for processed report between 2020 and 2024. The CAFC has seen a steady increase in the total amount lost by victims since 2020, though the increase has slowed since 2022. Although there has been a decrease in the number of reports processed at the CAFC, the CAFC has been able to show an increase in total dollar loss by prioritizing its work around high value and high impact frauds.

### Overall Dollar Loss Breakdown

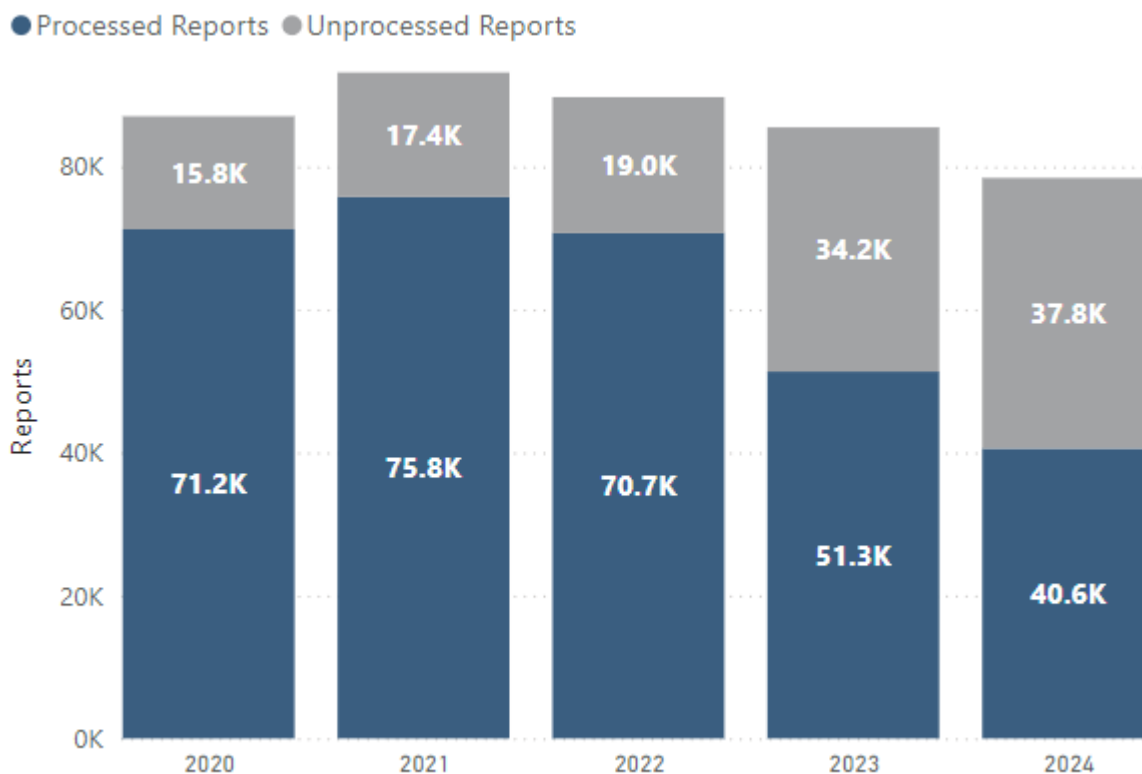


## 2020-2024 Comparison - Canada

The CAFC receives fraud reporting from Canadians targeted and victimized by fraud<sup>16</sup>. The graphs presented below are based on reports received at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre from Canadians during 2020-2024.

The following graph presents a report breakdown based on the total number of processed reports for Canada between 2020 and 2024. Canadian reporting mimics the patterns seen with overall reporting where the number of reports received and processed has decreased since 2020, but at a lower rate. In 2020 and 2021 the CAFC was able to process over 80% of reports whereas in 2024 the CAFC was only able to process 52% of reports received.

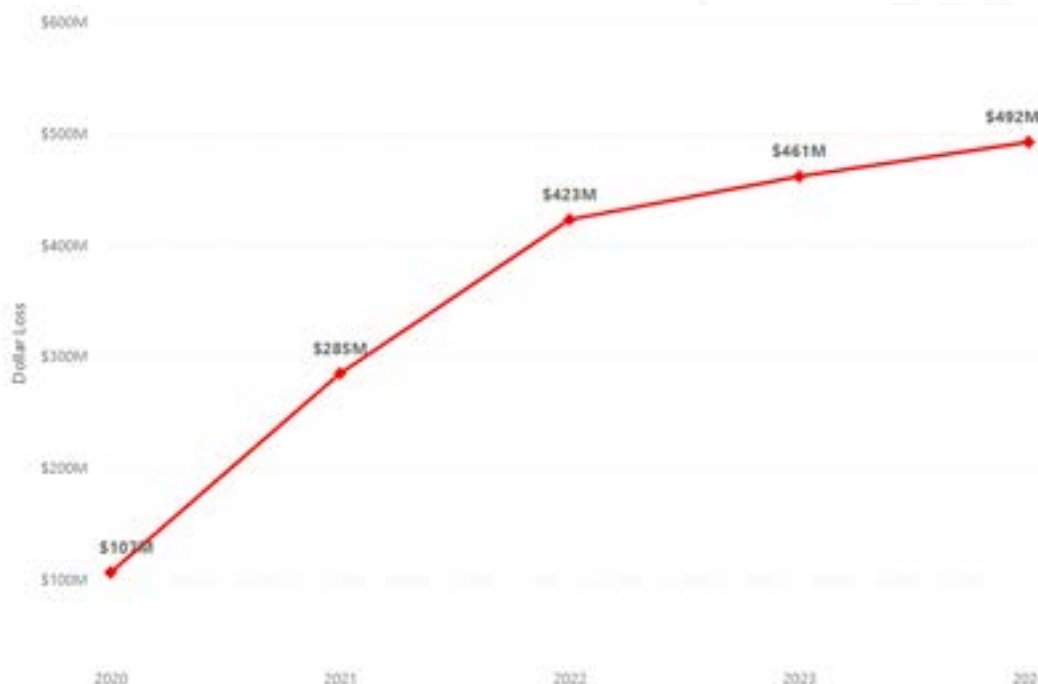
**Canada Report Breakdown**



<sup>16</sup> Canadian reporting is based on reports where the victim’s location was provided and is listed in Canada.

The following graph presents a dollar loss breakdown based on the total dollar loss reported for processed reports, by Canadians, between 2020 and 2024. Although the CAFC has documented a decrease in the total number of reports received by Canadians, the total dollar loss associated to these reports continues to increase.

### Canadian Dollar Loss Breakdown



### Concluding Remarks

CAFC data is reflective of its ability to receive and process fraud reporting and while there has been general decline in reports received overall losses continue to increase, highlighting that fraud continues to be a pervasive crime affecting Canadians and the economic integrity of Canada. Technological advances in communications and the evolving payment landscape continue to be fundamental to the tactics employed by criminal organizations engaged in fraud.

## Appendix A

**Bank Investigator:** Any fraudulent solicitation claiming to be your financial institution advising of fraudulent charges on your account. Request is made to help bait/ catch the fraudsters or to move your money to keep it safe.

**Counterfeit Merchandise:** Any False, deceptive, misleading and fraudulent advertising of counterfeit name brand products, typically offered at very discounted prices

**Emergency:** An urgent request for funds for immediate support, typically from a family member or friend.

**Extortion:** Any person who unlawfully obtains money, property or services from a person, entity, or institution, through coercion.

**Identity Fraud:** The unauthorized use of personal information to create a fictitious identity or to assume/takeover an existing identity in order to obtain financial gain, goods or services, or to conceal criminal activities.

**Investment:** Any false, deceptive, misleading or fraudulent solicitation for investments opportunities, often offering higher than normal or true monetary returns in which consumers lose most or all of their money that is supposedly invested.

**Job:** Any false, deceptive or misleading solicitation offering employment. The solicitation often requests an advance fee to secure the job or to obtain the materials to perform the job or any job offer involving money transfer or wiring funds related to cashing monetary instruments.

**Merchandise:** The non-delivery of goods purchased through classified ads over the internet, online auction sites, through a catalogue or by mail order. If product is received, it is of inferior value, quality or it is not what it is supposed to be.

**Personal Information:** Any solicitation where an individual is asked for or to verify private and personal information, outside of phishing.

**Phishing:** Any e-mail or text message directing providing a link where they ask to update or provide personal or financial information

**Romance:** Any individual with false romantic intentions towards a victim and by gaining their affection and trust gain access the victim's money, bank account, credit cards or in some cases by getting the victims (usually unknowingly) to commit fraud on their behalf.

**Service:** Any false, deceptive, or misleading promotion of or solicitations for services. These solicitations involve third parties that commonly make offer for telecommunications, Internet, finance, medical and energy services. Additionally, this category may include but is not limited to offers such as extended warranties, insurance and sales services.

**Spear Phishing:** A fraudulent solicitation claiming to be from a source (e.g. existing client, account holder, supplier or company executive) known to a business to convince them to send them money.



## Appendix B

### Sextortion

Online extortion and sextortion are evolving with new technologies. Sextortion, or online sexual exploitation, is blackmail. It occurs when someone threatens to send an existing or fabricated sexual image or video of you to other people if you do not pay them or provide more sexual content.

It can also occur when someone is encouraged to participate in or observe online situations of a sexual nature. These encounters can be recorded or captured without the victim's knowledge. The fraudster then threatens to send the recorded material to friends, family members, or work colleagues if money or additional images are not sent.

Social media can allow fraudsters to develop an understanding of someone's social circles and enable communication between threat actors and potential victims. Social media platforms are commonly used in sextortion.

The CAFC continues to observe reports of sextortion targeting teenagers and younger victims, particularly through online video games, chat groups and social media. Threat actors may impersonate a younger individual to slowly develop trust or begin a virtual relationship.

Like extortion and other forms of fraud, sextortion can be isolating and traumatic. This uncomfortable experience can force the victim to pay the fraudster and be afraid of reporting or telling a parent or guardian. Unfortunately, payment is never a solution. Once someone pays, they will be further targeted with continued threats.

As this form of fraud is targeting young Canadians and teenagers, it is important that parents and children develop an understanding of this online threat. To find more information on sextortion and to report instances of child victimization on the Internet, please visit the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P).