

CRA Tax Scam: 40 Call Centres Busted In India

TORONTO: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Financial Crime Section and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) are warning and requesting the assistance of the public in combatting the ongoing CRA tax scam -after nearly 40 illegal call centres were shut down in India and over 60 people charged with various offences.

The RCMP and the CAFC have been working with international law enforcement partners to disrupt this network in India, operated by organized crime groups and which is responsible for the CRA tax scam and other mass marketing related scams.

The bust took place in multiple locations throughout India, from September 2018 to January 2019.

The RCMP is asking for public assistance in providing any tips or information on locations of such centres in India. The RCMP is also seeking information on those responsible both in Canada and abroad in perpetrating the CRA tax scam.

RCMP Cpl. Louise Savard told CTVNews that there were possibly hundreds of illegal call centres that popped up in India over the last six months. These call centres are small in size, which allowed the scammers to pack up and move if they become suspicious of police action.

"In the past, in 2016, the call centres were your typical call centre with large numbers working at one location and now they are smaller with less individuals in each." These call centres are located in heavily populated areas and often have guards keeping an eye out for outsiders.

How the scam works

A scammer either calls, emails or texts someone under the guise of a CRA agent. The caller is often aggressive and tells a variety of lies in order to bilk the victim out of hundreds or sometimes thousands of dollars. The scammer may also try to pressure the victim by claiming a lawsuit has been filed against them, or that a

warrant has been issued for their arrest. Another version of the scam involves a claim via email or text message that the recipient's tax refund is ready and can be claimed by submitting personal information through an attached link.

Based on CAFC data, an estimated 1,500 people reported being victimized by this type of scam in 2018. It's believed they were duped out of more than \$6 million.

The RCMP offers these tips to avoid the CRA tax scam:

- The CRA will not call and threaten you to pay a tax debt;
- The CRA will not call, leave a voice message, text or email

you advising of a warrant of arrest for a tax debt;

- The CRA will not request that you pay a tax debt through the use of crypto currencies such as Bitcoin or gift cards;

- The CRA will not have you deported if you do not pay an owed tax debt;

- Report suspected fraud. If you suspect a CRA tax scam, STOP! HANG UP THE PHONE!

If you believe you are a victim or if you have information in relation to those responsible for committing or helping those committing the CRA tax scam, please report it to Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (www.antifraudcentre.ca or 1-888-495-8501).

Small Businesses To Get Energy Rebates

OTTAWA: The federal government's plan to ease the carbon-price burden on small businesses will include rebate payments to cover some of the cost of making energy-efficiency upgrades.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna _ who kicked off a month-long carbon-price tour at a Canadian Tire store in her Ottawa Centre riding Monday morning _ said the final details of the plan are being worked out with business associations.

"I want it to be a program that isn't highly bureaucratic, where you can make investments and get the money back right away," she said. An official confirmed the plan will include rebate payments.

The federal carbon price of \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide will start being charged April 1 on fossil-fuel inputs in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick _ the four provinces without an equivalent provincial carbon price.



Minister of Environment Catherine McKenna speaks at a Canadian Tire store in Ottawa, as Liberal MP Anita Vandenberg looks on. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang

The price goes up by \$10 each year until it hits \$50 a tonne in 2022, when the Liberals, should they be re-elected in the fall, have promised to review the program to determine where the price goes after that.

The Liberals expect to bring in about \$2.3 billion over the next 12 months in the

four provinces having the levy imposed on them, and McKenna says every cent will be returned to the provinces where it was raised. About 90 per cent of the money will go to individuals when they file their income taxes in the coming weeks.

The remaining 10 per cent is earmarked for small businesses, municipalities, hospitals, universities and Indigenous communities. The government expects to provide at least \$1.46 billion over five years to small and medium-sized businesses, including \$155 million in the fiscal year starting April 1. Hospitals, municipalities and other community organizations will share at least \$727 million over five years, starting with \$73 million in 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Home Sales In GTA Down By 2.4%

TORONTO: Home sales in the Greater Toronto Area in February fell compared with a year ago, while the average selling price ticked higher.

The Toronto Real Estate Board says there were 5,025 homes sold in the region last month, down from 5,148 in the same month last year.

The average selling price was \$780,397, up from \$767,801.

The 2.4 per cent drop in the number of homes sold in the region came as the number of new listings fell 6.2 per cent.

New listings in February totalled 9,828, down from 10,473 a year earlier.

The board says the decline suggests that market conditions became tighter compared with last year.

MONTREAL: Home sales ramped up in Montreal last month, marking four years of continuous growth. Quebec's real estate association says home sales in metropolitan Montreal rose eight per cent to 4,370 in February compared with the same month in 2018.

Condominium sales shot up 14 per cent to 1,588 while single-family home sales increased four per cent to 2,436. Sales of plexes, which include two to five units, hit 339, a seven per cent bump from February 2018. Average residential price increased 4.9 per cent to \$388,398.

ALAM LAW OFFICE INJURY LAWYERS

INJURED? CAR ACCIDENT? SLIP & FALL? INSURANCE DENIED CLAIM?

INJURY LAWYERS TEAM
...is here to fight for your legal rights and ensure that you receive maximum compensation for your injuries.
24/7 Hotline: 416-625-2636

ALAM LAW CHAMBER
(This building and facility is owned and operated by Alam Law Chamber)
with Lawyers Exclusive Practise In

Real Estate

Criminal Law

Immigration Law

Family Law

Employment & Labour Law
Human Rights Law

Highway Traffic Matters
Contract Disputes
Small Claims Court
Municipal Law
Will & Estate Law
Tax Law

CALL NOW 905-564-5953

5100 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON L4W 1C9
Visit us online at www.thealamlaw.com

[/imathsofficial](https://www.facebook.com/imathsofficial)

i-Maths
Young Children Creative Mathematics
An Early Enrichment Program For Children Aged 3-7 Years.

A Division of
UCMAS
EDUCATION WITH A DIFFERENCE

Lets Ring-in The Spring With i-Maths!

SPRING BREAK FREE CAMP

Fun with Numbers

Picture Games

Space Mapping

Puzzles

i-Maths helps to build superior mathematical abilities in young children. It is designed in accordance with their grasping abilities to understand mathematical concepts.

REGISTER NOW!
Limited Seats Available.

Toll Free Number:
1-877-826-2790
www.i-maths.ca

ASK DR. SANDY

These Headaches Are Taking Over My Life!

Q: Dr. Sandy I've been suffering with headaches for years and it affects everything from my family and work life. Is there a natural way to get better?

A: Headaches and even migraines can make people feel miserable. And there are a lot of people who are looking to get well naturally without the use of painkillers – due to a concern of side effects and addiction.

So what can you do? **Call 905.896.3393 or visit www.lifepowerfreedom.com to book a FREE Spinal Nerve Consultation to see if we can help.**

My name is Dr. Sandy Bhasin and I am the owner of Powerflow Chiropractic located at 33 City Centre Dr Suite 143 in Mississauga. I've completed 18 years of practice and have just been awarded **Best Chiropractor in Mississauga by Top Choice Awards for 2019.**

You can also catch me on Eye on Asia and on Facebook under Powerflow Chiropractic. I look forward to meeting you soon and thanks for all your referrals!

POWERFLOW
CHIROPRACTIC

FREE CONSULTATION
33 City Centre Dr. Suite 143 Mississauga, Ontario
Tel: 905.896.3393 www.lifepowerfreedom.com