

Media Release

Ontario's Police Leaders Urge Ontarians to "Know Your Source" in Annual Crime Prevention Campaign

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2018

(Toronto, ON) – The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) has launched the 2018 Crime Prevention campaign (#CrimePreventionONT), which encourages Ontarians to "Know Your Source" when it comes to making on-line or mail order purchases, purchasing products from private individuals, and being aware of growing sophisticated fraud and cybercrime-related crimes. The campaign also highlights the need for knowing your source for when cannabis is legalized later this summer.

"With the increasing popularity of on-line shopping, the prevalence of frauds and scams that prey on vulnerable individuals, and the coming legalization of cannabis, Ontarians need to be vigilant. This year's OACP Province-wide campaign asks each of us to be informed and careful about the sources of the products and services we purchase," said Chief Bryan Larkin, OACP President and Chief of Police of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.

When it comes to cannabis, the OACP has supported the Government of Ontario's efforts to strictly regulate where individuals can purchase cannabis when it is legalized.

"Knowing your source is the start to be able to make smart decisions. The single most cost-effective way of bringing about community safety and well-being is preventing crime before it happens and that starts with each of us as individuals doing our part." said Chief Paul Pedersen (Greater Sudbury Police Service), Vice-Chair of the OACP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee.

The 2018 OACP Crime Prevention Campaign is supported by the following community partners: Accident Support Services International Ltd., Canada Revenue Agency, Canadian Security Association (CANASA), Green Relief Inc., Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning – School of Social & Community Services, Hydro One Networks, Interac Corp., Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., and The Bullet ID Corporation.

-30-

Know Your Source Facts

- Fraud is a crime that threatens every Canadian, regardless of their education, age or income. From January 2014 to December 2016, it is estimated that Canadians lost over \$290 million to fraudsters, with seniors aged 60 to 79 estimated to have lost almost \$28 million to various scams.
- In 2013 (the most recent data available from Statistics Canada), more than half of all cybercrime reported was described as a fraud violation, with 6,203 offenses out of a total of 11,124 offenses across all categories.
- Depending on the price point for the legal, government-controlled retailing of cannabis, there will likely always be an illegal market for this substance even after legalization.



Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

40 College Street
Suite 605
Toronto, ON
M5G 2J3

To download our new crime prevention booklet, visit www.oacp.ca

#CrimePreventionONT

#FraudPreventionMonth

For more information, contact:

Joe Couto

Director of Government Relations & Communications

T. (416) 926-0424, ext. 22

C. (416) 919-9798

E. media@oacp.ca

Web: www.oacp.ca

Twitter: @OACPOfficial

Instagram: OACPOfficial

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/OACPOfficial

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police is the voice of Ontario's Police Leaders

Members of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police serve their communities as the senior police leaders in municipal, regional, provincial, national, & First Nations police services across Ontario.