



Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre  
Statistics  
From October 2013

Canadian Complaints:

2556 Attempts

804 Victims

Total 3360

Reported Dollar loss this month:

\$5,002,455.18

Ontario Complaints:

1092 Attempts

310 Victims

Total 1402

Reported Dollar loss this month:

\$2,460,871.32

**Service, Emergency and  
Job scams are the top 3  
reported Mass Market-  
ing Fraud Scams for  
October 2013.**

# Active Scams in Ontario



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**Looking for Love  
Beware  
The Romance Scam**



According to CAFC statistics for 2011, 2012 and 2013 in excess of 12 million dollars per year in financial losses is attributable to the Romance Scam, making it the highest grossing mass marketing fraud scam. The scam has been around for decades but was historically accomplished via regular mail post. With the influx of "Dating Websites" the potential victims are already identified for the scammers including hints on the type of person they want to fall in love with, the location and age range. Scammer emails can be filled with details of their history and a future they want to build with you. Not only does the victim incur a financial loss but also a negative social impact as the victim has developed an emotional and psychological attachment to the fraudster. This scam has also led to incidents of suicide in cases where the victims have lost their life savings and have been emotionally destroyed. The highest victimization rate for the romance scam is a person in their 50's followed closely by people in their 40's. These two age groups make up almost 70 percent of the complaints reported to CAFC.

**Warning signs**

- Communication for several months before a pitch is made.
- Usually located in a foreign country whether by origin or is traveling on business or vacation.
- Advise they can't afford to travel and will seek assistance from the victim to cover travel costs
- The fraudster will present situations of emergency/ urgency, such as an illness or sick family member and seek financial assistance from the victim for various costs.
- They have lost their ID and require money to get new ID needed to eventually meet the victim.
- The scammer asks you to leave the dating site and communicate through another means -mainly cell phones.
- A person saying they love you after a short time frame of a couple weeks, never having met you personally.
- Western Union, MoneyGram and bank wire transfers are the main methods the fraudsters request their money however CAFC has also identified counterfeit cheques ( a pay cheque or collecting funds on their behalf) being cashed and money transferred.
- Being requested to make large dollar wire transfers to countries in Africa, Asia or Eastern Europe
- Relationship can develop into a business opportunity, an inheritance scam, or a black money scam.

**Protection**

- Don't send money to a foreign country using Western Union or MoneyGram to this person you have never personally met.
- A person wants to call you and has a cell phone number that is not Canadian or from the country where they are supposed to be.
- Beware of someone you never met who wants you to collect cheques for them and wire most of the money to a place outside of Canada
- Like any scam use your computer to your advantage. Educate yourself and your choices.
- A simple check on the internet of a name, an address or a phone number may reveal a fraud warning by some other

**CAFC can assist with investigators through coordination of efforts or the CAFC disruption program (blocking the on-line ads / email addresses / cell phone and working with Financial institutions) Telephone 888-495-8501 / [info@antifraudcentre.ca](mailto:info@antifraudcentre.ca) / [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca)**