

Delta Police Department

Media Release



4455 Clarence Taylor Crescent · Delta, BC · V4K 3E1

www.deltapolice.ca

Release date/time: **1600 hours, Wednesday, July 21, 2010**
Incident: **Fraud**
Date/Time: **1000 hours, Thursday, July 15, 2010**
Location: **Tsawwassen**
DPD file: **2010-14723**

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Telephone Fraud Affecting Tsawwassen

The Delta Police want to warn the community of a telephone fraud that has recently surfaced in Tsawwassen.

A lady who lives in the 1200 block of Hunter Road received a call from a man who convinced her that he was her son who lives out of province. He told her he had been in a traffic accident in Quebec and suffered a broken nose which resulted in him sounding differently. He claimed he had been drinking and driving and was under arrest. He apologized profusely but asked her to send him some money to pay his lawyer and pay his fine. She agreed.

Because he was in jail she could not send the money to his account. He had to have his friend pick up the money. He told her to get the money and forward it through Canada Post to his friend "John Martin" in Quebec. She obtained the cash and transferred the money through a Canada Post outlet in Tsawwassen. She later received a call from "John Martin" who apologized for getting her son into this mess. He then asked her for the reference number provided by Canada Post so he could claim the funds (this is the usual procedure). She provided it.

A little later she received another call from "John" who advised her that they needed more money. He claimed they had only asked her for half because he was going to pay the other half using his credit card but this form of payment wouldn't work. He asked her to go through the same process once again. The victim went back to her bank and withdrew more money. She returned to the Canada Post outlet where she tried to send the money once again, however, this time the staff advised her that they had just become aware of a money transfer scam using the name of "John Martin" and suggested that the victim confirm this was legitimate before she sent the money. The victim contacted her son directly and learned she had been tricked.

Police investigation has revealed that this scam has been tried on several residents in Tsawwassen. It is still under investigation.

The Delta Police Department would like to remind everyone that fraudsters use the telephone and money transfer systems to avoid detection and identification. Please be certain that any money transfers you are requested to do are to legitimate parties for legitimate purposes. If you need more information go to www.phonebusters.com or contact the Delta Police Economic Crime Section at 604-946-4411.