

# Call for vigilance: "Grandparents" fraud is on the rise

This type of fraud, a telephone scam referred to as "grandparents" fraud, is on the rise in Quebec. Are you certain it is your grand-son calling to ask you for money?

The Réseau FADOQ is committed to helping spread the word that this phone scam, which has already claimed thousands of victims, is expanding. The scam generally targets seniors.

The scammers pretend to be someone close to the family facing an urgent problem requiring a sum of money (an accident, trouble with the law or other problem). The scammers manipulate their victims and thereby extort several thousand dollars.



## Scenario

The person on the line poses as a family member. The suspect speaks French and always chooses elderly people as victims. The individual requests that funds be sent via money transfer or suggests a third party meet the victim to collect the funds.

## Prevention advice from City of Montreal police

- Never give out your contact information. For instance, if the speaker asks "Don't you recognize me?" Answer "no" and ask the speaker to identify themselves.
- Ask personal questions that only your family members would be able to answer (e.g. parent's name, place of birth, family memory).
- When in doubt, do not hesitate to hang up or request a callback number.
- Call a family member to confirm the information.
- Never transfer or provide money immediately after a telephone request.

## Think you may be a victim of fraud or theft? Contact the following resources :

Aide Abus Aînés line : **1 888 489-2287**

Info-Crime line (Montreal) : **514 393-1133**

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre : **1 888 495-8501**

Sûreté du Québec : **310-4141** or **\*4141** (cellular)

Your district or municipal police

**911**