

Take Steps to Prevent Identity Theft

Mail theft can be a serious problem and the right steps should be taken to prevent it. Stolen mail can lead to identity theft which means someone may use your information to commit crime. The following tips can help you avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.

Identity thieves look for any mail with your:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Social Insurance Number
- Full address
- Mother's maiden name
- Username and password for online services
- Driver's license number
- Passport number

Criminals can use your information to:

- Access your bank accounts
- Open new bank accounts
- Transfer bank balances
- Apply for loans and credit cards
- Make purchases

Some of the signs of identity theft:

- Calls from collection agency about unknown debt
- Your monthly bill has purchases you did not make
- Your hard copy statements don't arrive
- Any unusual activities with your financial accounts

Report it by taking these steps and contact:

- Your local police force and file a report
- Your bank/financial institution and credit card company
- One of the Canadian credit bureaus
- Canada Post to alert that your area may be targeted

For more information: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/id-theft-vol-eng.htm> or <http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>