Media Release

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Killam / Forestburg RCMP provides tips to help you avoid becoming a target of cybercrime

Killam / Forestburg, Alta. – From phishing scams to identity theft, cybercriminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their methods, making it vital for Albertans to stay vigilant and informed. As more of our personal and financial information moves online, protecting yourself from these digital threats is critical. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to minimize the risk of falling victim to cybercrime, as well as reporting it if you do.

Killam / Forestburg RCMP encourages everyone to stay vigilant against these common cyber threats:

- Be wary of unsolicited emails, text messages, or social media communications asking for personal or financial information. These may appear to be from legitimate sources but are often designed to steal your data.
- Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown or unverified sources, as they may contain malware or viruses.
- Scammers often create fake websites that look like official ones to trick users into entering sensitive information. Always verify the URL and ensure the website is secure (look for "https").
- Keep an eye on your online accounts for any strange activity, such as unexpected password changes or transactions you did not authorize.
- Be cautious of job offers that seem too good to be true or require upfront fees. Scammers often use fake employment offers to collect personal information.
- Be skeptical of high-return investment opportunities, especially those with little to no risk. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

To keep yourself safe from cybercrime, the RCMP suggests the following precautions:

- Create complex, unique passwords for each account, and avoid using easily guessable information like birthdates or names. Consider using a password manager to securely store your passwords.
- Ensure that your operating system, antivirus software, and apps are regularly updated to protect against security vulnerabilities.
- Regularly check your bank accounts, credit card statements, and online profiles for any suspicious activity.
- Avoid accessing sensitive accounts (e.g., banking, email) over unsecured public Wi-Fi networks, as they may be vulnerable to hackers.
- Regularly back up important files and data to a secure location, such as an external hard drive or cloud storage, in case of a ransomware attack.
- Stay informed about the latest cyber threats and scams. Awareness is one of the best defenses against cybercrime.

- If you suspect you've been a victim of cybercrime, report it to your local RCMP detachment or through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

For more tips on how you can protect yourself from cyber crime, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

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Media Contact

Sgt. Andy Wetzstein

Killam / Forestburg Detachment Commander