



# COMMUNICATION MEMO

Director of Communications

2021.09.23

**MEMO:**        **Warning - Telephone Scam Targeting International Students**

**TO:**            All Students, Faculty and Staff

**FROM:**        Brian Leahy, Director of Communications

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It has been brought to our attention that a number of students have received unsolicited phone calls from individuals indicating they are from Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and/or the police. These highly organized scams are becoming increasingly common across the globe and often include individuals making threats of deportation and other negative impacts based on common personal information they have been able to obtain from other sources (or in some cases, provided directly by the person who has received the call).

## **What should you do if you receive such a call?**

***The following information is found on the Government of Canada website to help educate newcomers on possible scams being conducted by people posing as Government of Canada staff:***

**What happens:** A person poses as a government official on the telephone. They call/text people and try to scare them by saying they have done something wrong (like not filing proper paperwork), and that they owe fees. They may say the person can lose their immigration status or be deported if they do not pay right away. These people may even threaten someone's family or home.

## **Things to remember:**

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will **never**:

- contact you over the telephone to collect fees or fines,
- be aggressive or threaten to arrest or deport you,
- threaten to harm you or a member of your family, or damage your home or property,

- ask for personal information over the phone (except to verify the information you already gave us),
- ask for financial information over the phone,
- try to rush you into paying right away,
- ask you to pay fees using prepaid credit cards, Western Union, Money Gram, gift cards, or any other similar services, or
- send police to arrest you for unpaid fees.

**If you get a suspicious immigration call or text, you should:**

- Ask for the name of the person calling and then hang up.
- Call our [Call Centre](#) to confirm that the call was real.
- If the call wasn't real, report it to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#).
- If you have lost money to a scam artist, report it to your local police.

**If you get a suspicious call about taxes, you should:**

- Hang up, then confirm if the call was real by calling the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281.
- If the call wasn't real, report it to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#).
- If you have lost money to a scam artist, report it to your local police.

If you have been the target of a telephone, internet, mail or any other type of scam and unwittingly provided personal or financial information, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre:

- by telephone at 1-888-495-8501 or
- through their [website](#)

If you're outside of Canada, contact your local police.

Find out more about [protecting yourself from fraud](#).

In closing, I encourage any student who has received such a call to reach out to [immigration@algomau.ca](mailto:immigration@algomau.ca) to connect our staff who are immigration professionals (RISIA & RCIC).