



## Heads Up Fraud Prevention Association

9620 – 103A Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0H7

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# The CANADIAN CAPER

## Bank Inspector Fraud

This type of fraud or confidence game has been successful since the early 1950's. Although devised and first committed in eastern Canada, it quickly became very lucrative and spread across the country and into the United States. As a result, it is commonly referred to as the Canadian Caper. Because this type of crime is directed primarily at elderly women living alone, it is also known as *the Granny Game*.

On average, the proceeds from this type of crime are between \$1,000 and \$2,000.00. Canadian banks discourage large cash withdrawals by their elderly customers. Losses in the United States are much higher.

Most of the criminals active in this type of crime are experienced and often have long criminal records. The more professional tend to emerge as the leaders and recruit others to carry out the "street" work.

Being extremely organized, these criminals often carry out research in order to identify their elderly victims.

This fraud usually unfolds as follows:

- ✓ The victim is contacted by telephone.
- ✓ The caller will have your name and will introduce himself as a bank inspector, a police officer or other type of official.
- ✓ He will advise that he is conducting confidential inquiries regarding a dishonest bank employee and requests your assistance in trapping him.
- ✓ Questions are asked about the status, location and balance of your personal account.
- ✓ By doing so, the caller establishes where the account is held and how much money is available for withdrawal.
- ✓ The victim is then instructed to attend the bank and make a withdrawal.
- ✓ The suspect urges confidentiality and secrecy.
- ✓ After you withdraw the money, the caller advises that he will meet in the parking lot where the money will be inspected.
- ✓ Once the money is turned over, the victim is instructed to return home where she will be contacted at a later date.
- ✓ Reassurance is offered that the money will be returned to the account.



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Naturally, no follow-up telephone call is made and the money is not returned to the bank. The victim loses.

This type of crime is successful due to the elderly victims willingness to help the bank inspector or police catch a dishonest person.

### **Heads-Up!**

Bank officials never operate in this manner.

Police will never call to ask you to assist in these types of investigations.

Never give your personal bank information out over the phone.

Never withdraw large quantities of money.

Do not agree to meet strangers at any location.