



Identity theft is on the rise and it can happen to anyone. It can happen to you. By managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with an awareness of the issue, you can help guard yourself against identity theft.

- Sign all credit cards when you receive them.
- Never loan your credit cards to anyone.
- Cancel credit cards you do not use and keep a list of the ones you use regularly.
- Immediately report lost or stolen credit cards and any discrepancies in your monthly statements to the issuing credit card company.
- Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank counters, in trash cans, or at unattended gasoline pumps; ensure you destroy paperwork you no longer need.
- Never provide personal information such as Social Insurance Number (SIN), date of birth, credit card numbers, or Personal Identification Number (PIN) over emails, or the telephone unless you initiate the call. You can find more information on telephone and Internet safety in this toolkit.
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery and do not leave pieces of mail lying around your home.
- Shred or otherwise destroy pre-approved credit card applications, credit card receipts, bills and related information when no longer needed.
- Avoid keeping a written record of your bank, PIN number(s), social insurance number and computer passwords, unless it is kept in a secure location such as a safety deposit box.
- Avoid mail or telephone solicitations, disguised as promotions or surveys, offering instant prizes or awards designed for the purpose of obtaining your personal details, including credit card numbers.
- Check your credit report regularly (at least once a year) to ensure you are aware of all information it contains. This will alert you quickly to anyone trying to use your identity for the purpose of obtaining credit.

You can check your credit report by contacting:

Equifax: (866) 828-5961, 155 Belvedere Ave, Suite 200, Charlottetown, PE

Trans Union: (800) 663-9980, 51 University Ave, Suite 103, Charlottetown, PE

Source: (RCMP- Seniors' Guidebook to Safety and Security)