



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

Hello? Phone Scam Warning

Grande Prairie RCMP is warning the public of a scam involving phone calls from a person requesting assistance to pay bail for a family member. The scammer claims to be in trouble and asks for help. They may try to convince you to wire money, buy gift cards or bitcoin right away, without telling anyone. They pull at heartstrings so they can trick you into sending money before you realize it is a scam. To make the story more credible, the caller might also put another person on the phone to act like a police officer or lawyer.

Fortunately, there are a few simple steps that you can take to avoid falling victim to this scam:

- **Resist the urge to act immediately – no matter how dramatic the story.**
- **Ask the caller a few personal questions that a real family member could answer but a scammer could not.**
- **Never wire money, send gifts or bitcoin to someone under uncertain conditions. It is nearly impossible to recover or trace money that has been wired.**
- **Remember police officers will not request anyone to send money for anything.**

For more information on scams contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca or toll free at 1-888-495-8501. If you believe you may be the victim of fraud or have given personal or financial information unwittingly, contact your local police detachment.

Something Strange in Your Neighbourhood? Who you gonna call?

From Mar. to Apr. 2021, Grande Prairie RCMP had a 30% increase in calls for service for suspicious person(s)/vehicles. Several of the calls resulted in a crime being prevented or interrupted. A call to report suspicious activity aids the RCMP detachment but also makes your neighborhood a safer place in which to live and work. RCMP encourages the public to continue to report suspicious activity to the police.

Your safety is important and we ask that you remove yourself and find a safe place and call police to report any suspicious activity. Never attempt to make contact with, pursue or in any other way interfere with an individual or group of individuals involved in suspicious activities.

When you call to report suspicious activity, be ready to provide as many of the following facts as you have available:

- **What happened?**
- **Where and when did it occur?**
- **Is anyone injured?**
- **Description of vehicle(s)**
- **License plate number(s)**
- **Time and direction of travel of suspect(s)**
- **Description of suspect(s), including clothing**

Recovered Stolen Lawnmower

The Grande Prairie RCMP, with assistance from Grande Prairie City Enforcement, recovered a ride on lawnmower valued at approximately \$1600.00 on Apr. 26, 2021. The lawnmower had been stolen from Home Depot and taken to the area of 101 St. and 97 Ave. Grande Prairie RCMP returned the lawnmower to Home Depot and continue their investigation.

RCMP Locate Stolen Vehicle

On Apr. 2, 2021, while on patrol, RCMP officers located a stolen vehicle at the Wildrose Inn. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of a 44-year-old male from Grande Prairie. The male was charged with Possession of Stolen Property over \$5000, Possession of Stolen Property under \$5000, and Possession of a controlled substance – Crystal Methamphetamine. The male is scheduled to appear in Grande Prairie Provincial Court on May 5, 2021.

Forged Identification

On Apr. 10, 2021 while on patrol, RCMP located a suspicious vehicle parked in the area of 103 St. and 107 Ave. The driver of the vehicle provided identification that police believed was forged. The 37-year-old female from Grande Prairie was arrested and released on an Undertaking to appear in Grande Prairie Provincial Court on May 11, 2021. The passenger on the vehicle, a 42-year male from Grande Prairie was arrested for unrelated warrants.

Stolen Bike Returned to Owner

While on patrol, a Grande Prairie RCMP officer was approached by a person advising that his bicycle had been recently stolen. The officer conducted an investigation with the information provided and located a subject in possession of the bicycle. The subject attempted to flee from police but was quickly apprehended. The bicycle was returned to the owner.

Impaired Driver Arrested

Apr. 19, 2020, at approximately 12:06 a.m Grande Prairie RCMP received a complaint of a truck driving dangerously. Officers attended the location of the complaint and arrested the driver for impaired driving. The driver provided breath samples that indicated a blood alcohol level over two times the legal limit.



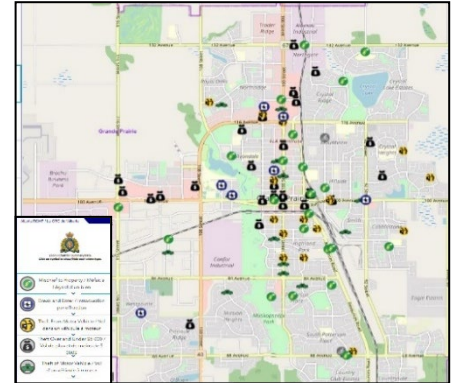
RCMP Crime Map

The RCMP in Alberta supports community engagement and encourages the public to use the Crime Map as an informative tool to help uphold public safety.

Knowing the real picture of neighbourhood crime reported to the RCMP is the first step in doing something about it. Neighbourhood crime is more than just numbers; it's about knowing where crime is happening.

The crimes that are noted on the map (Mischief, Theft from Vehicle, Stolen Vehicle, Theft, and Break & Enter) were determined as ones that the residents in a community have the greatest potential to deter using crime prevention strategies.

<https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/emergency/rcmp/rcmp-crime-map>
<https://rcmp-k-div.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=572cd3cf20ed45b7bc09065bf79ce0ac>



Grande Prairie Warn of Bitcoin Scams

Grande Prairie RCMP are warning local residents and business owners to be cautious of scams involving cryptocurrency, also known as bitcoin.

In the last few months, RCMP have received several reports of scams involving bitcoin, where victims have lost large sums of money. The scams use varying narratives which lead victims to send bitcoin to thieves. These may include:

- **Helping the police or financial institutions catch others committing bank fraud**
- **Cheque cashing scams**
- **New job-related cheque cashing schemes**
- **Online investment schemes**

The suspects contact the victims by phone or email that appears to be authentic and provide convincing information to enhance the scam. RCMP advise residents and businesses to use caution any time they are asked for money.

Tips to Protect Yourself

- **Verify the caller or senders phone number or email address – scammers will often create numbers and addresses that are very similar to legitimate ones, or even appearing to be the same. Legitimate businesses do not mind you calling back to verify.**
- **Inspect emails and documents carefully before making any payments – fraudsters will use company names or logos similar to known businesses to make invoices seem real.**
- **Know that reputable organizations will never ask for private or personal information through email or text.**
- **Never use the phone number or email address provided in a suspicious message – use the contact information listed on verified websites or bills.**
- **Never feel pressured to make a quick decision – take time to verify.**

To file a police complaint regarding this or any other type of scam, please contact your local RCMP detachment.

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	Apr'20	Apr'21	Apr'20	Apr'21
Break & Enter	42	15	11	11
Theft of Motor Vehicle	33	20	14	5
Theft From Motor Vehicle	57	43	6	1
Possession of Stolen Property	35	14	4	2

**Crime statistics cover the period of April 1 through April 30 2021 and are compared to the same period of the previous year. Note: The figures in the chart are raw and may be changed by our review process. They do not represent our final, official crime statistics.*

All Events	City		Rural	
	Apr'20	Apr'21	Apr'20	Apr'21
Total Police Events	2029	2232	367	428

**Police events represent all police calls for service, officer-generated files and traffic infractions. Note: These do not represent our final, official crime statistics.*



TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

call the **Grande Prairie RCMP** at **780-830-5700** or your local police detachment.

IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

you can contact **Crime Stoppers** at **1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)**, online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the **Apple App** or **Google Play Store**.