



NEWSLETTER Q1

IN THIS ISSUE

Market Insights

- 6 Things your bank should never ask you2
- AI in Investing3

BDWM in the Community

- Brazier Dupuis Wealth Management (BDWM) and Windsor International Film Festival (WIFF)4

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Protecting Your Wealth in a Changing World

Winter 2026

As we enter the second half of the Roaring Twenties, thank you for the trust you place in us. We're committed to supporting you through every stage of life, and from all of us at Brazier Dupuis Wealth Management (BDWM), we wish you good health and happiness in the year ahead.

Much like the original "Roaring Twenties," we are living in a time of accelerating and widespread adoption of advanced technologies. Artificial intelligence has spurred generational investment in research and development, as well as the physical infrastructure required to support it. While this presents incredible opportunities for businesses to grow, innovate, and improve, there are also significant challenges that must be addressed.

A key concern is the use of technology in attempted fraud and scams. Canadians have lost more than \$2 billion to fraud since 2020, and annual losses continue to rise. In a recent poll, approximately 25% of respondents reported having already fallen victim to fraud, despite 89% expressing confidence in their ability to recognize it. The reality is that fraud methods have become increasingly sophisticated, and the ability to deceive through technology has never been greater.

In this edition, we share insights on common fraud tactics and how to protect yourself. As a client, you're already taking an important step by working with a team of professionals.

Stay Well,



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6 things your bank would never ask you

Financial scams and fraud can take many forms, often appearing as text messages, emails, or phone calls that seem to come from your bank.

According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, one of the most common scams in Canada involves fraudsters posing as bank employees to obtain personal or banking information, often through fake “fraud investigations” or security requests. These scams typically ask you to do things a bank would never request.

One of the best ways to protect yourself is knowing what your bank would never ask you to do.

Your bank would never call you to ask for personal information

While banks may ask security questions when you contact them, they will never call you and request sensitive details such as your PIN or online banking password. If this happens, hang up and call the number on the back of your card.

Your bank would never ask you to keep a secret or be dishonest

Scammers may pressure you to withdraw or transfer money and instruct you not to tell branch staff why. They may even provide a false story to share. Always be honest with branch staff, they are your first line of defence.

Your bank would never rush or threaten you

Fraudulent messages often claim your account will be frozen or closed unless you act immediately. Any message pressuring you to click a link or act urgently is a strong warning sign.

Your bank would never ask you to help with an investigation

Banks and law enforcement will never ask customers to assist in fraud investigations, disclose information, or accept compensation. These scams are designed to gain access to your accounts or devices.

Your bank would never ask you to purchase gift cards

Requests to buy gift cards for any reason are a clear indicator of fraud.

Your bank would never request access to your computer

Banks will never ask for remote access to your device or request that you download software. If you receive such a request, hang up immediately.

How to Avoid Falling Victim to a Scam

Don't assume a call is legitimate. Even if your caller ID shows your bank's name, be cautious. Scammers often use spoofing technology to make fraudulent calls appear authentic.

Protect your personal information. Banks will never call you to ask for your PIN or passwords. If a call feels uncomfortable or overly personal, hang up and contact your bank using the number on the back of your card.

How to Protect Yourself

Understand your responsibilities. Review your bank's guidelines for account and cardholders so you know what's expected of you.

Enable two-factor authentication. Turn on two-step verification for your email, banking apps, and social media accounts to add an extra layer of security.

Get educated. Use trusted resources like the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and your bank's fraud hub to stay informed about common scams and emerging threats.

Stay informed. Fraud alert services can notify you of suspicious activity and help you respond quickly.

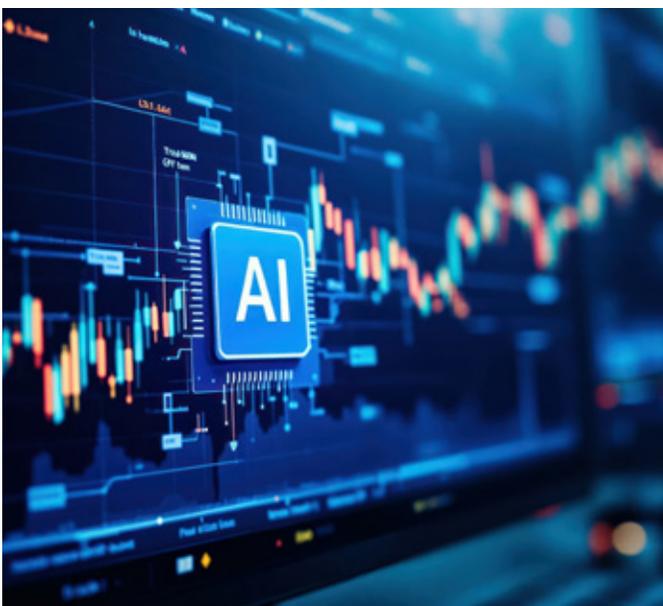
If You've Been Targeted

Report it. Contact your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre if you or a family member has been affected.

Talk about it. Sharing your experience helps raise awareness and makes it harder for scammers to succeed.

AI in Investing: Opportunities and Risks

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly promoted in the investment industry as a way to enhance decision-making, personalize risk profiles, and optimize portfolios. While these tools offer potential benefits, they also introduce new risks investors should understand.



Why AI Can Be Risky

As AI technology advances, fraudsters are also using it to create more convincing and sophisticated scams.

Unfamiliar territory: AI evolves rapidly, making it difficult to predict how it may be misused.

Digital footprint: Personal information shared online is often collected, sold, or repurposed, increasing exposure.

Anonymity: AI tools can be deployed from anywhere, making scammers hard to trace and losses difficult to recover.

Note:

Follow the attached link or contact our office if you'd like a copy of the Fraud Prevention Toolkit prepared by the Canadian Banker's Association. https://cba.ca/Assets/CanadianBankersAssociation/Documents/Articles/Scam_Prevention_Toolkits/2025cybersecurityolderadulttoolkitupdated_en.pdf

How AI Is Used in Fraud

Deepfakes and impersonation: AI-generated audio and video can convincingly mimic public figures, colleagues, friends, or family members.

Phishing attacks: AI enables highly realistic emails, texts, and messages that continuously improve over time.

Account takeovers: Bots can exploit weak passwords to access online investment accounts.

Personalized scams: Fraudsters tailor attacks using publicly available personal information.

How to Protect Yourself

Verify requests: If contacted about money or investments, confirm the identity through a trusted, independent method.

Be proactive: Use caution with unsolicited investment opportunities and consider a family safety word for verification.

Secure your accounts: Use strong passwords, enable two-step verification, and never grant remote access to your devices.

Research before investing: Avoid emotional decisions. Take time to verify the investment, the individual, and whether they are registered with CICO.

Real-World Examples of AI Fraud

Deepfake endorsements: An Ontario man lost thousands after being targeted by a convincing deepfake impersonating Elon Musk and Justin Trudeau promoting a fake investment.

Manipulated news footage: In 2024, fraudsters altered a CTV News segment to falsely appear as an endorsement of a cryptocurrency scheme.

The "Fake CEO" scam: AI-generated voice clones of senior executives have been used to instruct employees to transfer funds.

BDWM IN THE COMMUNITY

Around Town



A Night of Film and Community

As proud supporters of the Windsor-Essex arts community, BDWM management were honoured to sponsor the Windsor International Film Festival. Pictured at the WIFF Opening Night Gala are PJ Dupuis, WIFF Executive Director & Chief Programmer Vincent Georgie, and Brian Porter.

A Timely Reminder

RSP - Retirement Savings Plan

Deadline for 2025 RSP contributions is March 2, 2026. The contribution limit for the 2025 tax year is \$32,490 and the new limit for 2026 is \$33,810. Your personal contribution room can be found on your Notice of Assessment or the CRA website.

TFSA - Tax Free Savings Account

The annual contribution limit for 2026 is \$7,000. The total lifetime contribution room is now \$108,000. If you would like to catch up on missed contributions from prior years, you should confirm your available room with the CRA by calling 1-800-959-8281 or visiting the MyCRA website.

RESP - Registered Education Savings Plan

If you have an RESP set up for your children, contact us to ensure that you are making annual contributions that maximize the government grants available

FHSA - First Home Savings Account

Contact us if you'd like to learn more about the First Home Savings Account and if it could be helpful to you or your family.

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