

What is a job scam? A job scam is a fake job. The goal is to take your money or your personal information (such as your bank details or Social Insurance Number).

Warning Signs (Red Flags)

- Too good to be true - The job offers very high pay for very little work.
- No interview - You receive a job offer without an interview.
- They ask for money – They require you to pay for training, application fees, or equipment. Real employers do not ask for money.
- They ask for personal information too early - For example: SIN, bank account, or ID before you are hired.
- Unprofessional communication - Emails have spelling mistakes or come from free email accounts (like Gmail).
- Pressure to act quickly - You are told to accept the job right away.
- Unclear job details - The job description is short, vague, or confusing.

Common Job Scams

- Fake job postings on websites or social media.
- Messages from recruiters you did not contact.
- Cheque scams (you deposit money and send some back).
- Jobs that ask you to transfer money for the company.

How to Stay Safe:

Before you apply

- Research the company (check its website and reviews).
- Look for the job on the official company website.
- Use trusted job websites (for example, Experience.mta.ca or Job Bank).

During the application

- Ask questions about the job.
- Do not share personal information early.
- Make sure there is a real interview (phone, video, or in person).

Key rules

- You should never pay money to get a job.
- Never share your SIN or banking information before hiring .
- Trust your judgment. If something feels wrong, stop.

If You Think It Is a Scam

- Stop communication.
- Do not send money or personal information.
- Report the situation to:
 - Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
 - Your bank
 - MtA's International Centre or ELCD Office

Simple Safety Rule: Stop. Check. Think.

- Stop before you act.
- Check if the job is real.
- Think about whether it makes sense, or ask us!

References

- Government of Canada Job Bank: *Job Search Safety Tips*.
- Competition Bureau Canada: *Job and employment scams*.
- Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: *Job scams*.
- Creative Employment Access Society: *Recognize and Avoid Scams*.
- Robert Half Canada: *Job scams in Canada*.