

Buying Firearms on the Internet



The Internet has a criminal element, similar to the off-line world

Criminally opportunistic individuals are engaging in fraudulent sales of firearms via the Internet. While most Internet sites and sellers are legitimate, firearms buyers must exercise due diligence and take extra precautionary steps when purchasing firearms on-line.

It's imperative, as firearms owners and buyers, that we contact our local police enforcement agency if we suspect fraudulent activities involving firearms. All of us can be victims. As a firearms community, we have a responsibility to work together to protect ourselves and each other.

If you have concerns regarding a particular Internet site, social network media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and firearms community-based forums, are great places to pass along the message.

Potential Warning Signs of Fraudulent Activity

CAUTION

- Be *SUSPICIOUS* - when a seller insists on communicating **ONLY** via the Internet.
- Be *SUSPICIOUS* - when a seller refuses to provide a telephone number or address.

CAUTION

- Be *SUSPICIOUS* - of a person who does *not* have A DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE.
- Be *SUSPICIOUS* - of a person who NEVER ANSWERS when you call, and ALWAYS RETURNS YOUR CALL LATER.

While not everyone wants strangers to know their address (to prevent possible victimization), the SELLER SHOULD, AT LEAST, PROVIDE A PHONE NUMBER.

CAUTION

- Be *WARY* - of a 'BUSINESS' OR SELLER who operates out of a POST OFFICE BOX or MAIL DROP and doesn't have a street address.
- Be *WARY* - of ADVANCE FEE SCHEMES (transferring your money in advance).

KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH - If you have not heard of the person or company you're dealing with, **LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.**

CAUTION

- Be *WARY* - if a SELLER provides POOR QUALITY COPIES of identification documents, or I.D. DOCUMENTS WITH INCONSISTENT INK TONES, POOR COLOUR REPRODUCTION, etc.
- Be *WARY* - if the OFFER IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – it may not be the 'real deal'.
- Be *CAUTIOUS* - when SENDING PERSONAL INFORMATION OVER THE INTERNET.
- **NEVER** - SEND IDENTIFICATION TO UNVERIFIED SOURCES!

BILL C-19 - An Act Amending the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act contains a provision allowing a Transferor [Seller] to ask the Registrar whether the Transferee [Buyer] holds a valid firearms licence. It puts the responsibility of confirming the legitimacy of the Buyer on the Seller, which reduces the opportunity for cyber-criminals to use their licence fraudulently.

