

## **5 Key Tips for Preventing Identity Theft**

A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities



Identity theft occurs when your personal information is collected and used by persons without authorization to do so. The result could include: applications in your name being made for credit with financial institutions, retail outlets, mortgage companies, and more.

1. Before you reveal any personal identifying information, find out how it will be used and if it will be shared with others.
2. Utilize passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information such as your mother's maiden name, your birth date, and the last four digits of your SIN or your phone number.
3. Minimize the identification, personal information and number of cards you carry.
4. An identity thief may pick through your garbage or recycling bins. Be sure to tear or shred receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements and credit offers you get in the mail.
5. Become familiar with schemes such as phishing and vishing which are designed to glean personal information from you via the Internet or telephone.

This information was taken from a pamphlet created by the Calgary Police Service and AMA. For more tips and the full pamphlet check out our website [www.calgarycommunities.com](http://www.calgarycommunities.com) and look for the Building Safe Communities resources list.