**December 2022 Community Newsletter Content**

**Personal Safety While Christmas and Holiday Shopping**

A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities



Christmas is a time to relax and have fun. Many of us will be out and about more than usual – Christmas shopping, attending parties and other social events – and the last thing we need is to become a victim of crime. To help avoid this, here are seven tips to help you stay safe:

1. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Carry only the credit cards and bank card you will need to make your purchases.
2. If your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused, notify your credit card issuer at once. Keep a complete list of your credit cards at home, along with the 1-800 numbers you will need to report a lost or stolen card.
3. If you need to use an ATM while shopping, try to use one located inside a busy, well-lit location, and withdraw only the amount of cash you need. Also, protect your PIN number by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who may be standing near you.
4. If you have a cell phone, be sure to take it with you while shopping for added security.
5. Teach children to immediately go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if they become separated from you in a store or shopping mall.
6. Consolidate purchases into one or two large shopping bags so you can keep track of everything. Never leave your purchases unattended, even for a minute.
7. If you are a victim of a crime, report it to the police immediately.