

TDC 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians

1 RESOLVED, that the Toronto Diocesan Council in 2025 Diocesan annual meeting of
2 members/convention assembled, through the national council of The Catholic Women’s League
3 of Canada, urge the federal government to create a unified cybercrime reporting system in
4 Canadaand be it further

5 RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic
6 Women’s League of Canada for consideration at the 2025 provincial annual meeting of
7 members/convention.

8

9 Gifted by St. Joseph, Streetsville Council

DRAFT

TDC 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians

Brief

1 The Auditor General of Canada’s #7 report identified numerous system issues and a plethora of
2 deficiencies in terms of combatting cyber crimes and procuring cyber safety for Canadians. The
3 report indicated that Federal entities and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) lacked the
4 “capacity and tools to effectively enforce laws against cybercrime activities to ensure the safety
5 and security intended to protect Canadians from cyberattacks” (Report-7 Combatting Cybercrime
6 iii; 21)

7 Consequently, federal entities focus on and cater to larger institutions, government organizations,
8 national security; and not on individual members of the public (Report-7 Combatting Cybercrime
9 2; 11). The threat to Canadians extends to their financial assets, private information and personal
10 safety (Report-7 Combatting Cybercrime 1).

11 Most vulnerable are senior citizens who are less computer literate, have greater difficulty judging
12 the credibility of emails and discriminating between safe and malicious communications, to
13 become susceptible to phishing emails (Grilli et al. 1714; Lecompte 1). “Fraud is not a victimless
14 crime”; and the financial trauma of being scammed causes seniors “psychological and emotional
15 harm” (Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) Annual Report 55). Fraud is an emerging public
16 health problem in older adults (Ebner et al. 522).

17 Although the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) met the standards for
18 timely incident response and notification of victims, thousands of cybercrime reports were not
19 acted upon by the CSEC, because their “mandate does not extend to assisting individual citizens
20 who are victims of cybercrime” (Report -7 Combatting Cybercrime 9; 11).

21 In 2023, 93,068 cybercrime instances occurred. Of these, police-reported cybercrime increased by
22 plus 15.98% (Statistics Canada Table 35-10-0002-01 1). CAFC reported \$581M lost to fraud in
23 2022 (55). Seventy-five percent of these cases were cybercrime-related and 90-95% are unreported
24 (CAFC 55). It implies that a centralized cybercrime reporting system is urgently needed.
25 Especially, as the RCMP's tracking and assessment of cybercrime incidents are lacking and have
26 also been reported as poor (Report -7 Combatting Cybercrime 8).

27 The enactment of Bill C-26 serves to promote and increase cybersecurity across four major sectors:
28 finance, telecommunications, energy and transportation (LEGISinfo C-26). It represents a pivotal
29 first step in fortifying the resilience and security of Canada’s critical infrastructure to ensure the
30 safety, reliability and integrity of essential services for all Canadians. In addition, Bill C-27,
31 increases online control and transparency on how Canadians’ personal data is collected
32 (LEGISinfo C-27), however individual Canadians need a national strategy for financial crimes
33 (Cohen et al. 6; 15); and a single point for reporting cybercrime, as recommended by the Auditor
34 General (Report-7 Combatting Cybercrime 7) is an important step.

TDC 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians

Works Cited

1. Bill C-26 <https://openparliament.ca/bills/44-1/C-26>
2. 27, 44th Parliament 1st session Monday, November 22, 2021, to present
<https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/c-27>
3. Canadian Anti- Fraud Centre, 2022 Annual Report *Executive Summary*, <https://anti-fraudcenter-centreantifraude.ca/annual-reports-2022-rapports-annuels-eng.html>
[CAFC 2022 Annual Report](#)
4. Cohen, James, et al. “Establishing a Canadian Financial Crime Agency.” White Paper. *Transparency International Canada*, May 2023, <https://transparencycanada.ca/link-to-research-materials/establishing-a-canadian-financial-crime-agency>
5. Ebner, Natalie C., et al. “Uncovering Susceptibility Risk to Online Deception in Aging” *Journals of Gerontology- Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, vol. 75,no.3, Apr.2020, pp.522-533. , <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gby036>
6. Government of Canada “Annual Report...../Canadian Anti- Fraud Centre.” 2022,
[Canadian Anti- Fraud Centre.: PS61-46E-PDF - Government of Canada Publications -Canada.ca](#)
7. --- Office of the Auditor General of Canada. *Report 7—Combatting Cybercrime*. 4 June 2024, https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att_e_44499.html
8. --- Statistic Canada “Police-reported cybercrime, number of incidents and rate per 100,000 population, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police.” *Table35-1—0002-1*, 2015-23, 25 July 2024
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb11/en/tv.action?pid=3510000201&cubeTimeFrame>

TDC 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians

[.startYear=2015&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2023&referencePeriods=20150101%2C20230101](#)

[Canada police-reported cybercrime instances 2023 | Statista](#)

9. ---, News Release from Communications Security Establishment

Canada “Canadian Centre for Cyber Security releases National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026”, Ottawa, Ontario, 30 Oct 2024,

<https://www.canada.ca/en/communications-security/news/2024/10/canadian-centre-for-cyber-security-releases-national-cyber-threat-assessment-2025-2026.html>

10. Grilli, M. D., et al. Is This Phishing? Older Age Is Associated with Greater Difficulty

Discriminating Between Safe and Malicious Emails. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences & Social Sciences*, 2021: 76(9),1711–1715.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaa228>

11. Lecompte, A., “The Scale of Fraud Against Seniors Is Huge, and Still Growing — Here’s

Why” *The Good Times Magazine*, 25 November 2024, <https://goodtimes.ca>

TDC 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians

Action Plan

- 1 1. Write letters to the prime minister and members of parliament, including the Minister of
2 innovation, science and industry urging them to develop a national strategy to combat
3 fraud.
- 4 2. Organize local parish information sessions and collaborate with programs such as the
5 Compassionate Community Care (CCC), new nationwide calling service Community of
6 Hope Outreach: Connecting with Seniors Project.
- 7 3. Conduct in person sessions with bank personnel to build trust, create comfort and educate
8 seniors and family members on banking effectively and protecting their financial records.
- 9 4. Work collaboratively within our communities to encourage law enforcement organizations
10 to eliminate the underreporting of cyber fraud and scams.
- 11 5. Support standardized training for older adults and interested citizens. Attend courses and
12 workshops offered by Municipalities in community centres or malls by the Police
13 Department.
14