



SERIOUS FRAUD OFFICE

— ONTARIO —

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Ontario 



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INTRODUCTION TO THE SFO

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PROSECUTION BRANCH

A full year under COVID-19 restrictions saw the Prosecution Branch emerge as a stronger and more efficient litigation unit. This formative year set the stage for the Serious Fraud Office to transition from a viable concept to a potent initiative dedicated to improving the prosecution of complex fraud.

Counsel at the SFO conducted a mix of virtual and in-person court hearings, including trials. The Prosecution Branch is well-situated to conduct both in the future should our courts embrace virtual proceedings.

In April, counsel began a fraud trial in Sudbury in which some witnesses testified virtually while others attended in person. The SFO staff was adept at organizing, disclosing and filing electronic exhibits to enable the trial to proceed smoothly. Later in the year, a three-month long jury trial in Oshawa ended in a conviction. This two-million dollar fraud was brought to a successful conclusion because of our staff's ability to coordinate and prepare witnesses from across southern Ontario.

2021 also brought a guilty plea in one of the SFO's first set of charges. In April, Karen Cady pled guilty to defrauding her employer of over \$1 million.

The SFO takes a comprehensive approach to sentencing by pursuing, where appropriate, custodial sentences, restitution and asset forfeiture. This is reflected in the sentence imposed on Ms. Cady, which includes a four-year prison term, a restitution order, and forfeiture of property (the proceeds from the sale of which will be used to compensate the victim).

As an office with a province-wide mandate, the Prosecution Branch is embracing technology to enable us to service all corners of the province. Through virtual court appearances and witness preparation, electronic disclosure, and online meetings, counsel are able to share their expertise wherever needed. At the same time, the reduction in travel promotes a more cost-efficient and productive prosecution service.

As we look ahead to 2022, the Prosecution Branch is poised for even greater success. We look forward to bringing more unique and sophisticated fraud prosecutions to court as charges are laid by the SFO's Investigation Branch.

John Corelli, Chief Counsel



The **Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG)** administers the justice system in Ontario and protects the public by delivering a wide range of legal services.



The **Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)** is a division of the Ministry of the Solicitor General. They provide essential services that ensure the safety and security of the people of the Province of Ontario.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE INVESTIGATION BRANCH

In 2021, the members of the SFO continued to demonstrate excellence in their work and unparalleled commitment to justice and public safety. In its fourth year of operation, the SFO continued to demonstrate the effectiveness of its comprehensive and collaborative approach to combatting serious fraud in Ontario.

As a result of ongoing coordination and cooperation with the SFO's Prosecution Branch, in September the primary suspect in our first completed investigation was sentenced to four years imprisonment and ordered to forfeit the proceeds of crime, pay a fine in lieu of forfeiture and make restitution to the victim. This success further demonstrated the effectiveness of the collaborative model of the SFO.

Both fraud prevention and victim support continued to be top priorities for the SFO in 2021. The SFO's Fraud Prevention Program coordinated its efforts with new and existing partners to reduce the risk of victimization in Ontario. It raised awareness of COVID-19 frauds and scams and provided fraud prevention education over two dozen times to more than 150,000 people. A coordinated effort with the OPP Financial Crime Services and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre during Fraud Prevention Month in March, saw a series of crime prevention and public

awareness campaigns delivered through multiple platforms to the public. The SFO's Victim Support Program coordinated support for 1,652 victims throughout the criminal justice process – a tremendous achievement.

The training and education program took significant strides in building the SFO's capacity to meet the challenge of serious fraud. In November, the SFO held the 2021 Financial Crime Forum. This two-day forum was held virtually and convened a total of 450 police and prosecution members from across Canada. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and attendees expressed an ongoing need and desire to continue participating in SFO-led education and training to assist them in investigating and prosecuting complex financial crimes. Our partners and stakeholders will benefit from our continuing virtual education series and the Advanced Fraud Investigations Course, which are set to take place in 2022.

I look forward to continued success in 2022, as more of our investigations come to a conclusion and many of our on-going initiatives begin to pay dividends.

Dominic Chong, Detective Superintendent



YEAR IN BRIEF

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

The Serious Fraud Office 2021 Annual Report underscores the milestones and achievements of the SFO within the calendar year. Several are illustrated below.

In **January**, the SFO provided five education sessions on search and seizure to over 100 Members of Ontario's police services.

In **March**, the SFO held a public awareness campaign for Fraud Prevention Month.

In **April**, The SFO provided eight education sessions on criminal asset forfeiture to over 100 members of Ontario's police services.

In **June**, The SFO held a fraud prevention campaign for Senior's Month.

In **September**, the primary accused in Project Laser was found guilty on five charges, sentenced to four years imprisonment, and ordered to pay ~\$1 million in restitution to the victim.

In **November**, the SFO organized a Financial Crime Forum attended by approximately 450 guests from police and prosecution agencies across Canada.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND SERIOUS FRAUD IN ONTARIO

Financial crime in Ontario presents a significant and ongoing risk to the Ontario economy and its residents, with estimated total annual losses in the billions of dollars. Financial crimes involve the unlawful conversion of property to one's own personal use or benefit. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Fraud
- Bribery
- Extortion
- Collusion
- Tax evasion
- Corruption
- Embezzlement
- Identity theft
- Money laundering
- Forgery and counterfeiting

Serious fraud is a financial crime that has a significant impact on society and/or a significant financial loss in total. It can be characterized by the sophistication of its schemes and the inherent complexities of large-scale financial crime investigations and prosecutions:

- Financial crimes may be carried out by organized or terrorist groups as a mechanism to generate illicit funds.
- Investigations are typically multi-jurisdictional. Criminals can move proceeds of crime across borders to frustrate recoveries.
- Cases may involve hundreds or thousands of victims, each requiring specialized support throughout the criminal justice process, including support to recover losses.
- Cases typically involve substantial monetary losses. An asset recovery capacity is required to trace, locate, seize, restrain and forfeit the proceeds of crime.
- Tackling large-scale, sophisticated and complex financial crimes requires a sustained response from highly trained members of police and prosecution agencies with the capacity for the task.
- Specialized technology and skill sets are required to assemble, index, and deliver the voluminous disclosure generated by these investigations.
- Comprehensive knowledge of specialized industries is required to efficiently and effectively investigate and prosecute serious fraud (e.g. health care, securities and government infrastructure).

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



\$875,006

The value of proceeds of crime restrained by the SFO



8933

The total number of interactions between the SFO's team of victim liaisons and the **1652 victims** identified across active cases



\$89,639

The value of forfeiture orders made by the courts. Forfeitures were directed to victims for restitution



736

Partner and stakeholder attendance across all SFO-led education and training events



\$928,063

The amount offenders were fined in lieu of forfeiture



17

The number of prosecutions underway that were adopted from Crown Attorney offices in Ontario to provide them with support



11

The number of SFO-led education and training events attended by partners and stakeholders



100%

The percentage of court applications made by the SFO receiving judicial approval



166,433

The number of people receiving fraud prevention education from the SFO



\$1,017,703

The value of restitution orders made by the courts to account for victims' financial losses due to fraud



100%

The percentage of active files in which disclosure was made to the accused before their first court appearance



\$551,215

The value of proceeds of crime seized by the SFO



98

The number of times the SFO shared its specialized expertise with other police and prosecution agencies



24/7

Availability of SFO counsel to provide pre-charge advice to SFO investigators regarding active files

DID YOU KNOW?

Financial crime is a growing problem in Canada, including Ontario. In 2020, the rate of police-reported total fraud in Canada was 69% higher than the rate reported a decade ago.¹



25

The number of times the SFO provided fraud prevention education to the public, including older adults and other vulnerable groups

¹Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2020 (statcan.gc.ca)

ABOUT THE SFO

OUR MANDATE AND STRUCTURE

The mandate of the SFO is to provide an integrated approach dedicated to combatting the significant challenge of serious fraud in Ontario. It aims to achieve the following goals:

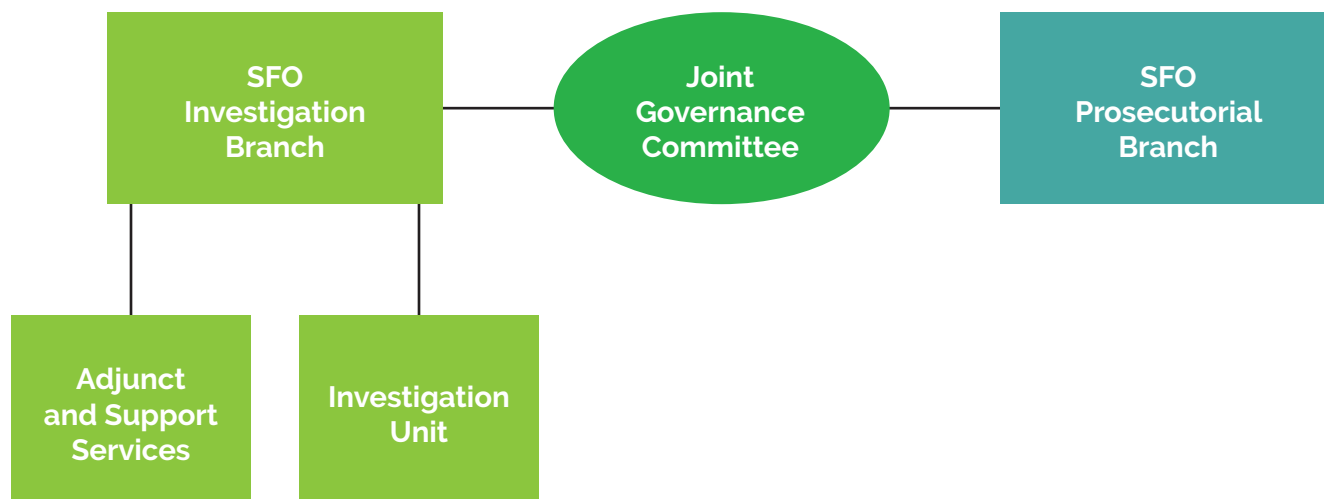
- 1 To protect the residents of Ontario.
- 2 To limit losses suffered by victims of fraud.
- 3 To recover assets fraudulently acquired.

The SFO is a joint initiative between the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG). It has two branches: the Investigation Branch and the Prosecution Branch. The Investigation Branch is comprised of uniform and civilian employees from the OPP and various other police services in Ontario. The Prosecution Branch is comprised of Crown counsel and support staff from MAG. In addition, the SFO provides support services, such as crime prevention and victim assistance that complement the SFO's core operations.

While the Investigation Branch and Prosecution Branch have the independence to make decisions concerning their respective operations, the SFO's Joint Governance Committee (JGC) has overall responsibility for the SFO's policies, protocols, and strategy. The JGC is comprised of senior representatives from the OPP, MAG, SOLGEN, and a designated municipal police service.



SFO'S ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



OUR APPROACH TO TACKLING SERIOUS FRAUD IN ONTARIO

Our office provides an integrated and coordinated approach to tackling serious fraud:

Investigative Services

- Investigative teams dedicated to tackling serious fraud.
- In-house expertise in highly specialized areas, such as: asset recovery, intelligence, digital forensics, forensic accounting and data mining.

Victim Support Services

- A team of victim liaisons assigned at the outset of each investigation to coordinate support for victims of financial crime throughout the criminal justice process.

Fraud Prevention Services

- A Fraud Prevention Team to generate public awareness of frauds and scams that threaten residents of Ontario, and to provide strategies to prevent victimization.

Prosecutorial Services

- A team of Crown counsel dedicated to prosecuting serious fraud.
- Crown counsel also provide pre-charge advice to investigators on the legality of investigative measures.
- Crown counsel review applications for search warrants and other court orders.
- Crown counsel work with investigators to prepare timely disclosure packages for the defence.

Education and Training Services

- Education and training programs for police and prosecution agencies to build and maintain their expertise to meet the challenge of serious fraud.

RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2021

OUR RESPONSE TO THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF SERIOUS FRAUD

The changing landscape of serious fraud accelerated the SFO's use of technologies and the development of innovative solutions to support the effective management and delivery of services. Some examples are provided below.

Using Virtual Platforms to Reach a Larger and More Diverse Audience

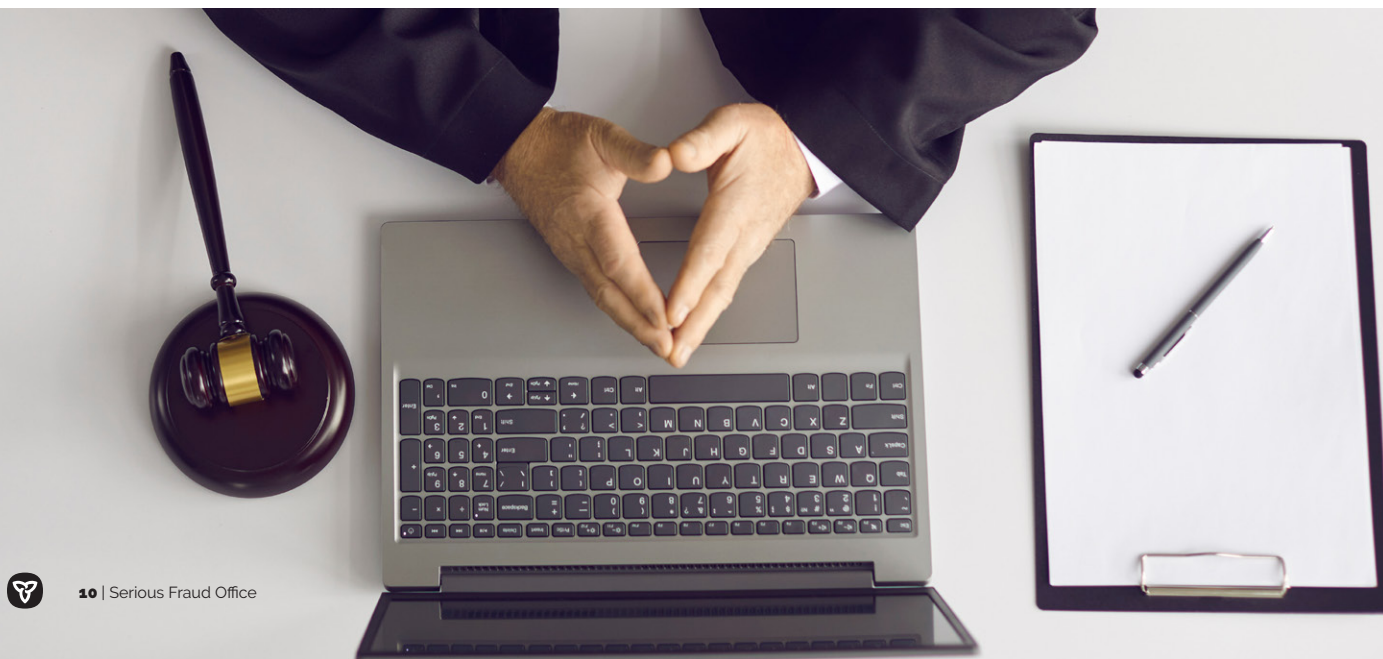
As the pandemic continued, fraudsters tried to take advantage of Ontario's residents through a variety of illegal schemes. The SFO leveraged its virtual communication platforms to foster awareness of COVID-19 frauds and scams and provide the public with fraud prevention information to protect them from these threats. Using virtual platforms enabled the SFO to reach a larger and more diverse audience, which reinforced the need for a consistent online presence. By the end of 2021, the SFO had completed the design and user-testing for its public-facing website, with a view to going live in the near future. The website will allow the SFO to connect more easily with Ontarians. It will serve to inform the public about the SFO, and will be a reliable source for fraud prevention information.

Online Support for Victims of Serious Fraud

As the incidence of victimization continues to grow in Ontario, victim assistance programs must be accessible to Ontario's most vulnerable individuals who have fallen victim to financial crime. In 2021, the SFO continued to work with developers to build and evaluate a web-based Victim Support Portal. This secure portal will provide restricted, online access to information, tools and resources for victims of financial crime identified through the SFO's investigations. The portal will ensure the support provided is efficient and of high quality. Victims residing in various areas of the province, country, or globe will be able to receive information and support through the portal in a timely manner from the SFO's team of victim liaisons.

Building a Virtual Hearing Room

As a result of the pandemic, a number of hearings were postponed while others sought to use digital solutions to ensure operational continuity. The SFO continued its work in building a virtual hearing room that will allow Crowns, Police and victim liaisons to attend court appearances by videoconference, while avoiding costs inherent to in-person court appearances. The SFO will establish a permanent virtual hearing room should the courts continue the use of remote hearings.



PROSECUTION BRANCH

Pre-Charge Legal Advice

Although decisions on how to investigate and whether to lay charges are made by the Investigation Branch only, investigators are able to receive timely legal advice from Crown counsel as the need arises. In 2021, SFO counsel provided ongoing legal advice to SFO investigators. Legal advice was provided regarding search warrants, production orders, asset restraint and other judicial authorizations. Pre-charge advice assisted the SFO in shaping its investigations. Ongoing coordination and cooperation between investigators and prosecutors led to streamlined investigations and prosecutions, and responded to the Supreme Court of Canada's direction in *R. v. Jordan* to abolish the "culture of delay" in the criminal justice system.

Sharing Our Expertise

SFO counsel received numerous questions from municipal, provincial and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as local Crown offices across the province regarding financial crime. Counsel were sought after 77 times to share their expertise on topics such as:

- How to seize and restrain proceeds of crime.
- How to ensure that proceeds of crime are forfeited following conviction.
- How to best ensure that victims obtain restitution from the offender.
- Obtaining evidence from international financial institutions.
- Investigating and prosecuting cryptocurrency and international money laundering schemes.
- How to prepare fraud cases for court.

Key Statistics for 2021

- SFO Crown counsel provided pre-charge legal advice to SFO investigators on 34 occasions.
- Pre-charge legal advice allowed cases to proceed more efficiently as 100% of court applications for judicial authorizations were approved.
- The Prosecution Branch had 17 prosecutions underway which were adopted from Crown Attorney offices in Ontario to provide them with support.
- SFO counsel were sought after 77 times to share their expertise.



Support Provided to Crown Attorney Offices in Ontario

In 2021, the Prosecution Branch assisted local Crown Attorney offices by "adopting" 17 fraud prosecutions. Prosecutors leveraged their expertise to ensure justice for victims from all walks of life, including:

- Forty-seven victims from across Canada and beyond our borders who, for 10 years, had been told falsely that for a fee their families would be brought to Canada from war-torn countries as refugees. The scam cost victims more than one million dollars. (*R. v. Mojaddidi*)
- A retired lawyer who discovered that his bookkeeper of 13 years had misappropriated over \$200,000. (*R. v. Booker*)
- A front-line worker who discovered that the same bookkeeper had given her fake court documents. As a result, the front-line worker was prevented, for years, from marrying her high-school sweetheart and reunifying their family by sponsoring their immigration to Canada. (*R. v. Booker*)
- Victims of a lottery and romance scam targeting vulnerable persons in Canada and beyond. (*R. v. Dhaliwal*)

R. V. SIMMONDS

On December 2, 2021, following a nearly three-month jury trial led by SFO prosecutors, John Simmonds was found guilty on all counts of fraud, theft and money laundering. Mr. Simmonds had fraudulently gained control of and exploited a group of family-owned companies operating in the Muskoka region, setting up his own accounting department and withholding funds from the companies' employees, suppliers, and Canada Revenue Agency.

Mr. Simmonds was able to gain control of these companies by gaining the trust of the owner's daughter and embedding himself through a series of misrepresentations and false promises. He stole over \$2 million dollars from the companies, bringing them to the brink of bankruptcy. He also stole and defrauded approximately \$370,000 from the owner's daughter. Mr. Simmonds will be sentenced in 2022.

INVESTIGATION BRANCH

Investigation Unit

In 2021, the SFO continued to investigate numerous serious fraud allegations, while awaiting the results of two major investigations completed in 2020.

Sharing Our Investigative Expertise

In 2021, SFO Investigators were sought after 21 times to share their expertise with other law enforcement agencies. Drawing on their expertise, SFO investigators assisted with matters related to:

- Investigating CRA scams.
- Investigating global money laundering.
- Restraining funds held in a foreign bank account.
- Covert and financial investigative techniques.
- Forfeiting assets.
- Mobile surveillance.
- Cryptocurrency frauds.



Project Laser

A small engine manufacturing, exporting and service business discovered a series of financial irregularities over a number of years that resulted in losses totalling more than one million dollars. Allegations that funds were embezzled from the company were brought forward to the local police. Following a six-month investigation by the SFO, two Wahnapiatae residents were charged with several offences contrary to the *Criminal Code of Canada*. As part of the investigation, various financial and personal assets – including a residential home, a travel trailer, a pontoon boat, personal watercraft, a backhoe, three vehicles and Canadian currency – were restrained as proceeds of crime.



Primary accused:

- Sentenced to 4 years imprisonment at a federal penitentiary.
- Ordered to pay ~\$1 million in restitution to victims, and a fine in lieu of forfeiture of \$928,063.61.
- Disposition of the forfeited property commenced and has generated \$89,639.66 in net proceeds to date. This will be used to compensate the victim.

Secondary accused:

- Charged with: (1) laundering proceeds of crime, and (2) possession of property obtained by crime.
- Trial scheduled for May 2022.



Debit Direct

An international investigation into an alleged Ponzi scheme fraud where a point-of-sale debit terminal ownership program was touted as an investment opportunity. Investors spent approximately \$52 million in this alleged scheme, which collapsed in 2017 when the accused removed large quantities of the proceeds derived from the fraud and departed Ontario to the Dominican Republic. He has since been returned to Canada by the authorities to await trial and potential forfeiture of proceeds of crime.

Primary accused:

- Charged with: (1) fraud over \$5,000; (2) laundering proceeds of crime; (3) bribery of agent; (4) personation with intent; (5) use, deals, acts on forged document.

Proceeds of crime:

- ~\$2.2 million (CDN) in domestic property was restrained, and an additional ~\$4.0 million (USD) of international property was restrained by the Dominican authorities (*Procuraduría General de la República*).



ADJUNCT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Victim Support Services

The SFO's Victim Support Program takes a comprehensive approach to supporting victims of financial crime throughout the life-span of a case. In 2021, the SFO's team of victim liaisons continued to be assigned at the outset of each investigation to coordinate support for victims. Victims were provided a forum through which they could be informed of and exercise their rights.

Key Statistics for 2021

- 1652 victims were supported by the SFO's victim liaisons.
- There were 8933 interactions between the SFO's team of victim liaisons and these victims.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fraud has a much broader social impact than even financial loss. Older adults, particularly those on a fixed income, may face additional trauma such as the loss of independence. In addition to crippling financial impacts, victims often cite emotional, psychological, and physical damage as being the most difficult to overcome.

The Right to Information

Proactively, and upon the request of a victim, the SFO's victim liaisons provided information to victims regarding their role in the criminal justice system (CJS), the support available to them through the SFO's Victim Support Program, the status of the investigation into the offence, and the timing, location and outcome of court proceedings.

The Right to Protection

Upon the request of a victim, the victim liaisons assisted in arranging to have their security considered by the appropriate authorities in the CJS.

The Right to Participation

Victim liaisons assisted victims who wished to have their views considered regarding decisions made by authorities in the CJS. Victim liaisons ensured that victims understood their right to present a victim impact statement to the appropriate authorities in the CJS.

The Right to Seek Restitution

Victim liaisons ensured that victims understood their right to have the court consider making a restitution order against the offender.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES

The SFO strives to be a provincial leader in education and training. It regularly hosts events to share knowledge and develop the skill sets of police and prosecutors from across Canada in areas such as: financial crime investigations and prosecutions, asset recovery, fraud prevention, and victim support services.

The 2021 Financial Crime Forum

The 2021 Financial Crime forum was one of many education and training events held by the SFO for its partners and stakeholders throughout the calendar year. This two-day forum was held virtually and convened a total of 450 police and prosecution members from across Canada. Subject-matter experts spoke on a variety of topics, including:

- Money laundering (a Canadian perspective).
- Criminal and civil forfeiture.
- Cryptocurrency fraud.
- Leveraging technology in fraud investigations.
- Information sharing with police.
- Relevant legislation, case law and case studies.

Key Statistics for 2021

- The SFO held 11 education and training events for its partners and stakeholders.
- Partner and stakeholder attendance across all SFO-led education and training events was 736.



We collected feedback from those who attended the 2021 Financial Crime Forum to learn about their experience. This is what they had to say:

“

I enjoyed the case study presentations the best. The presentation of both practical and legal lessons learned.

“

Thank you very much for extending an invitation to prosecutors outside Ontario.

“

From a general duty policing perspective, I found the information relating to front line investigations the most useful.

“

I appreciated the breadth of knowledge and expertise shared.

“

My experience was excellent and the forum was extremely well orchestrated. Congratulations on running such an informative virtual conference!

“

The sections about proceeds of crime were especially helpful.

CRIME PREVENTION SERVICES

In 2021, the SFO's Crime Prevention Program partnered with government and non-government organizations to reduce the risk of financial crime in Ontario. Its objectives were threefold:

1. To generate public awareness of frauds and scams in Ontario, including those related to COVID-19.
2. To educate the public on how to recognize and reject fraud.
3. To educate the public on why and how to report fraud to the local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC).



Spotlight: Covid-19 Frauds and Scams

In 2021, our Crime Prevention Team was busy raising public awareness of COVID-19 frauds and scams, such as:

- Fraudsters offering free masks or other personal protective equipment that claim to protect against COVID-19. In this scam, you are requested to provide your credit card number to cover the shipping costs or to provide a donation. Often your credit card number will be charged an unexpected amount and you may never receive any of the promised goods.
- Fraudsters posing as public health officials claiming that you have tested positive for COVID-19. They trick you into confirming personal information such as your health card and credit card numbers.
- Fraudsters contacting you via email claiming to be from a legitimate organization such as the World Health Organization. They request that you make a donation to help fight COVID-19.

Key Statistics for 2021

- The SFO provided the public with fraud prevention education 25 times, reaching a total of 166,433 people. The focus of fraud prevention education was on COVID-19 frauds and scams.

Tips Provided to Ontarians by our Fraud Prevention Team

- Do your research before giving out your personal or financial information.
- Beware of upfront fees as they are a red flag for a scam.
- Beware of unsolicited emails. Don't click on any links, open any attachments, or reply to the sender using the contact information provided.

Why Should I Report Fraud?

By reporting fraud to your local police, you provide law enforcement with the information they need to stop fraudsters and help prevent others from becoming victims. Reporting fraud to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), whether you are a victim or not, is also important. The CAFC assists law enforcement by collecting and storing data that can assist with police investigations and crime prevention efforts.

How do I Report Fraud?

If you are aware of fraud, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at:

- 1-888-495-8501 (toll-free); or
- Online at: antifraudcentre.ca.

If you have been the victim of fraud, contact:

- Your local police service; and
- The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

Spotlight: 'Skip the Showroom' Car Dealership Fraud

In 2021, our Crime Prevention Team worked with the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC) and the OPP's Anti-Rackets Branch (ARB) to raise awareness of 'Skip the Showroom' frauds to over 200 car dealerships in Ontario. A description of this fraud is provided below:

- "Straw" buyers are recruited on social media platforms and through the internet to carry out the fraudulent purchase of a high-end vehicle.
- They are provided with fake identification, auto insurance cards, and stolen credit cards to facilitate the purchase.
- The stolen credit cards are used to put down a deposit toward the vehicle's purchase.
- Soon after the vehicle's purchase, the vehicle is sold at an auction or sent abroad and the proceeds of crime are used to fuel organized crime.
- The "straw" buyer defaults on the vehicle loan and the lender cannot repossess the vehicle.
- This fraud affects Ontario car dealerships, financial institutions, insurance providers and residents.

Key Statistics for 2021

- Over 200 Ontario car dealerships participated in our fraud prevention webinars regarding 'Skip the Showroom' Car Dealership Fraud.

Tips Provided to Ontario Car Dealerships by our Fraud Prevention Team

- Verify whether the client's appearance matches the photo on their identification and whether their reported employment matches the price point for the vehicle.
- Cross-reference information collected from the client with information from their employer and insurance company.
- Request that your manager also review the loan application for possible misrepresentation.
- Educate and train employees on how to recognize and reduce the risk of fraud.



ONTARIO COMMUNITIES SERVICED BY THE SFO IN 2021



NORTH REGION

- Haileybury
- James Bay
- Sudbury
- Temiskaming
- Thunder Bay



EAST REGION

- Kemptville
- Ottawa
- Russell County



CENTRAL REGION

- Barrie
- Caledon
- Midland
- Northumberland
- Orillia
- Penetanguishene
- Tiny Township



WEST REGION

- Brantford
- Goderich
- Lambton County
- St. Thomas



GREATER TORONTO AREA

- Brampton
- Halton Region
- Milton
- Newmarket
- Niagara Falls
- Oshawa
- Toronto
- Vaughan



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

The last two years have prompted government programs such as the SFO to re-assess how they should carry out their operations to ensure essential services are maintained throughout a pandemic. Looking ahead to 2022, the SFO will continue to leverage its specialized expertise, partnerships, as well as new and existing technologies to ensure its public safety services are maintained and responsive to the needs of Ontarians. These are just some of the SFO's ongoing commitments and initiatives underway for 2022:

1 The SFO expects to receive verdicts in the Debit Direct and Project Laser prosecutions. It anticipates bringing several other investigations to the prosecution stage, while continuing to take on additional files as its investigative capacity increases.

2 The SFO will leverage technology and new partnerships to reach a larger and more diverse audience, ultimately generating increased public awareness of frauds and scams in Ontario, educating more Ontarians on how to recognize and reject fraud, and why and how to report fraud to the local police and the CAFC.

3 The SFO will create additional education and training opportunities for police and prosecution agencies across Canada. 2022 will see the return of the SFO's Virtual Education Series and the roll out of the SFO's Advanced Fraud Investigations Course.





MORE INFORMATION

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FRAUD?

Report it to your local police and the CAFC at 1-888-495-8501 (toll free) or online at antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT A FRAUD?

Call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit crimestoppers.ca