



## ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE AUTORITÉ DES MARCHÉS FINANCIERS (AMF)?

The *Autorité des marchés financiers* (AMF) is the body mandated by the Québec government to regulate Québec's financial sector and assist consumers of financial products and services.

To help consumers, the AMF makes impartial information on financial products and services—as well as tools relating to topics such as insurance, investing and financial fraud—available on its website

Are you thinking of investing or taking out insurance? Before you make a final decision, check that the person or firm offering the financial product is authorized to do so by calling the AMF Information Centre at 1-877-525-0337 or consulting the [Register of firms and individuals authorized to practise](#).

The [Information Centre](#) can answer your questions and help you with such things as:

- Filing a complaint with a financial services representative or firm;
- Reporting potential fraud or suspicious practices.

AMF website: [lautorite.qc.ca](http://lautorite.qc.ca)

Telephone: 1-877-525-0337



## **FRAUDSTERS SEEK TO EARN YOUR TRUST: BE CAREFUL!**

You think fraudsters only go after rich people? Think again! Regardless of your age, gender, income, country of origin or level of education, you could become a target.

### **Affinity fraud**

People are more likely to trust an investment recommendation that comes from a member of a group they belong to. Fraudsters usually approach their victims by pretending to have the same beliefs or interests as they do. In many cases, after establishing a relationship, they offer their victims what seems like a once-in-a-lifetime investment opportunity. In reality, there is no once-in-lifetime investment; the fraudsters pocket their victims' money instead of investing it for them.

Before you invest your money, **always be very careful!** Ask questions and do your research, even if the person offering you the investment attends the same place of worship as you or is someone you know, like a family member, a friend, a member of your community or, for that matter, a co-worker.

### **If it seems too good to be true, be careful: it could be attempted fraud**

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## KNOW HOW TO DETECT POTENTIAL FRAUD

If you're struggling financially, want to earn money quickly or don't carry out the proper checks, you could end up a victim of financial fraud.

### Some warning signs of potential fraud

- Someone is promising you a risk-free investment that could earn you a lot of money fast? **It's not realistic!** There's no such thing as high returns without risk!
- Someone is pressuring you to invest quickly? You're being told it's now or never? This is because the fraudster doesn't want you to seek advice from someone you trust and carry out the proper checks.
- Someone is asking you to invest in cash or with a cheque made out to the person offering you the investment? Transactions should always be carried out between an individual (the investor) and the entity offering the investment (e.g., the financial institution).
- Someone is assuring you that the investment has been approved by the *Autorité des marchés financiers* (AMF) or another government agency? The AMF does not give an opinion on investments and what you can earn on them.

Before you invest, check that the person or firm offering the financial product is authorized to do so by calling the AMF Information Centre at 1-877-525-0337 or consulting the [Register of firms and individuals authorized to practise](#). If it seems too good to be true, be careful: it could be attempted fraud.

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## HOME INSURANCE: THERE ARE RISKS TO NOT BEING INSURED

Home insurance is essential in order to cover your property (furniture and valuables) and civil liability. In fact, although you may think your belongings are not worth very much, they could be difficult to replace if ever your home catches fire or you are a victim of theft.

How would you react if you accidentally set fire to the building where you live and were held liable for the damage? What would happen if someone were injured in a fall at your home or if water leaked from your washing machine, damaging your neighbours' property? Home insurance can protect you and your family members from the financial consequences of these types of accidents.

Before you take out insurance, check that the person or firm offering the insurance is authorized to do so by calling the AMF Information Centre at 1-877-525-0337 or consulting the [Register of firms and individuals authorized to practise](#). For additional information on insurance, visit the AMF website.

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