

# Email Scam Targeting Churches makes the rounds again

Over the last few months, email scammers have targeted churches and regional offices including Chinook Winds Region and across the country using staff and other email addresses available on church websites.

In today's rendition, people received emails from what looked like to be from Treena Duncan or Lee Spice in the Chinook Winds office but the scammer had made a Gmail address with their names.



Here is the scenario:

People receive an email from what appears to be a minister or another church staff person. The email sounds kindly enough and the email writer asks if you would be kind enough to assist them or immediate attention is required to a matter. Then when the recipient responds, they are asked to pick up a few gift cards for the person. **Unfortunately, some people have responded to such requests in other regions and have lost hundreds of dollars.**

1. If you receive such an email, hover your mouse's cursor over the name of the sender and you'll see the actual email address that the scammer has used. It will be a different address than the minister or church staff person's address.
2. Be careful whose email addresses are on your website. The scammers are pulling email addresses from websites. You need the addresses of staff on websites or one key contact. But church volunteers do not need their email addresses on church websites.
3. Ensure that your church staff and key volunteers are aware of this scam.
4. If the scammer is using a Gmail address, you can report the scam to Google  
HERE <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?hl=en>

**We're all busy. It's easy to fall prey to scammers.**

The scammers are targetting our heart-instinct to be kind as Christians. Let's support one another by making others aware of this scam.