

# IDENTITY THEFT

## **TIPS ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

- Never give out personal information by phone, Internet or mail unless you initiate the contact.
- Be careful about sharing personal information and don't give out more than you're used to.
- Shield your PIN, and never lend cards.
- Immediately report missing credit or debit cards.
- Carry only the ID you need, and put other ID (social insurance number, birth certificate, passport) in a safe place.
- Shred documents with personal information.
- SIN is only for employment and tax reporting.
- Never leave receipts at bank machines, in trashcans, or at unattended gasoline pumps.
- Avoid mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions or surveys offering instant prizes designed for the purpose of obtaining your personal details, including credit card numbers.
- Avoid keeping a written record of your bank PIN numbers, SIN and computer passwords, and never keep this information in your wallet or handbag.
- Ask about the security of your information at work, with businesses and charities.

**Source: Consumer Measures Committee, RCMP**