

ALERT!

Failed Real Estate Transactions in HRM

Several Nova Scotia lawyers have reported failed real estate transactions as a result of a well-dressed woman in her late 40s who poses as a buyer looking for a high-end property in Halifax. The woman states that she is buying the property through her company and needs a quick closing. She engages the assistance of a real estate agent, measures windows for drapes and calls the utility companies to have the accounts switched over into her business's name. The deposit cheques are usually written in the amount of \$10,000 from a business account, however, there isn't enough money in the account to cover the deposit and the woman then has no financial means to purchase the property.

We are not aware of anyone being defrauded of money under her current scheme, but she has had one or two companies incorporated without paying the requisite fee, and has taken the time of several practitioners. She has also severely inconvenienced sellers and the agents who represent them.

Any member who thinks they may be dealing with this woman can contact the Lawyers' Insurance Association of Nova Scotia to verify her identity by sending an email to cnield@lians.ca