

# ALERT!

## Be alert to pre-holiday scams and website hijacking

As we approach this holiday weekend, we encourage you to be diligent about transactions that may become hurried due to preparations for time off and short staffing in the office. Details can easily be overlooked. Returned counterfeit bank drafts and cheques can be delayed because of the bank holiday closure. Be wary of clients who are pressuring you to perform a hasty closing or transaction. Never dispense of funds before you complete all necessary investigations on your client and the authenticity of their funds.

We would also like to share with you a serious situation that involves the security hijack of a members' professional website. Although the situation has now been resolved, Peter McInroy of M & E Legal Services Inc. in Musquodoboit Harbour contacted us yesterday with a warning that his website, [www.mcinroylaw.com](http://www.mcinroylaw.com), had been hijacked and was "phishing" to send malware to any PC that connected to the website which does not have adequate anti-virus and anti-phishing security. "Phishing" is the attempt to gather sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card numbers through electronic communications purporting to be from sites such as Facebook, eBay, financial institutions (banks) or IT administrators. You can read his account of the events and his steps to resolution at [www.lians.ca/pdffdocs/McInroy\\_WebsiteHijack.pdf](http://www.lians.ca/pdffdocs/McInroy_WebsiteHijack.pdf)

We would like to remind all members to be alert to the status of their own sites. Take notice of occurrences such as:

- Finding that another page is being displayed when you type in your website address;
- Being unable to log on as the website administrator;
- As was the case with Mr. McInroy, sent mail was abruptly rejected and accompanied by an "anti-phishing" warning.

If you suspect that your web site has been hijacked, contact your web hosting service immediately to report your situation. Use complex passwords to ensure added security for your web account.

To ensure that you don't miss future resource postings, important fraud alerts and other valuable updates from LIANS, remember to add [alert@lians.ca](mailto:alert@lians.ca) to your 'Safe List'.