DURHAM - In this modern age of Who can you trust. technology. With the development of the Internet. It is open season for scammers.

People just can't trust the net. It has become so bad that people can't even trust a phone call.

The local Oshawa Public Utility recently been made aware of an increase in scams from individuals posing as Oshawa Power staff. Over the past week, they have received multiple reports of fraudulent activity by individuals - both in person and via telephone call impersonating Oshawa Power staff to demand immediate payment or

These Scammers May: Call from a number displaying as 'Oshawa Power' or 'OPUC. Show up at your door in unofficially marked vehicles. Demand immediate cash payment with the threat of

risk disconnection of service.

☼ Caller demands immediate payment by e-transfer, gift card, cash or crypto.

Someone shows up at your door demanding cash payment

You are threatened with immediate disconnection.

## How to Protect Yourself:

Verify before you pay. If you are unsure about an interaction, call us directly at (905) 723-4623 or visit our office at 100 Simcoe St. S to confirm.

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) is warning the public that scammers may be spoofing police telephone numbers in an effort to defraud victims. The fraudster told the victim that their phone number had been compromised and asked for personal and banking information. "These calls are fraudulent. Never give out your personal information over the phone unless you can verify who you are talking to,"

The DRPS is aware that people are receiving phone calls that appear to be from our non-emergency number 905-579-1520. The caller claims to be a police officer and advises potential victims that their phone number has been compromised. The caller then asks for personal and banking information. These calls are fraudulent. Never give out your personal information over the phone unless you can verify who you are talking to. Please be advised:

The DRPS phone number is not visible when we call you.

DRPS members will identify with their name and badge number.If in doubt, hang up and call our nonemergency line: 905-579-1520

The DRPS phone number is not visible when police are calling someone, and members will identify themselves with their name and

Regional Police Service (DRPS) has issued a fraud alert regarding bank cards. It detailed the steps of the fraud as:

Victims receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from the credit card company advising the client that their credit card has ben The caller then compromised. instructs the victim to put the credit cards into an envelope with a list of PIN codes. A courier arrives to pick up the envelope. The cards are used to make high end purchases and withdraw money.

Police reminded everyone not to give out personal information, credit cards, and PIN codes to anyone over the phone. If you have, to notify their bank and credit cards comthe police, said the alert

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) have issued an alert about distraction thefts targeting victims with iewelry.

Since February, police have seen a concerning trend of "jewelry swap" distraction thefts across Durham

How the Thefts Occur:

Suspects usually work in pairs or trios, often using a vehicle with both a driver and passenger.

Victims are approached while walking, gardening, or sitting outside their homes—often while alone or with a child.

A suspect distracts the victim by pretending to be lost, distressed, or

During the interaction, suspects make physical contact and discreetly replace the victim's real jewelry (necklaces rings bangles watches, chains) with fake items. What You Can Do:

Be cautious if approached by strangers offering unsolicited gifts or jewelry.

Keep valuables out of sight when in public. Stay alert during unex-

pected or unusual interactions Report any suspicious activity

immediately to police. "These incidents are subtle, calculated, and often difficult to detect in the moment. Awareness and caution are the best defenses," police advised

## Unsafe Classrooms the First Act of Ford's Appointed Supervisor for the TDSB.

TORONTO - Children and teachers are facing increasingly dangerous classroom conditions after a ministry-appointed supervisor, Rohit Gupta, decided to increase class sizes for several programs for students with disabilities. NDP MPPs Chandra Pasma (Ottawa-Nepean West) and Alexa Gilmour (Parkdale-High Park) released the following statement:

"The very first act taken by this former Metrolinx advisor has been to put children with disabilities and special needs at risk with larger class sizes," said Pasma. "This is exactly the

> replace experienced school boards with ministry appointed supervisors without the knowledge on what the real needs of our teachers and students are."

"Increasing class sizes will not alleviate the problem of waitlists at hand," said Gilmour. "Cutting corners in our schools will only make classrooms more unsafe for teachers and students with disabilities that require attentive supervision that is only truly achievable with lower student to teacher ratios. What we need is more funding for our schools so we can train and hire more teachers and education workers, not cheap solutions that will result in more chaos in our class-







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