



BC Crime Prevention Association

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Q: Recently I was contacted by a person claiming to represent a company out of Vancouver and I want to know about him before I do business with him. I can't get any answers out of him and the company isn't registered in Vancouver. Can someone assist me in checking this out?

A:

"We agree that some basic research – "due diligence" – should be done before doing business with someone unknown. It would be a clear warning sign if this individual is being evasive about providing you with satisfactory answers to your questions.

We assume that you have checked with the Registrar of Companies (your reference to the company not being registered) but there are other places you might check:

- The Better Business Bureau has a section on its website that will help you "Check Out a Business or Charity"
<http://mainlandbc.bbb.org/WWWRoot/SitePage.aspx?site=137&id=a6beef0c-26db-48af-bd63-83ac71ed9416>
- Contact the municipal hall for the area in which this business is located to see if a business license has been issued
- If you are successful in confirming the existence of the business, it is also useful to have a credit check done to find out the creditworthiness of that business. This service is offered by many businesses such as BizFraud: small business services - <http://www.bizfraud.com/>
- You might also consider conducting an internet search for both the business name and the individual representing that business as it is not uncommon for individuals who have had a bad experience with a business to vent by posting negative. Anything you discover through this search should be considered in context with other information you find from the above tips.