



BC Crime Prevention Association

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Q. I received an e-mail today that says Telus is about to make my cellphone number available to telemarketers. How can they do this? Isn't my cellphone information supposed to be kept confidential? Please check into this as I am concerned. I don't want to be bothered with calls from telemarketers. Thank you.

A. This is just another scam that is a variation of a similar one that circulated in the USA a few years ago and was tied to that country's Do Not Call Registry. You can read a sample of those e-mails and variants at <http://www.snopes.com/politics/business/cell411.asp>

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission recently introduced a Do Not Call Registry (DNCL) for Canadian consumers. Someone copied the USA e-mail scam and adapted it for the Canadian market. It began right after the September 30, 2008 start-up date for registering Canadian telephone numbers with the registry.

You can register your residential, wireless, fax or VoIP telephone number on the National DNCL by calling 1-866-580-3625. For more information about this free service visit www.lnnte-dncl.gc.ca

Neither Telus nor any other wireless network service provider is releasing cell phone numbers to telemarketers as obviously this would defeat the purpose of having a Do Not Call Registry. The scam e-mail actually includes the legitimate number (above) but also includes a second one 1-888-382-1222 – that was used in the US version. Anybody who calls that number runs the risk of unwittingly giving out personal information that fraudsters will use against you.

We recommend you ignore the e-mail you received, delete it and tell all your friends and family about this scam.