

THREAT REPORT: GoA Impersonated Text Message Scam & Spoofed Website

June 26, 2024

TLP: WHITE



Source: Reported directly to the Government of Alberta

Overview:

On 25 June 2024, an Albertan reported a text message received that purported to contain information relating to an assessment for financial compensation for Albertans. Contained in the message is a link to a website (myalbertagov[dot]org) which alleges to have an assessment that the recipient can review and where they can enter their banking information to receive the compensation mentioned in the email.

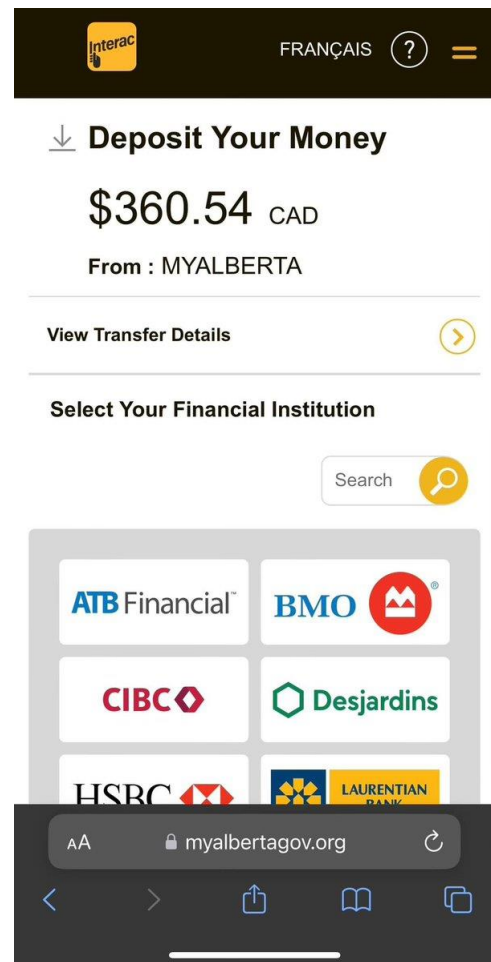
The CyberAlberta team in addition to team members from the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction ministry have reviewed this information and determined the following:

- The text message is a [SMiShing](#) message where scammers are posing as a Government of Alberta (GoA) department and does not represent a legitimate Government department.
- The website listed in the message is not for a GoA department. Searches for the site on [VirusTotal](#) and [Censys](#) indicate that this is a new website specifically created for this scam and appears to be Bulgarian in origin.

Similar scams have been reported as targeting GoA services earlier this year, notably one that purported to be a site to pay for traffic infractions. Please click [here](#) to see that report on the CyberAlberta website.

At time of writing, the scam website has been removed; however, the link appeared legitimate at first glance which could lead to confusion if Albertans are not aware that the GoA does not send out financial compensation messages in this manner.

Service Alberta can be contacted directly at (780) 427-4088 to confirm any requests or notifications.



What to Communicate:

- **GoA Action:** GoA has taken action to have this spoofed website removed as it is clearly attempting to phish information from Albertans. The information has also been [shared on X](#) (formerly Twitter) by the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction Team to increase awareness with Albertans.
- **Awareness:** Please be aware that the URL used in such scams often adapt and change as they are reported so continue to be vigilant and informed. Help keep the community safe, by spreading the word to others, particularly those who may be targeted by the scam.
- **Verify Source:** If a link appears to be received from a trusted source, validate that this link is legitimate using other means (e.g., look to information you know is legitimate for confirmation of the link, confirm via a phone call, email, etc. that the link is real). All links regardless of source should be treated with skepticism until you can verify them, and if they cannot be verified or something appears off, they should not be engaged with. Service Alberta can be contacted directly at (780) 427-4088 to confirm any requests or notifications.
- **Report and Delete:** If you receive a text message that appears to be fraudulent, do not respond or click the link. Report the message and site to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre immediately toll-free at 1-888-495-8501. Then delete the suspicious text message.

Further Reading:

- [Phishing - Top 10 Best Practices | CyberAlberta](#)
- [Don't take the bait: Recognize and avoid phishing attacks | Canadian Centre for Cyber Security](#)
- [Real examples of fake online stores | Get Cyber Safe](#)

