

# Protect Yourself from the Latest Scam

**“I received a phone call from Innovation asking me to press 5 for an urgent message. Or to text 9 to receive a verification link. Was this really you?”**

Sound familiar? Members and non-members alike have made us aware of a scam where fraudsters are impersonating us.

This very common scam, called the “bank investigator” scam, is when fraudsters call thousands of numbers pretending to be a bank, credit card company, or other financial institution and hope by chance that you deal with that company.

It’s probably easy to recognize these calls as a scam if you aren’t a member or client of that company, but if you are a member or client, they can easily get you

to click a link or push a button.

Rest assured; these fake calls aren’t part of a data breach. It’s just a common scam that’s chosen to impersonate our organization in the New Year.

Remember:

- We would never call and ask you to push a button on your phone.
- We would never pressure you to set up two-factor authentication over the phone.
- You’ll always speak to a real person if we call you; it would never be automated.

If you’re ever uncertain if it’s Innovation calling you, hang up and give us a call at 1.866.446.7001. You don’t have to worry about being rude when it comes to your financial safety.



## Banking Alerts

Get a text or email when:

- Someone has changed your password.
- Someone has tried to access your account.
- Someone has added a new bill payment vendor or *Interac e-Transfer*® recipient to your profile.
- Your account balance is running low.

To access banking alerts:

- Log in to online banking or your mobile app
- Choose Profile > Manage Alerts

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# 2025 Scholarship Program

Our 2025 Scholarship Program has officially launched! Back by popular demand, Innovation members can enter to receive a **\$2,500 No Essay Scholarship**. It's a simple application that won't take time away from your studies.

There are 10 scholarships available so be sure to apply by **October 31, 2025**, for help covering tuition, books, housing, and any other education-related expenses.

Visit <https://www.innovationcu.ca/scholarships.html>



## What are tariffs? How could they impact me?

With all the current discussions around trade and tariffs between the US and Canada, you might be wondering what tariffs are and how they could impact you.

Tariffs are essentially a tax on imported goods. These taxes increase the prices you and businesses pay for goods and services. As a result, you might notice changes in spending, trade flows, government revenue, and more. Additionally, you might find it harder to find or access key goods and services. It's important to note that although tariffs raise the prices of imports, they are actually paid by domestic consumers like you. In short, it's everyday people who are most impacted by tariffs.

### How Tariffs Could Impact Your Daily Life

**Cost of Living:** If tariffs are imposed, you could potentially see a smaller selection of goods coming from the US. This might lead to an increase in the price of consumer goods, including groceries, appliances, and vehicles.

**Employment:** Tariffs may also affect key industries such as manufacturing, tourism, and transportation, which could lead to layoffs and an increase in the unemployment rate. With fewer people working and prices rising, the demand for restaurants and entertainment may also decrease.

**Mortgage Rates:** With the addition of tariffs, investors might gravitate towards the security of fixed-rate mortgages, increasing the demand and price of bonds. If the Bank of Canada cuts its policy rate to combat the impact of tariffs, variable mortgage rates could decrease.

**Inflation and Interest Rates:** To combat the impact of tariffs, the Bank of Canada might shift its focus to supporting the economy rather than fighting inflation. This could lead to an economy with high inflation and high unemployment.

**Investments:** The stock market is expected to become volatile and unpredictable in the face of a potential trade war. It's important to diversify your investment assets across various sectors.

### What Can Canadians Do Right Now?

**Buy Canadian:** Start supporting Canadian businesses by choosing Canadian goods and services. Check out <https://madeinca.ca/> for help!

**Seek Professional Advice:** If you have a mortgage coming up for renewal or have questions about investments, speak with a professional today.

**Avoid Unnecessary Purchases:** In uncertain times, try to hold off on purchases that you don't immediately need.

Tariffs can be a daunting prospect, as they may lead to increased prices for goods and services, changes to rates, investments, and more. The most important thing you can do right now is to stay informed about tariffs and government updates.

If you have any questions about how these tariffs may impact your daily life, finances, or future, please contact us at 1.866.446.7001.



# International Year of Cooperatives

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives! But what exactly are cooperatives, and why are they significant across the world?

Cooperatives are member-owned and democratically controlled organizations. They operate for the benefit of their members, rather than for external shareholders and are a testament to the power of collective action and

mutual aid.

Cooperatives span various sectors, including agriculture, finance, and healthcare. All share the common goal of empowering their members and fostering community development.

We look forward to celebrating the invaluable contributions of cooperatives this year. Thank you for being a member of our cooperative!

## Ag Outlook 2025



Innovation and Stark & Marsh were thrilled to host Ag Outlook 2025 on January 21st at the Event Centre in Swift Current, SK. 120 people attended in person and 168 people attended virtually from 13 states and provinces.

Thank you to our keynote speakers Brad Magnusson of Magnusson Consulting and Marty Seymour of Carbon RX who shared valuable insights and outlooks.

In support of the event, Innovation and Stark & Marsh were pleased to donate \$1,500 to [The Do More Agriculture Foundation](#) who work to promote mental health in the agricultural industry.

[View Event Recording](#)



### Family Skate

We were thrilled to partner with Pioneer Co-op, the City of Swift Current, and the Swift Current Broncos for Family Skate, a free skating event on Family Day. Thank you for attending!

Proceeds from our charity lunch went to the Chinook School Division Breakfast Club.



### Annual Meeting Materials

As a member, you are entitled to receive paper copies of meeting materials in advance of any meeting (like our Annual General Meeting).

To receive these materials **by email instead**, please call us at 1.866.446.7001.



### Member Rewards

You earned around **\$1.34 million** this quarter! That includes a \$10 youth dividend. Thank you for being a member!

Be sure to try digital banking or our digital banking app to earn even more cash for doing simple banking transactions. You could earn an extra \$30 every year!

# Community Grant Recipients

We are thrilled to announce the recipients of the January 2025 Innovation Legacy Community Development Grant. Through this program, we are proud to support and strengthen our local communities by awarding a total of **\$107,500** to our members and their deserving projects.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

Featured in the SPCA donation photo from left to right: David Zammit, SPCA President; Tyler Weston, Innovation; Catelyn Kerr, SPCA; Ryan Neustaeter, Innovation; and Tyler Lemieux, SPCA.



## Organization

Midwest Food Resources Project Inc.  
 SPCA Swift Current  
 Gravelbourg Bon Ami Inc.  
 Glaslyn & District Recreation Board  
 Twin Rivers Curling Club  
 Village of Hodgeville  
 Battleford Industrial School Commemorative Association  
 Cabri Ice Centre (Cabri Minor Hockey)  
 Wilkie Minor Baseball

## Location

North Battleford, SK  
 Swift Current, SK  
 Gravelbourg, SK  
 Glaslyn, SK  
 North Battleford, SK  
 Hodgeville, SK  
 North Battleford, SK  
 Cabri, SK  
 Wilkie, SK

## Amount

\$25,000  
 \$25,000  
 \$15,000  
 \$10,000  
 \$10,000  
 \$ 7,500  
 \$ 5,000  
 \$ 5,000  
 \$ 5,000

## Huskie Athletics

Innovation is a proud partner of Huskie Athletics. Huskie fans who visited our booth at games in January and February had a chance to win prizes including two draws for \$1,000 and ten draws for \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Cards.

Congratulations to our recipients!

- Leonard K - \$1,000
- Drew L - \$1,000
- Linda Z - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Larissa B - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Richard Y - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Greta K - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Henderson S - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Gerry S - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Rin B - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Hanna S - \$ 50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Rhett O - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card
- Kalynn R - \$50 Tim Horton's Gift Card



Featured in the photo from left to right: Amber, Innovation; and \$1,000 recipient, Leonard.