

Elderly Berkeley man recovers scam money

Contra Costa Times (California)

May 19, 2011 Thursday

Copyright 2011 Contra Costa Newspapers All Rights Reserved

Section: MY TOWN; Alameda; Oakland-**Berkeley**; News; Local

Length: 249 words

Byline: By Doug Oakley **Berkeley** Voice

Body

An 80-year-old **Berkeley man** who was scammed out of \$53,000 by Canadian con artists got \$15,000 of it back after he contacted authorities.

The **man**, who **Berkeley** police and federal investigators in the U.S. and Canada are not naming, first sent a check for \$38,000. Then the con artists demanded he send another \$15,000. He sent the second check, but then decided to contact police who intercepted the check in the mail.

No arrests have been made.

Finding the check in the mail was aided by **Berkeley** police and U.S. and Canadian federal agents working on a joint operation to combat telemarketing fraud, said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Lori Haley.

Involved in the joint operation were the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Security and Investigation Services.

A statement from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said a **man** from Quebec called the **Berkeley man** and told him he won seventh prize in a sweepstakes, but first he needed to send **money** to pay the taxes on the prize, which the victim promptly did.

The statement said con artists often pose on the telephone as sweepstakes or lottery officials, relatives, lawyers, government representatives, police officers and accountants.

Anyone suspecting such a crime can call 888-495-8501 or visit the web at www.phonebusters.com.

Doug Oakley covers **Berkeley**. Contact him at 510-843-1408. Follow him at [Twitter.com/douglasoakley](https://twitter.com/douglasoakley)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (91%); IMMIGRATION (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (90%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (90%); EXCISE & CUSTOMS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%);

Elderly Berkeley man recovers scam money

FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS (90%); FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (78%); WIRE FRAUD (78%); INSPECTIONS (77%); POLICE FORCES (77%); ARRESTS (77%); INVESTIGATIONS (77%); SWEEPSTAKES (72%); TAXES & TAXATION (68%)

Organization: US IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (91%); POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE (56%)

Industry: TELEMARKETING (78%); WIRE FRAUD (78%); SWEEPSTAKES (72%); INVESTIGATION & SECURITY SERVICES (72%); LOTTERIES (51%)

Geographic: QUEBEC, CANADA (58%); CANADA (94%); UNITED STATES (94%); NORTH AMERICA (92%)

Load-Date: May 20, 2011

End of Document