



June 2, 2020

Dealer Alert

Cheque Scam Alert

A London-area Member wants all dealers to know about their “near miss” on a fake cheque scam that has apparently affected a number of other dealers as well.

Beginning in the middle of April a company by the name of "Superbids" contacted Downtown Motor Products of London, Ontario inquiring about a 2014 Mercedes Sprinter.

After a few emails back and forth discussing the condition of the vehicle, the Buyer and Seller settled on a price of \$22,600.

The Buyer explained they were from California and could not come to view the vehicle. The customer requested a bill of sale to show a purchase agreement, which the dealer provided.

Imagine the dealer’s surprise when almost a month later a “cheque” arrived ([see picture below](#)) for \$105,000 payable from a company they never heard of.



Our Member immediately emailed the Buyer to ask why there was such a discrepancy. The buyer claimed it was a mistake made by their accountant; they had purchased other units as well, but had put everything on one cheque. They said time was of the essence, their accountant was unavailable and that they had to trust our Member to deposit this significantly larger cheque. Then our Member was expected to wire the difference to the party that the Buyer had purchased other units from (and who was in on the scam of course).

If our Member had wired that money, it would have been the only real funds in this whole scam.

Our Member realized this was a scam from the moment they got the cheque, but many businesses in such cases are not so lucky.

When our Member called the company on the fake cheque, they said they also knew it was a scam and that they had 7 other dealerships call them the day before with the same thing going on from "Superbids".

Local police have been notified and now ... so are you!