

A photograph of a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a light-colored pinstriped suit jacket, a white shirt, and a striped tie. He is sitting on a tan leather couch, looking down at a document he is holding. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the lower left of the image, containing text.

MNP'S ETHICS ALERT SERVICES

Protect Your Business Reputation by Fostering Integrity



When instances of fraud, harassment, insider trading, theft or other types of misconduct occur, a call to the whistleblower hotline can save you and your organization from irreparable financial and reputational damage. But the payoff is far greater than that. Your response and the systems you establish will demonstrate to employees and the public that integrity is a cornerstone of your business. By showing zero tolerance for breaches of trust and abuse, you will cultivate a workplace culture with a conscience, earning greater consumer confidence and employee loyalty.

Benefit from Early Detection and Prevent Future Misconduct

Recent studies indicate that the majority of Canadian companies have reported being victims of an economic crime. That's why early prevention and detection of fraud and misconduct is so critical.

According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners 2014 Global Fraud Study *Report to the Nations on Occupational Fraud and Abuse*:

- i) Occupational frauds are much more likely to be detected by tips than by any other means.
- ii) Small organizations are disproportionately victimized by occupational fraud. These organizations are typically lacking in anti-fraud controls.
- iii) Fraud reporting mechanisms are a critical component of an effective fraud prevention and detection system. Organizations should implement hotlines to receive tips from both internal and external sources.
- iv) Three times as many frauds were uncovered by tips than by any other method, including audits, review or physical surveillance.

Hotlines are convenient, enabling both internal and external sources to anonymously report fraud and other abuse. The presence of a hotline enhances early detection and offers organizations more time to effectively manage threats, mitigate damages and deter future events.

MNP's Ethic Alert hotline addresses not only financial misconduct, but other breaches and threats that can impact your organization, such as:

- Theft / intellectual property theft
- Harassment
- Work health and safety
- Insider trading
- Governance complaints
- Conflict of interest
- Occupational fraud
- Corruption
- Substance abuse
- Discrimination
- Data breaches / data mining
- Business integrity

Advantages of MNP's Whistleblower Hotline

Setting up a whistleblower hotline through MNP is free. We offer this complimentary service as proof of our commitment to protect you and your organization from the repercussions of misconduct. While the hotline is a highly valuable tool for obtaining tips, it's also effective for gathering intelligence that can be used to design more effective internal controls and promote accountability within your organization.

The whistleblower hotline also provides employees with an independent and confidential means to report unethical or irregular activity. Ensuring an independent service provider operates the hotline is particularly important. Employees are often reluctant to call a hotline from work, as they worry about revealing their identity. Employees are also more inclined to report suspicious activity if they feel confident they are calling an independent third party. Another key advantage of the whistleblower hotline is that the lines are open day and night. This is a significant consideration since nearly half of all calls are made outside regular business hours.

MNP's comprehensive fraud detection and whistleblower hotline services offers clients several other key benefits, including:

- 24 / 7 accessibility, 365 days a year with trained operators receiving tips and complaints
- Complete confidentiality, ensuring the caller's identification is protected
- Comprehensive threat assessments and response planning
- Thorough follow-up, with every complaint reviewed by an experienced investigator
- Formal presentations of information obtained through whistleblower hotline to your audit committee and / or compliance officer
- Convenient, one-number hotline for reporting all types of complaints

How MNP Can Help

Once your organization sets up a whistleblower hotline, our team helps you promote corporate awareness by educating key personnel and providing you with brochures and posters. When an anonymous caller provides information to the hotline, our team will review the tip and analyze its potential impact and risk to your business. We will present the information to your corporate designate and outline a strategy for resolution. If needed, MNP's Forensic & Investigative services team will be available for further engagement to conduct a comprehensive investigation to resolve all threats and issues.

Securing Your Organization from the Inside Out

Whether you represent a small business or a large organization, when misconduct and other underground activities go unnoticed, the potential impact to your business grows exponentially. Utilizing our whistleblower hotline, you will have vital information to prevent and reduce illicit activity, but to truly fortify your organization, a more comprehensive strategy is needed. By establishing a governance structure and internal controls that promote transparency, you offer all stakeholders an extra measure of security.

Drawing on the expertise of our Assurance, Enterprise Risk and Business Resiliency knowledge leaders, our Forensic & Investigative Services professionals will design a comprehensive plan to protect your organization from potential threats. By fortifying your organization internally, you send a strong message deterring predators from targeting you in the future.



ABOUT MNP

MNP is a leading national accounting, tax and business consulting firm in Canada. We proudly serve and respond to the needs of our clients in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Through partner-led engagements, we provide a collaborative, cost-effective approach to doing business and personalized strategies to help organizations succeed across the country and around the world.

To set up an Ethics Alert Hotline free of charge or to obtain more information, contact Michael McCormack, BA CFI, Investigative & Forensic Services at 403.536.5527 or michael.mccormack@mnp.ca

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