

**Note:** *This document was prepared by Grant, Jones & Stuart Insurance as a service to their clients on March 15, 2007.*

## **LIABILITY CARD SCAMS:**

We have been notified of a number of cases where our brokerage name has been used on fraudulent liability certificates. These are the 'Pink Cards' that people carry in their vehicles as proof that they have Automobile Insurance. These fraudulent cards have shown Coachman Insurance as the Insurance Company. We have notified both our regulators and the police that these are fraudulent as we do not represent Coachman. Anyone caught presenting a false document to the police will be subject to severe penalties and would also be uninsured in the event of an accident.

While we suspect that those carrying these cards knew that they were not purchasing actual coverage, there have been cases where people have been tricked into buying 'cheap' Insurance through dubious sources. A number of instances have occurred where ads have been placed in the newspaper offering substantially reduced rates. Once the person has paid their money, usually through wire money transfers, the con artists close up shop and the 'customer' may get a pink slip, however there never was a policy. By the time the police are notified, it is too late.

As a general rule of thumb, no Insurance Company or broker will ever ask you to wire a premium payment. In addition, if a rate seems too good to be true, it probably is. These con artists use people's general dislike and misunderstanding about Insurance in order to cheat them out of their premium payments. Worse still, if the person is involved in a serious accident involving injuries or fatalities, they may be facing lawsuits and major legal bills with no Insurance coverage to pay for it.

If you have been victimized by one of these scams, please contact the police immediately and **DO NOT DRIVE** until you have placed coverage with an Insurance Company authorized to transact business in Ontario. It is never worth the risk to drive uninsured!