

Counterfeit Novelty Notes

Though counterfeiting levels remain low, the Bank of Canada is reminding businesses to be vigilant in checking bank notes during cash transactions. Counterfeit novelty notes marked with Chinese characters have been reported across the country. In 2019, they represented 17% of counterfeits passed and seized in Canada. They resemble *Frontiers* series polymer bank notes, but include Chinese writing that translates roughly as, “for training purposes only.” These novelty notes exist in all denominations, but the \$100 and \$20 notes are the most common.

These counterfeit notes are easy to identify:

- Chinese writing appears on both sides of the notes. This is not a feature of genuine Bank of Canada notes; and
- they are printed on paper instead of the polymer used for genuine notes.

Dealing with Counterfeit Notes

During a transaction

If you suspect that you’re being offered a novelty note, or any other suspected counterfeit, assess the situation to ensure you’re not at risk. Then, do the following:

- Politely refuse the note and explain that you suspect it may be counterfeit. Advise the person to check the note with local police.
- Ask for another note (and check it too).
- Be courteous. Remember that the person in possession of the bill could be an innocent victim who does not realize the note is suspicious.
- Inform your local police of a possible attempt to pass suspected counterfeit money. Submit the suspect note to them in a timely fashion with any information that may help a possible investigation (e.g., time of occurrence, physical description, photographs, videos, etc.).



Images reproduced with the permission of the RCMP's National Anti-Counterfeiting Bureau.

After a transaction

If you suspect that you’ve received a counterfeit note, novelty or otherwise, give it to local police.

- If it’s real, you’ll get it back.
- Either way, the police should be informed of possible counterfeiting activity in your community. Timely reporting helps police and prosecutors bring counterfeiters to justice.

NOTE: It is a criminal offence to knowingly use or keep counterfeit money.

Learn More

The Bank of Canada offers training materials on how to check bank note security features.

For more information: www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes • email Currency-Monnaie@bank-banque-canada.ca