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CPS investigate two COVID-19 related hate crimes

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The Calgary Police Service's headquarters building is shown in Calgary, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jeff McIntosh

CALGARY (660 NEWS) — Calgary police are investigating two hate crimes that are said to be directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Calgary Police


@CalgaryPolice



Police investigating threats connected to [#COVID19](#).

We take seriously threats targeting people because of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexuality or other similar characteristic. Recently, we've seen threats directly connected to COVID-19. <https://www.rogersmedia.com/privacy-policy/#question17>

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On the evening on Saturday, March 14, a local Chinese restaurant received a threat that was directly related to the current crisis. Police say they have identified a target, but no charges have been laid as of yet.

Then, one man is said to have commented on an Indigenous social media group page, threatening to try and intentionally spread COVID-19 to Indigenous people.

In this case, police have laid charges for uttering threats.

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"This is a time when we should all be coming together to encourage one another and keep everyone safe," said Constable Craig Collins, Hate Crimes Coordinator with the Calgary Police Service. "It is unacceptable that some members of our community are weaponizing this pandemic to make others feel even more vulnerable than everyone already does. We won't ignore it."

Police say that times are stressful right now and that threats connected to the pandemic have an even greater impact on victims because they further undermine a victim's already fragile sense of safety.

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