

Printing this could cost you a lot of money

Printing currency at actual size as shown here is against the law. However, since May 1, 1999 new Canadian regulations say that currency **may** be printed in colour at a size of 75% or smaller or 150% or larger. For further information on the legal reproduction of bank notes, please contact the Bank of Canada.



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...or much worse.

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The Bank's policy permits reproduction of unaltered bank note images for any lawful use (educational, commercial, advertising, etc.) as long as the restrictions listed in section 457 of the Criminal Code of Canada are respected.

The following is a paraphrase of section 457 of the Criminal Code and is presented as an explanation only: *A modified likeness — that is, one that appears either larger (150 per cent or more) or smaller (75 per cent or less) than an actual bank note, and for colour copies depicts only one side of the bank note and for two sided copies is reproduced in black and white — may be published or printed by the general public.*

Section 457 can be viewed at www.bank-banque-canada.ca/banknotes/legislation

For the exact legal terms of the section, the restrictions involved, as well as the sections that describe other criminal counterfeiting activities, please refer to the Criminal Code of Canada.

Additional information:

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Bank of Canada



A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BANK OF CANADA
AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Canada



How to Not Make Money

Springtime in Toronto... a time when leaves begin to appear on the trees, skirt lengths rise with the temperature — and movie companies start filling the side streets of the city with their trailers, cameras and bright lights. This is a story about moviemaking, and about how to not make money in the printing business.

Three years ago, a production unit settled into Hollywood North to shoot a remake of the classic 1970s comedy thriller “The Taking of Pelham One Two Three”. It’s the tale of a New York City transit detective forced to negotiate with a gang of nasty villains who demand a huge ransom for the release of a hijacked subway train.

A climactic scene in the movie called for millions of dollars to be blown up in an explosion. Needless to say, the producers weren’t thrilled with the idea of carting in barrels of genuine U.S. currency for this shot, so the art director dispatched the propmaster to search down a printer who could fill the order with reasonable facsimiles of the real stuff.

The propmaster was a local chap who performed services on and off for various TV and movie producers. It happened that a couple of years earlier he had been asked to provide the same kind of props for another project. So he contacted the small Toronto print shop which he had engaged previously and inquired about rerunning the job.

The nervous printer (whose name we won’t mention), aware that the laws of the land were fairly strict when it came to printing hundred dollar bills — even bad copies — finally agreed to put the job on press after assurances that it was perfectly okay to produce non-negotiable props for a movie set. So he pulled out his plates from the previous print run and the phony greenbacks got printed — on cheap stock and bearing the words “Not for Legal Tender”.

Off went the propmaster with his cartons of printed matter, pleased that he’d managed to take care of the art director’s demands. Back at the set, he stuffed the load of bogus bucks into a handy foot locker, taking a few samples to show the art director.

There was only one problem.

“They look brand new,” said the discerning AD. “This scene calls for used bills. Make them look old.”

In short order the propmaster tracked down his three hired hands and dispatched them with instructions to run the whole batch through a washing machine and, well, launder the money, until it looked good and used.

Away they went, back to their Toronto apartment building to complete the task...

The call came in to the RCMP late that night from Metro Toronto Police headquarters.

Toronto’s finest were holding three suspects in a counterfeiting scheme after receiving an anonymous tip from the resident of a local high rise who spotted this trio busily using the facilities in the building’s laundry room — surrounded by a multitude of green garbage bags, all overflowing with what appeared to be millions in American currency.

The laundry gang was vehemently protesting their innocence; they were just working for a movie company, was the story. Yeah, sure, said the police.

Since this was a federal offense, down to the police station came the RCMP to handle the matter. It didn’t take long to check out the story. A quick call uncovered the fact that in the previous two years there had been almost 100 individual incidences of passed counterfeit U.S. bills bearing the same serial number as the ones which filled the bags which had been seized.

Within hours the propmaster had been located and the job traced back to the printer.

“I’m no counterfeiter!” protested the printer. “I was supplying my client with props for a movie. Nobody was supposed to actually spend that stuff!”

“Reproducing bank notes is against the law,” said the RCMP. “You’re under arrest.”

(Meanwhile the art director squawked, “What about my props? We have a scene to shoot!”)

Three years and a hefty legal bill later, the printer escaped without a criminal record by plea bargaining his case down to a lesser charge; the propmaster was also charged and fined.

The moral of the story is: if you’re a printer and someone asks you to print anything resembling genuine currency (whether it’s Canadian or not), better make sure you’re familiar with the legal restrictions that govern the reproduction of bank notes (new regulations were introduced as of May 1, 1999).

And if you need more information on what’s permissible, check the Bank of Canada ad on the preceding page of this magazine — underwritten as part of his settlement with the courts by the printer who got caught because he didn’t know the law. **G**