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## Squeezed out of home: Cons, taxman hit family: [Final Edition]

Horwood, Holly. **The Province** [Vancouver, B.C] 20 Oct 1995: A10.

### Abstract

[Scott Harper] and Cindy Harper fear they'll end up on welfare after they were unwittingly ensnared in scams by former Burnaby partners Daryl Grant MacAskill and Larry Douglas Buss.

MacAskill is serving a jail term and Buss was fined after they were caught collecting more than \$34,000 in GST rebates in connection with fictitious companies they had set up between 1991 and 1993.

Buss acknowledges the Harpers aren't the only victims. His former office staff now are unemployed and another couple who bought a Sumas home in an identical scam is also being pursued by Revenue Canada.

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### Full Text

A Chilliwack family is caught in a tax tussle between two con artists and Revenue Canada.

Scott and Cindy Harper fear they'll end up on welfare after they were unwittingly ensnared in scams by former Burnaby partners Daryl Grant MacAskill and Larry Douglas Buss.

MacAskill is serving a jail term and Buss was fined after they were caught collecting more than \$34,000 in GST rebates in connection with fictitious companies they had set up between 1991 and 1993.

Now the Harpers -- who assumed the mortgage on an Abbotsford home owned by Buss in August 1994 -- are being squeezed by Revenue Canada to recoup the losses.

Fifteen per cent of Scott's salary as a relief bus driver is being garnished by Revenue Canada to help pay off money owed by Buss and MacAskill.

"They've decided we owed \$5,787.67 because we lived in the house and we had a contract with Buss for a lease-option deal," said Scott Harper.

"We were so eager to get our house we just jumped in head-first. Little did we know what we were getting into."

Buss acknowledges the Harpers aren't the only victims. His former office staff now are unemployed and another couple who bought a Sumas home in an identical scam is also being pursued by Revenue Canada.

"I tried my darndest to help the Harpers -- I sent my mortgage broker over there but . . . they just started screaming at him," insists Buss.

Revenue Canada officials won't discuss the case.

The Harpers, who have four children, were allowed to stay in the home until the bank foreclosed and now live in a rented home while they appeal Revenue Canada's action.

"We got conned out of a house, we're made to feel like criminals and now I have to pay (Buss's) debt for him," says Scott.

"The stress is immeasurable."

### **Illustration**

Staff photo by Rick Loughran/ The Harper family (clockwise from left) are Laura-Lyn, 6, mom Cindy, dad Scott, Micheal, 2, Steven, 4, and Aimie, 10. The house purchase they made turned out to be a scam - - but they're stuck with a bill from Revenue Canada. ;

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