



**BC Securities
Commission**
Invest Right

Smart Investing and Avoiding Investment Fraud in Uncertain Times

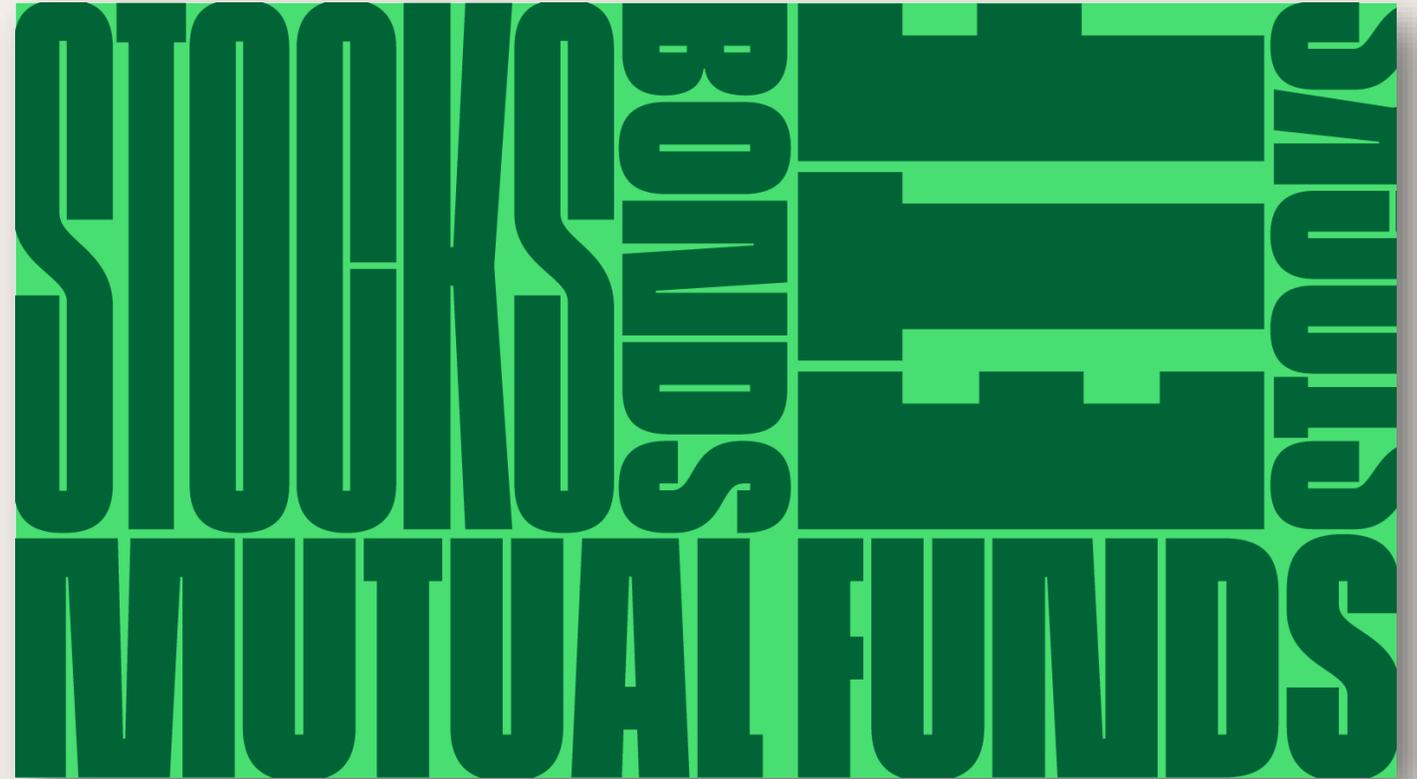
Chelsea Siler
Manager, Investor Education & Engagement

Ken Gracey
Manager, Corporate Communications

**Indigenous Financial Management Conference, AFOA BC
December 3, 2025**

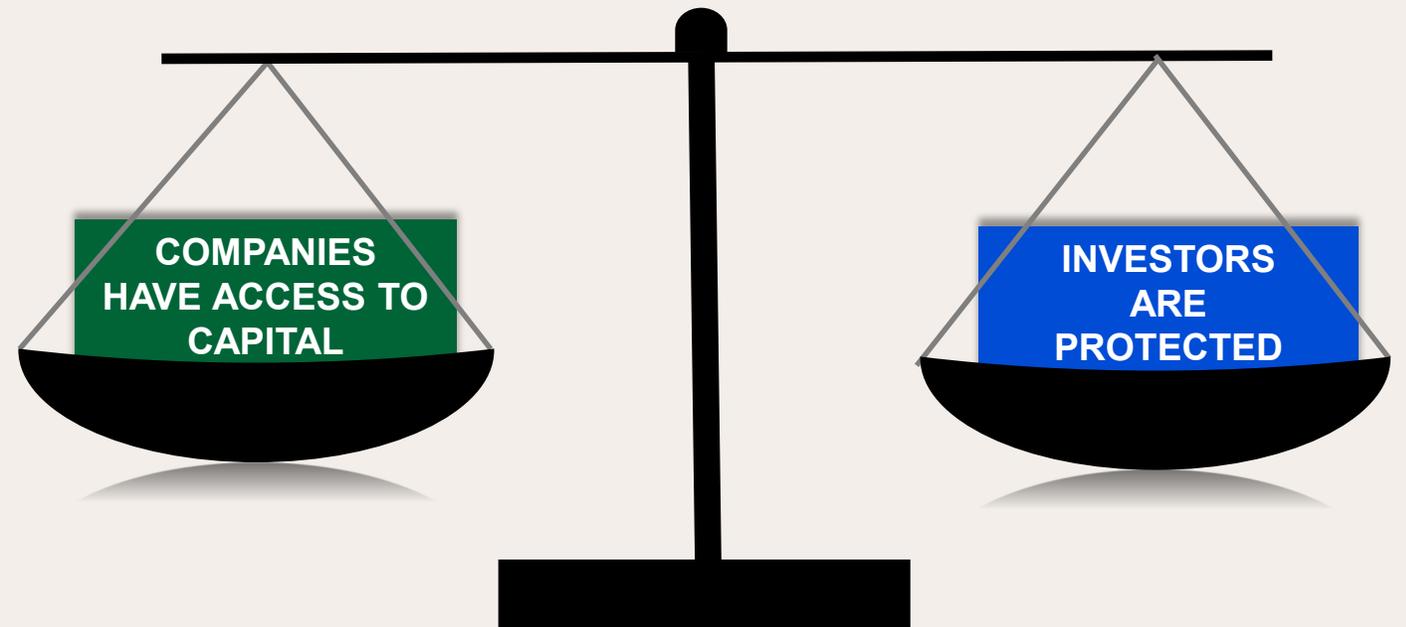


Who is the BC Securities Commission?





The Balancing Act





What is a Security?

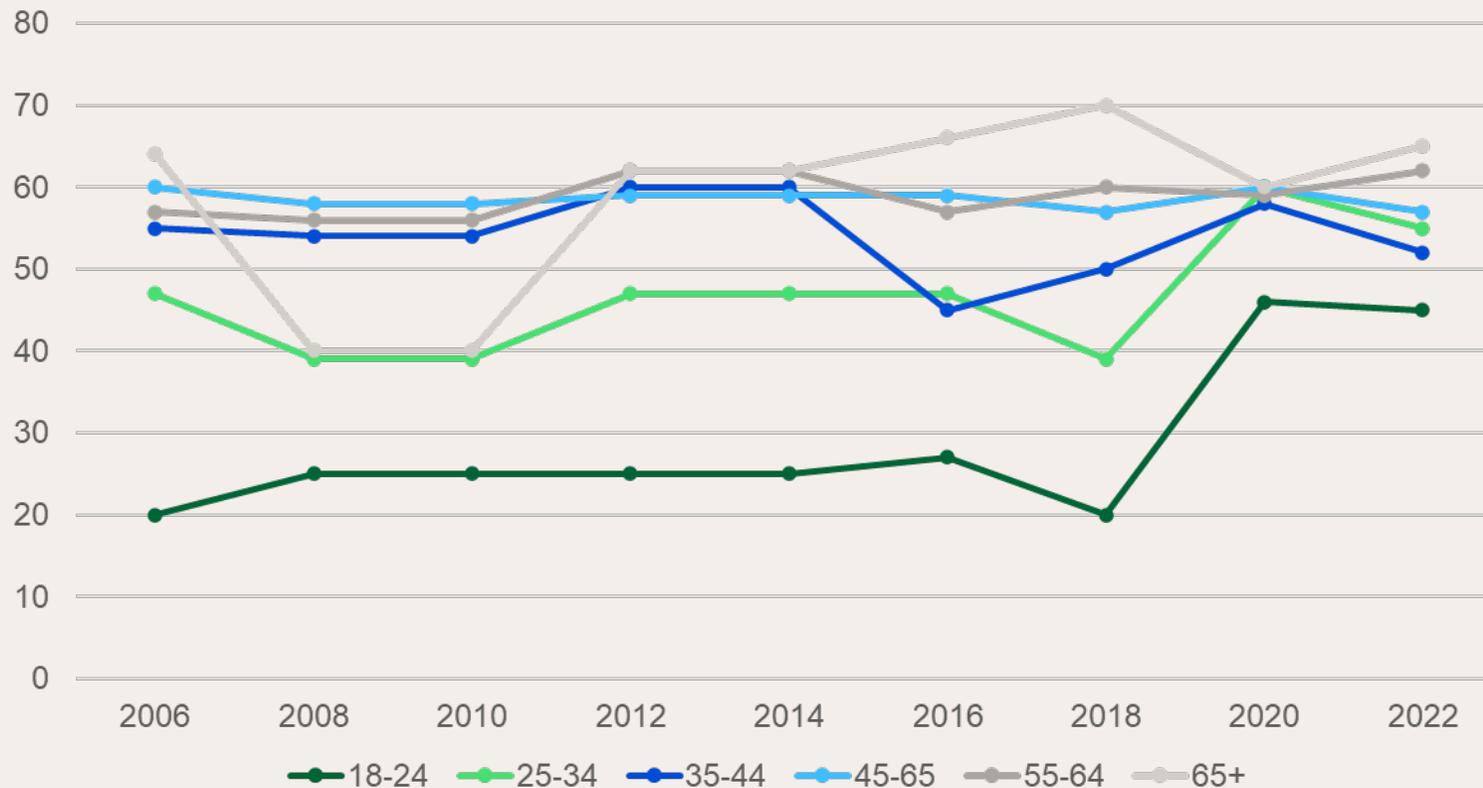
- broad legal meaning
- includes any document or agreement that
 - allows the holder to profit from the efforts of others, or
 - represents the holder's interest in an entity



Investing in securities:



Among those who have an account that could hold investment products: % who hold securities



Data collected from multiple surveys, weighted to a balanced sample of n= 2000 nationally.

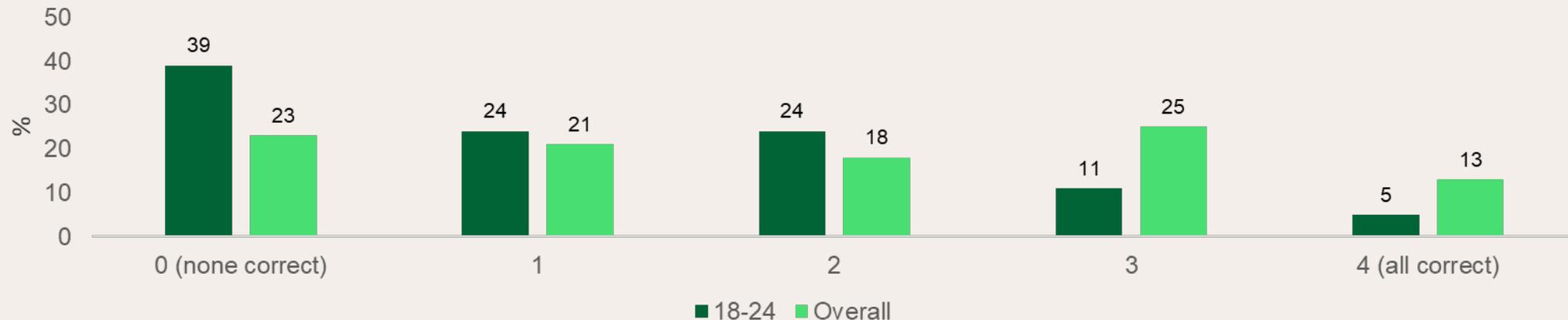
Investment Literacy: 18–24-year-olds are more likely to have lower investment literacy



Respondents were asked if the following statements were true or false

1. Mutual Funds pay a guaranteed rate of return *(false)*
2. Bond prices go up when interest rates go down *(true)*
3. Buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a mutual fund *(false)*
4. When an investor diversifies their investments, the risk of losing money increases *(false)*

Distribution of correct answers





Investor Protection – InvestRight.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the BC Securities Commission's InvestRight website. At the top, there is a search bar with the placeholder text "I am looking for...". To the right of the search bar are links for "BC Securities Commission", "About BCSC InvestRight", and "Language". Social media icons for X, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn are also present. Below the search bar is the BC Securities Commission logo with the tagline "Invest Right". A navigation menu includes "Understand Investing", "Manage Investments", "Avoid Fraud", "Tools & Resources", "News & Insights", and a prominent orange button for "Report Fraud or Misconduct".

The main content area has a dark green background. It features the heading "Investor Education Starts Here" and the subtext "Resources from beginner basics to advanced insights". A "Learn More" link with a right-pointing arrow is provided. To the right of the text are icons representing a keyboard, a pen, a calculator, a tablet with a question mark, a magnifying glass, a mouse, and a pair of glasses.

At the bottom, there is a white bar with three categories, each with an icon and a label: "Saving & Investing" (with a bar chart icon), "Investment Accounts" (with a wallet icon), and "Protect Your Finances" (with an umbrella icon).



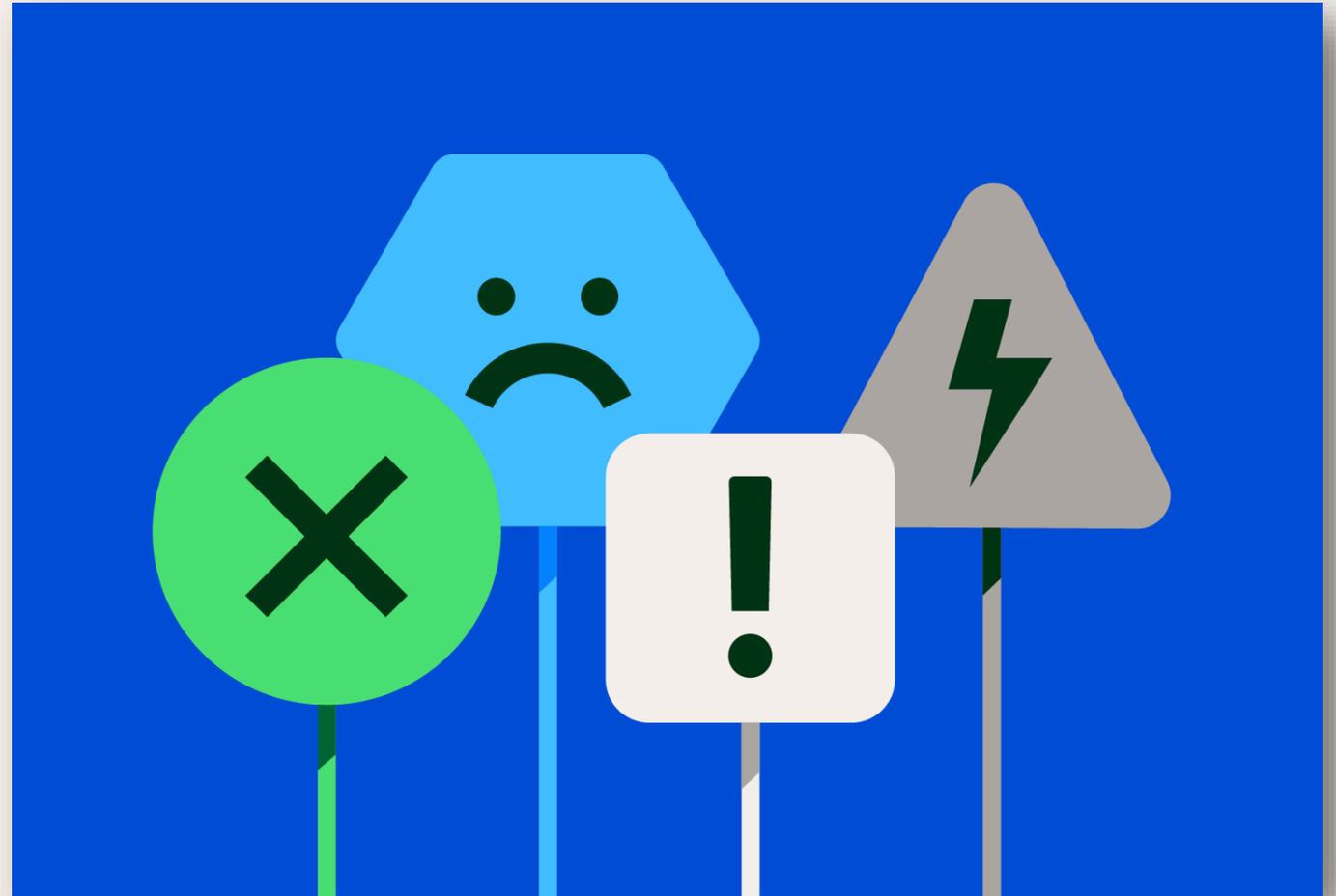
Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

	2020	2024
Reported losses to investment fraud	\$33.5 M	\$310.6 M
Number of reported victims of investment fraud	428	3,866
Total reported of all types of fraud	\$165 M	\$638 M



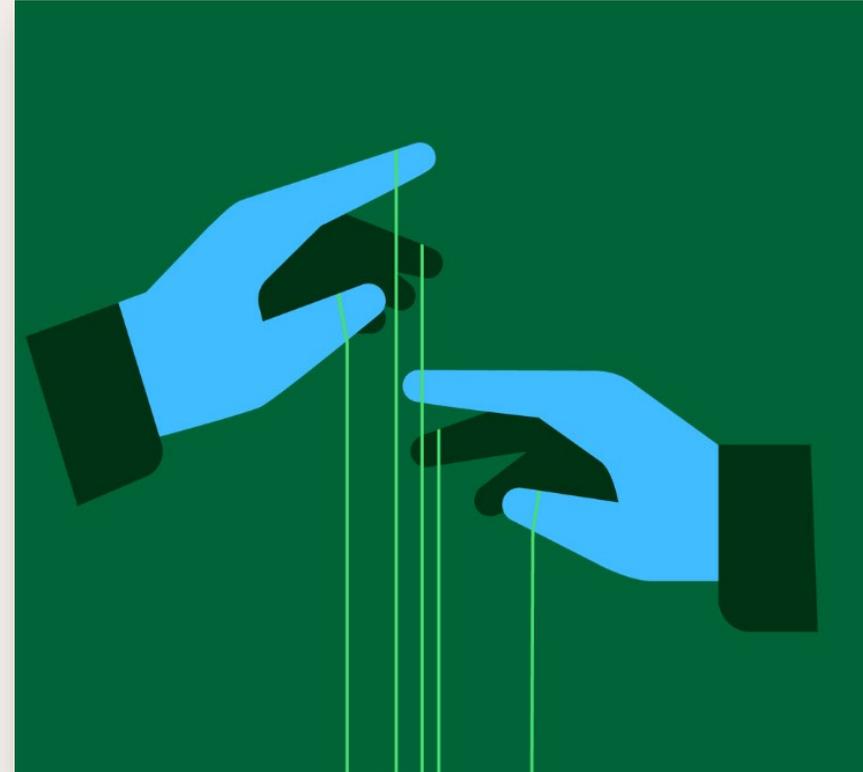
Common Scams

Many modern-day scams have the hallmarks of classic frauds, but with a new twist.





Traditional Scams & Affinity Fraud / Trust Trap



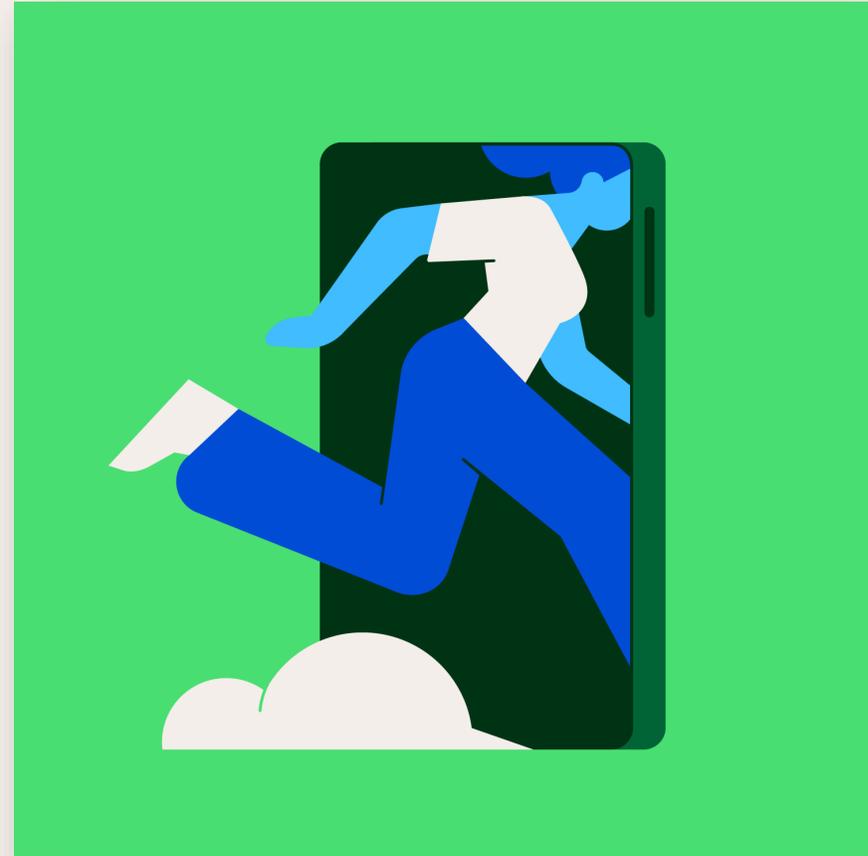


Pig Butchering and AI





Messaging App Scams





How it works

Discussion over the phone or on WhatsApp

- Start small / practice account
- Interac or credit card
- Use of remote access tool

Establishing a relationship of trust

- Account opened on a crypto exchange
- Stealing personal data
- Fake profits displayed

Inability to cash out

- Pressure to 'invest' more

Recovery scheme

- Victim is solicited again



CSA National Registration Search

Only a registrant with *current registration* is allowed to advise or deal in securities in Canada.

Firm Registration Record

Name [REDACTED] INVESTMENTS LTD.	Other name(s) and/or previous name(s) Hide other names <ul style="list-style-type: none">• [REDACTED] British Columbia Ltd.
NRD # [REDACTED]	

CURRENT REGISTRATION

Firm [REDACTED] INVESTMENTS LTD.	Head Office [REDACTED] Phone: (250) [REDACTED]
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[Expand all](#)

- Alberta [v](#)
- British Columbia [v](#)



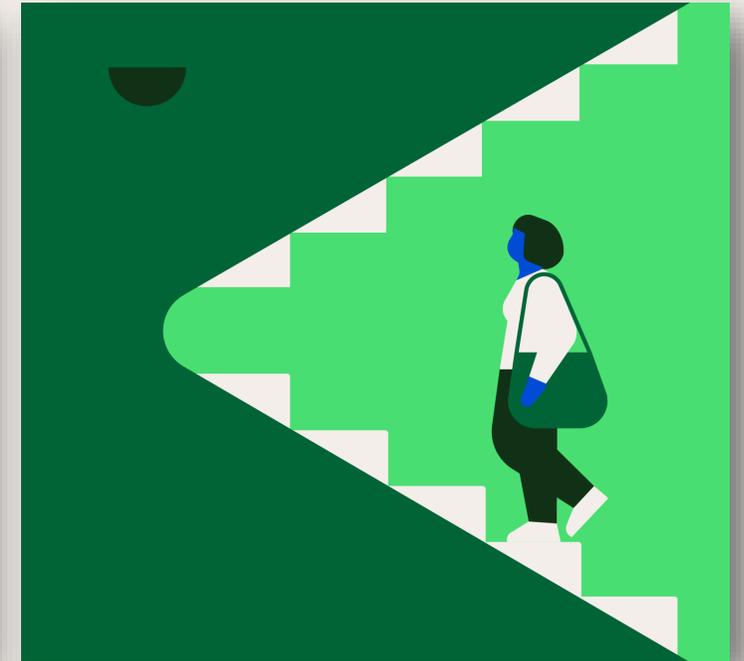
5 Key Fraud Warning Signs



Fear of Missing Out



The Trust Trap



High Return | No Risk |
Guaranteed



5 Key Fraud Warning Signs



Pressure to Buy



Questions Not Answered



Elder Financial Abuse

Commission
Invest Right

PROTECT SENIORS AND THEIR INVESTMENTS

This month, we focus on protecting our seniors from financial exploitation. Elder financial abuse is a serious issue, and it's important for everyone to know how to prevent it and help those affected.

Each year on June 15, people and organizations come together to voice their opposition to the abuse of older adults. Since 2006, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) serves as an important reminder that elder abuse is a serious problem, and it is vital to raise awareness and initiate

E-mail Newsletter

RIGHTS DON'T GET OLD

BC Securities Commission
Invest Right

Paid Social Media Campaigns

BC Law Institute • 3rd+
British Columbia Law Institute
8mo • Edited •

+ Follow ...

See our newest blog post: "Preventing Financial Abuse: Role of the BC Securities Commission"

...see more

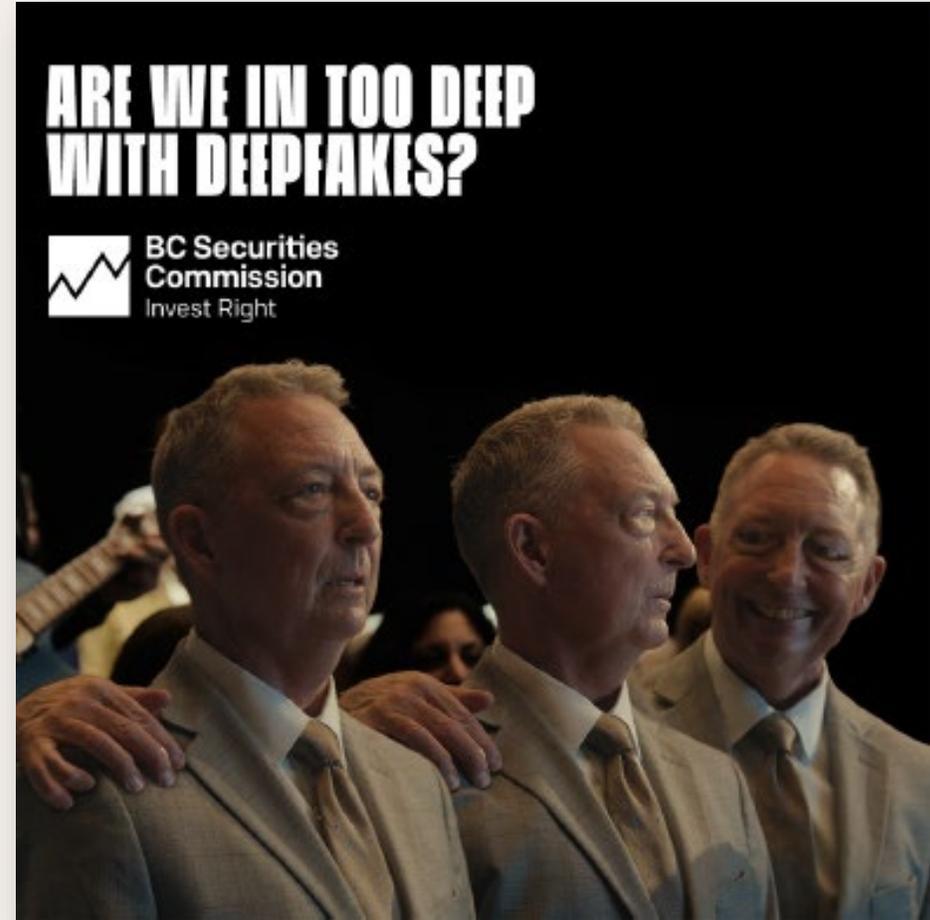
"WE WANT ALL BRITISH COLUMBIANS TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMONS FORMS OF ELDER ABUSE."

PAMELA MCDONALD,
BC SECURITIES COMMISSION

Partnerships and Sponsorships



AvoidAlscams.ca



CryptoScams.ca



BCSC Contact Centre





Complaints & Concerns

Reporting a Complaint

You should file a complaint if you want to report misconduct related to market participants – public companies, investment advisors and investment firms. You can also let us know if you think a company or individual is illegally offering investments or investment advice.

- Filing a Complaint with the BCSC
- Complaints about Investment Advisors or Firms
- Complaints about Companies
- Shareholder Disputes and Civil Matters
- Seeking Financial Compensation
- Online Complaint

Filing a complaint with the BCSC



Make a Complaint

Use our online form to file a complaint. If you need assistance our BCSC Contact Centre is here to help.

[File a Complaint](#)

[Our Complaint Process](#)

[What the BCSC Can & Cannot Do](#)

[Before You File a Complaint](#)

[Complaints about Fraud or Illegal Activity](#)

[How the BCSC Investigates Complaints](#)

[Other Ways to File a Complaint](#)

Whistleblower Program



 BC Securities Commission
Invest Right

SOMETHING FISHY?
Help us stop fraudsters

Whistleblowers are eligible to receive a financial award of **\$1,000 to \$500,000.**

Submit a tip to the BCSC's Whistleblower Program:

- BCSC.BC.CA
- Call 1-866-BCSC-TIP (1-866-227-2847)
- P.O. Box 91088
West Vancouver, B.C.
V7V 4S4

Report online:



BCSC Enforcement

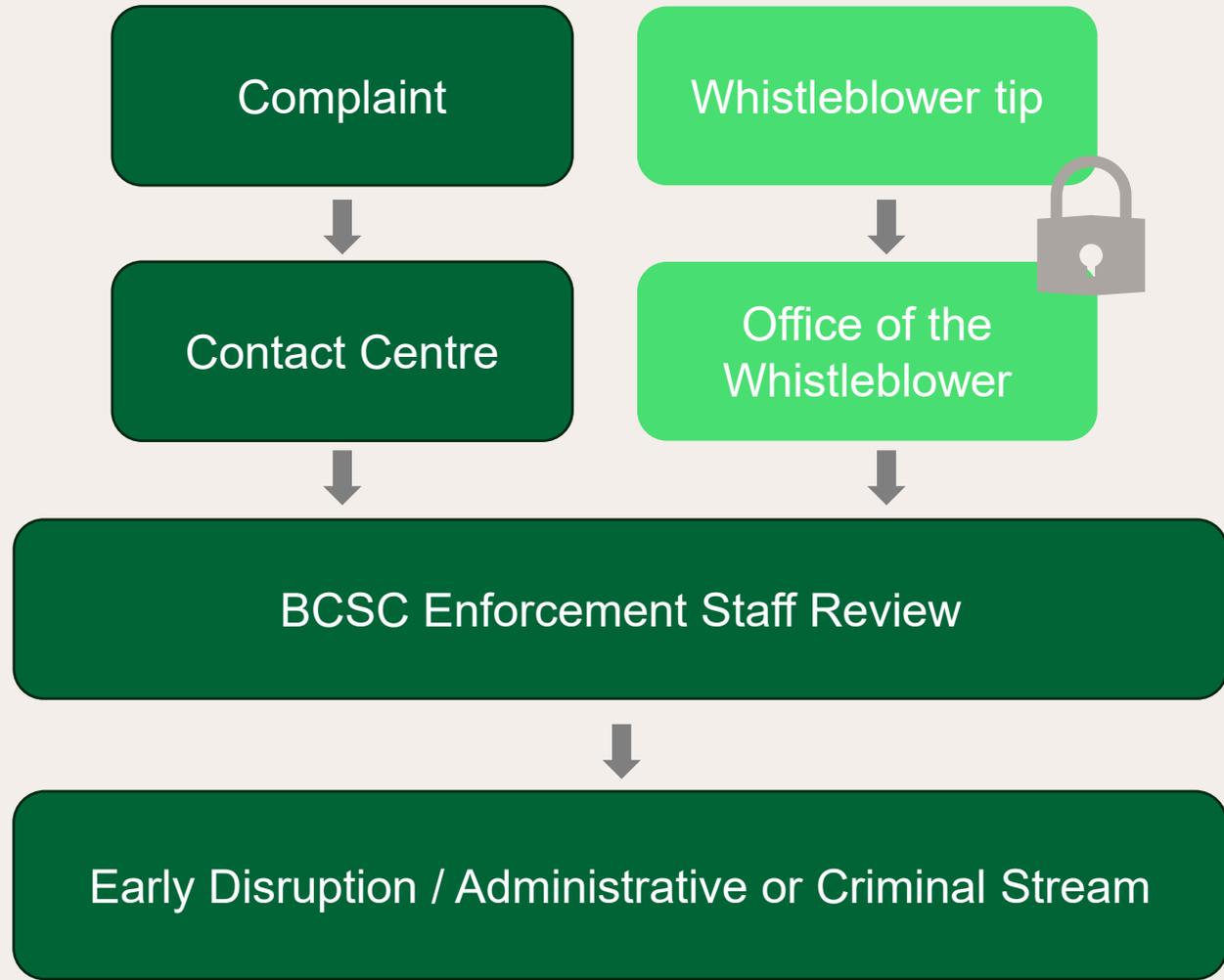




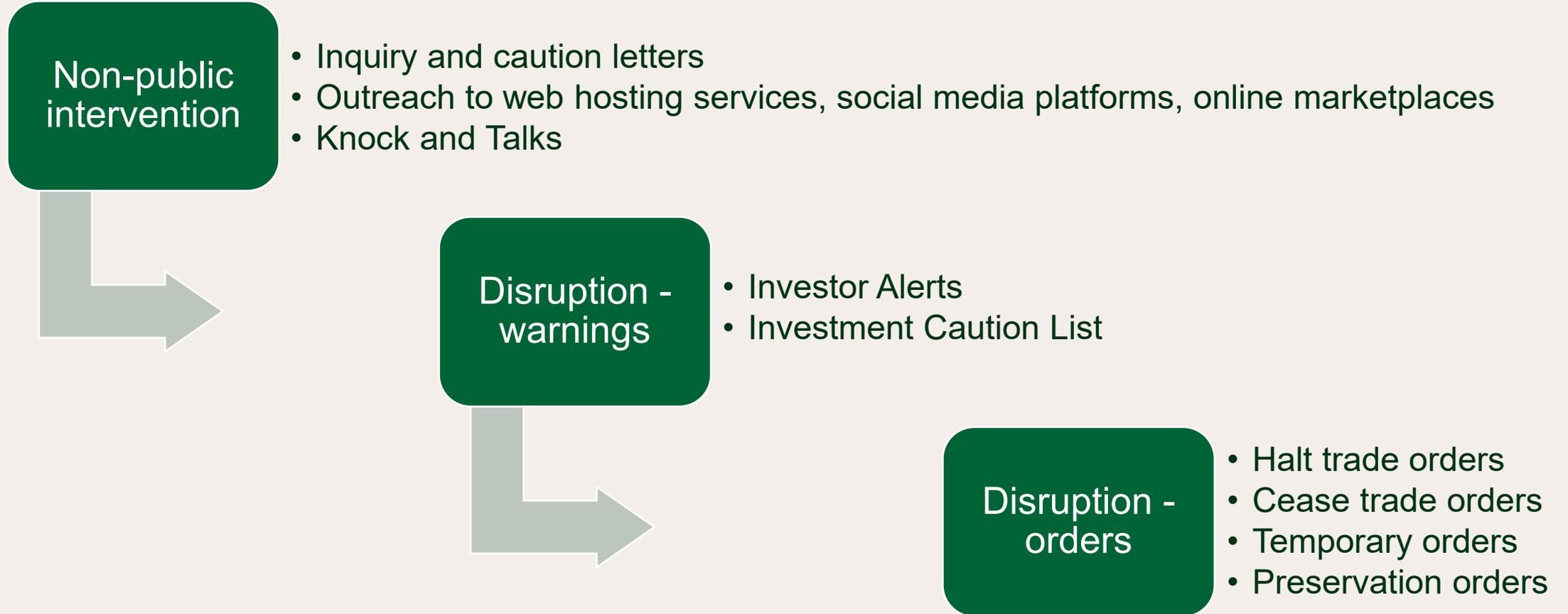
Complaints and Whistleblower Tips

- Our staff act quickly to review concerns and take action where possible.
- Aim to prevent future misconduct

Referrals
Police/SROs



Early Disruption





Enforcement Streams

Administrative

- BCSC Staff investigate
- BCSC Staff prosecute
- Tribunal holds hearings
- Outcomes: financial sanctions, prohibitions

Criminal / quasi-criminal

- BCSC Staff investigate
- Crown prosecutes
- Court holds trials
- Outcomes: fines, prohibitions, jail

#1 Complaint: Crypto Scams



CityNews
Everywhere

WATCH LIVE

B.C. Securities Commission finds \$13M in fraud by crypto trading platform

NANAIMO **Bulletin**

RCMP remind Islanders to use caution after \$200K lost in online scams

CTV NEWS

Vancouver | News

Victims who lost \$4.3 million to crypto fraud identified in B.C. regulator's operation

By [Ian Holliday](#)

Published: April 16, 2025 at 5:42PM EDT



Paul Oei

- Banned from capital markets
- administrative penalties of \$4.5 and \$1 million
- disgorge approximately \$3.1 million



Questions not answered



Trust trap



FOMO



Richmond News file



Rashida Samji

- Fraud charge
- \$10,811,799 in disgorgement plus a \$33 million administrative penalty



Trust trap



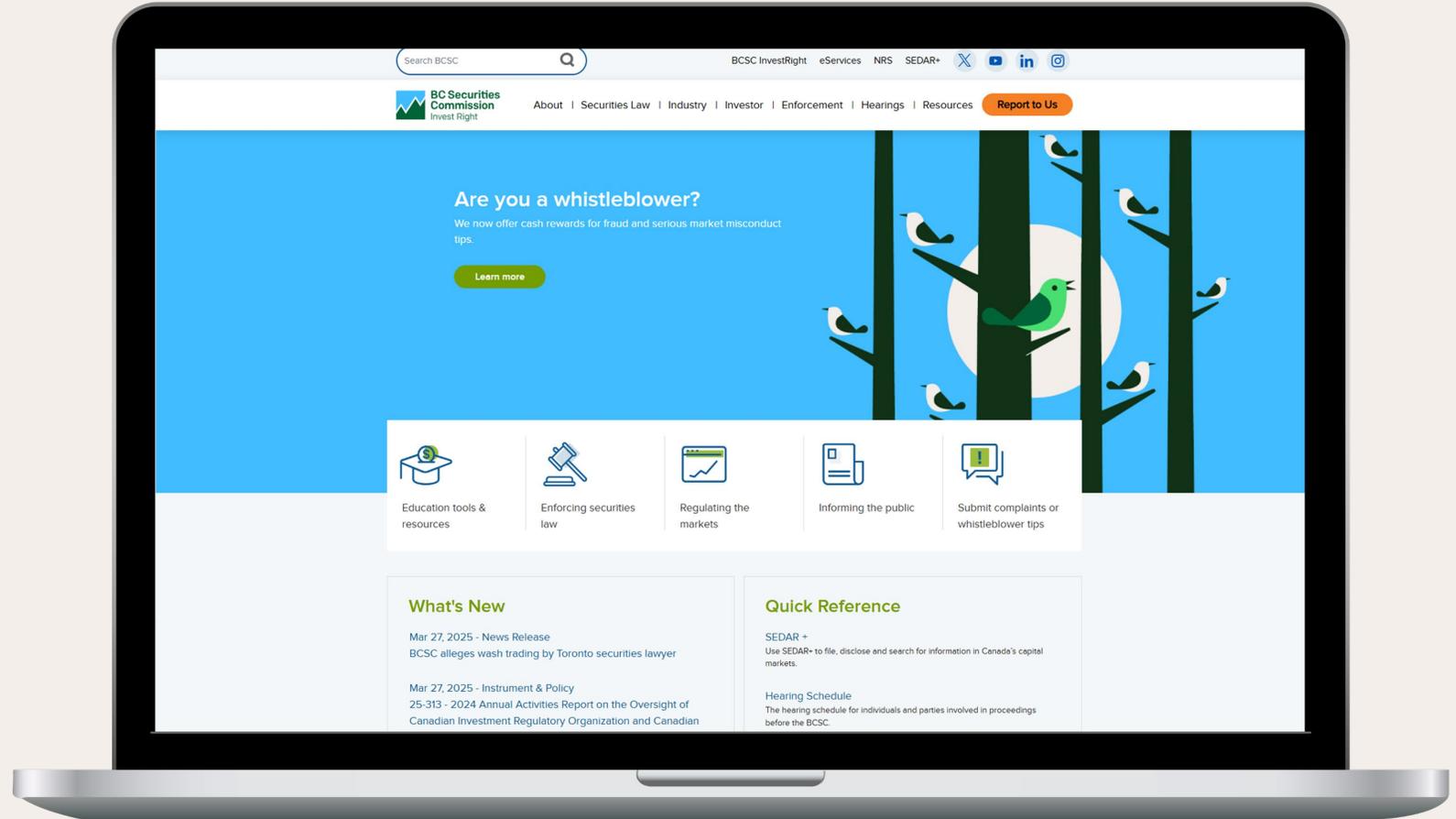
High risk -
guaranteed returns



Jason Proctor/Twitter



BCSC.BC.CA





How to report investment fraud

BCSC Contact Centre: 604-899-6854

Toll Free: 1-800-373-6393

Email: inquiries@bcsc.bc.ca

Web: bcsc.bc.ca and InvestRight.org

