

Spot Investment Scams Checklist:

BC SECURITIES
COMMISSION



INVESTMENT ADS

Know where to look

Scam artists run ads in newspapers, television, radio, billboards, and on the Internet (classified, banner and pay-per-click).

Be aware of face-to-face meetings or media coverage

Fraudsters set up tradeshow booths or seminars. Some also seek the media limelight, sometimes paying for “advertorial” spots on radio, TV or in newspapers.

Watch out for promises of guaranteed, low-risk investment opportunities

Always question above-average returns involving little or no risk.

Be aware of frequent use of financial jargon

Fraudsters use sophisticated language to convince investors that the people behind the opportunity are professional, knowledgeable, and experienced.

Be suspicious of free seminars or free gifts

The promise of free incentives in an ad can make you pick up the phone to find out more. Avoid the temptation.

Understand the warning signs of a scam

Ads that use “tax-free” or “offshore” are often misleading. Visit the InvestRight.org Fraud Warning Signs webpage to familiarize yourself with the language fraud artists use when touting a scheme.

Research advertised investment opportunities

Search the British Columbia Securities Commission’s (InvestRight.org) website or call to check on the company or individual selling the investment.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Your care and attention may save a friend, family member or member of your community from falling victim to an investment scam.

You can call or e-mail the BC Securities Commission to find out more.

Telephone:
604-899-6854
1-800-373-6393

Email:
inquiries@bcsc.bc.ca

Report online:
www.InvestRight.org