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Crypto license in Canada

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Crypto license in Canada



Flag

Regulator	FINTRAC (anti-money laundering) and provincial securities regulators (Canadian Securities Administrators) [1]
License	Registration with FINTRAC as a money services business dealing in virtual currency; registration with provincial securities regulators for crypto trading platforms [1] [2]
Legal basis	Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act; provincial securities laws [1] [2]
Minimum capital	Not confirmed
Application fee	Not confirmed
Decision time	Not confirmed
Travel Rule	Required (C$1,000+) [1]
Client asset segregation	Required (platforms) [2]
Compensation scheme	Not confirmed
Cross-border passport	Within Canada [2]

Licensed firms	See FINTRAC and CSA [1] [2]
Public register	FINTRAC MSB registry

In short: Registration with FINTRAC as a money services business dealing in virtual currency; registration with provincial securities regulators for crypto trading platforms from the FINTRAC (anti-money laundering) and provincial securities regulators (Canadian Securities Administrators). [1] [2] Minimum capital: Not confirmed. Travel Rule: required (C$1,000+). [1] Compensation if the firm fails: not confirmed. As of November 2026.

In **Canada**, businesses that deal in virtual currency must **register with FINTRAC** as money services businesses. Crypto trading platforms that hold client assets are also regulated by the **provincial securities regulators**, coordinated through the Canadian Securities Administrators.

License types

The license used by crypto businesses in Canada: Registration with FINTRAC as a money services business dealing in virtual currency; registration with provincial securities regulators for crypto trading platforms. [1] [2] Legal basis: Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act; provincial securities laws. [1] [2]

- **FINTRAC MSB registration** – anti-money-laundering registration for dealers in virtual currency
- **Securities registration** – for crypto trading platforms, usually as a restricted dealer

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in Canada (2026): Not confirmed.

Application fee: Not confirmed.

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, security and technology usually cost more than the capital itself.

Application process

Decision time: Not confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Register with FINTRAC and adopt a compliance programme.
2. If operating a trading platform, apply for registration with the provincial securities regulators.

Substance and governance

Foreign MSBs serving Canadians must register with FINTRAC as foreign money services businesses. [1]

Client protection

What the rules in Canada require, as of November 2026. See Client protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in Canada
Travel Rule	Required since June 2021 for virtual currency transfers of C$1,000 or more. [1]
Client asset segregation	Required for registered crypto trading platforms under their terms of registration. [2]
Custody	Not confirmed.
Compensation if the firm fails	Not confirmed.
Serving clients abroad	Provincial registrations are coordinated through the CSA. [2]

Number of licensed firms

MSBs are listed in FINTRAC's registry; registered platforms are listed by the CSA. [1] [2]

The public register is the only current source of who holds a license.

How to verify a license

1. Find the exact legal name and license number of the entity you would contract with, usually in the website footer or the client agreement.
2. Search for it on the regulator's own register: FINTRAC MSB registry .
3. Check that the website address and contact details on the register match the site you are using, to rule out an impostor site.
4. Check which group entity your account would be opened with: crypto brands often run several entities under different regulators.

Frequently asked questions

Is FINTRAC registration a license?

No. It is anti-money-laundering registration. Platforms also need securities registration.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the FINTRAC / CSA or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Crypto licenses compared
- Crypto license in the United States
- Crypto license in the Cayman Islands
- Crypto license in Bermuda
- Crypto license in the Bahamas
- How to verify a crypto business's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body.

1. Official FINTRAC . Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Canadian Securities Administrators . CSA. Accessed November 2026.

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