



Annual Accountability Report
for the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Nova Scotia Securities Commission (the Commission) for the year ended March 31, 2025, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Commission's Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Commission's outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by Commission management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Commission management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Commission's 2024-2025 Business Plan.

(signed) "Valerie Seager"

Valerie Seager
Chair

(signed) "H. Jane Anderson"

H. Jane Anderson, K.C.
Executive Director

Message from the Chair

The principal mission of the Commission, as set out in the *Securities Act*, is to protect investors in Nova Scotia while fostering fair and efficient capital markets in the province. The Commission fulfils this mission through its activities in four core business areas: (i) the regulatory, administrative, and adjudicative activities of the Commission; (ii) the policy development, registration, compliance, self-regulatory organization (SRO) oversight, and investor education activities of the Policy and Market Regulation Branch; (iii) the offering document review and continuous disclosure review activities of the Corporate Finance Branch; and (iv) the investigation and enforcement activities of the Enforcement Branch.

This report describes the Commission's significant activities and accomplishments in each of these business areas during the past year, with reference to the progress we have made in achieving the goals and priorities set out in the Commission's 2024-2025 Business Plan, which is available on the Commission's website.

Investor misinformation and fraud continued to proliferate in Nova Scotia's capital markets in the last fiscal year. We addressed this in a number of ways. We worked with the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) to implement or propose policies that improve disclosure and provide enhanced protections for investors. We also worked with the CSA to share information across jurisdictions about particular investment scams and fraudulent online investment opportunities. We engaged in enforcement activities with the ultimate goal of restricting or excluding non-compliant actors from participating in Nova Scotia's capital markets. We also engaged in numerous investor education initiatives designed to raise awareness of the number and variety of fraudulent scams on offer and help Nova Scotians identify potentially fraudulent opportunities before investing in them.

Crypto assets are particularly vulnerable to fraudulent activities. In 2023-24 we developed a broad public campaign inviting engagement with our "Nova Crypto" website – designed specifically to educate the public about the hallmarks of fraudulent crypto asset investment opportunities. The campaign was well received and we are exploring other options for expanding the reach of these important efforts.

The Commission's mandate includes fostering capital formation (when not inconsistent with investor protection). In 2024-25 the Commission worked with the CSA to harmonize the securities regulatory landscape across Canada as much as possible and develop policies that reduce regulatory burden when not inconsistent with investor protection. Changes to the global political landscape in the last quarter of the fiscal year meant that regulatory initiatives that were underway needed to be assessed against international developments and the competitive environment.

In October 2024, the Commission hosted an event at Casino Nova Scotia entitled Nova Scotia Capital Markets 2024. This was a new initiative for us designed to engage both investors and market participants in current issues affecting capital markets and the Commission's role in regulating them. The half-day event included several external speakers from business, investor advocacy and enforcement discussing capital raising in Nova Scotia, innovation in investing, public company disclosure and investment fraud. The event was very successful: attendance was at capacity and audience feedback was positive. We intend to make this a bi-annual event.

In 2024-25 we leveraged our annual budget of \$3.3 million to generate approximately \$23.7 million in revenue. Our revenues for 2024-2025 increased by 8% or \$1.8 million from the prior year to \$23.7 million, due to an increase in the number of filings received on SEDAR+ and an increase in the amount of registration fees collected. Our total expenditures also increased in 2024-2025 (by 9% or \$0.3 million, over the prior year to \$3.3 million). This increase of expenditures relates to lower vacancies, higher salaries and benefits, and higher office rent costs. In the face of the rapidly increasing quantity, variety and sophistication of investment scams, in 2024-25 we worked diligently on our mandate of protecting and acting in the interests of Nova Scotians and the Nova Scotia capital markets.

(signed) "Valerie Seager"

Valerie Seager

Chair

Financial Results

	2024-25 Estimate	2024-25 Actuals	2024-25 Variance
NOVA SCOTIA SECURITIES COMMISSION	<i>(\$ thousands)</i>		
Departmental Expenses:			
Salaries and Benefits	2,601	2,524	-77
Operating Costs	670	772	102
Less Chargeables other departments	0	-55	-55
Total Departmental Expenses	3,271	3,241	-30
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	22,643	23,725	1,082
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	0	0	0
Total Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	22,643	23,725	1,082
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	20	18.4	-1.6

Priorities and Measuring Our Performance

The Commission set the following priorities in its Business Plan for 2024-2025:

- enhance protection of Nova Scotian investors,
- address changes in the capital markets and regulatory regime in a timely manner, and
- reduce regulatory burden on securities industry participants.

The Commission's performance measures are focused on achieving these priorities through the efficient administration of the Commission's core business areas and its 2024-2025 goals of

- enhancing front-end investor protection initiatives to reduce the need for enforcement action after irreversible losses occur;
- monitoring for, identifying and investigating securities market violations and taking enforcement action to terminate and deter unlawful conduct in Nova Scotia;
- addressing emerging issues and trends that affect Nova Scotians;
- continuing to work with the CSA to reduce regulatory burden for market participants and ensure requirements are appropriate, necessary, and relevant to capital market participants in Nova Scotia.

The Commission pursued these goals through activities in the Commission's four core business areas: the Commission board and its adjudicative function, the Policy and Market Regulation Branch, the Corporate Finance Branch, and the Enforcement Branch.

All data used in the following performance measurements is gathered from internal sources and is presented to the Commission via monthly operating reports.

Core Area 1 – The Commission

Outcomes: Enhanced protection of investors resident in Nova Scotia - Changes in the capital markets and regulatory regime addressed in a timely manner - Reduction of regulatory burden on securities industry participants

The Commission achieved the above-noted outcomes through its policy development activities, its timely response to applications from capital market participants for exemptive relief from securities law requirements, and its adjudicative activities.

Policy Development

The Commission met its target for the timely adoption of national and multilateral instruments following the review, analysis and development of instruments and amendments in collaboration with CSA members, adopting 100% of national/multilateral instruments as rules within set timelines. The

Commission's commitment is to harmonize the securities laws of Nova Scotia with the securities laws in the other Canadian jurisdictions, unless there is good reason to do otherwise.

In support of protecting investors, addressing changes in the capital markets in a timely manner and reducing regulatory burden, the Commission participated in the development of the below-noted major policy initiatives with the other CSA members. Other major policy initiatives were aimed at addressing developments and other changes in the securities markets that affect Nova Scotians:

- approving a coordinated Blanket Order allowing exempt market dealers to participate as members of a selling group in prospectus offerings;
- approving amendments to a national instrument to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of derivatives trade reporting and to ensure that the provisions of the national instrument remain consistent with international standards;
- approving amendments to a national instrument to modernize the prospectus filing model for investment funds;
- updating the Commission's fee rule; and
- requesting comments on proposed amendments to:
 - the continuous disclosure regime for investment funds;
 - system fees for the SEDAR+ system;
 - an access model for continuous disclosure documents of non-investment fund reporting issuers;
 - the mutual fund principal distributor model; and
 - trading fees charged by marketplaces.

Exemptive Relief Applications

The Commission has the authority to grant discretionary exemptions from securities regulatory requirements, which provides it with flexibility to address changes in the capital markets, including for the regulation of new and emerging investment products and business models that may not fit squarely within the traditional regulatory regime. At the same time, the Commission ensures that investor protections are maintained and the fairness and efficiency of the capital markets is fostered. The Commission met its target of considering 100% of five exemption applications (for which the Commission was either the Principal Regulator or was participating in a coordinated review) within five business days of the applications being filed with the Commission.

Adjudication

The Commission's adjudication of enforcement proceedings in a timely manner is aimed at enhancing investor protection. The Commission exceeded its target this year relating to the timely issuance of

orders following settlement hearings. The Commission held four hearings to consider the approval of settlement agreements and made the orders approving each of them within 10 business days of final submissions in the hearing, surpassing our target rate of 95%.

During the same period, the Commission did not meet its target relating to the timely issuance of orders following contested hearings (95% of orders made within 90 days of the final submissions from the parties following the conclusion of a contested hearing). The Commission issued its liability order in one contested matter within 90 days of the final submissions from the parties, but issued its sanctions order in the same matter 105 days following the final submissions from the parties.

Core Area 2 – Policy and Market Regulation Branch

Outcomes: Enhanced protection of investors resident in Nova Scotia - Changes in the capital markets and regulatory regime addressed in a timely manner - Reduction of regulatory burden on securities industry participants

The Policy and Market Regulation branch has four main areas of responsibility:

- registration, which relates to the registration of investment professionals and firms in Nova Scotia;
- compliance, which relates to the review and oversight of the activities of investment professionals and firms in Nova Scotia;
- SRO oversight, which relates to the supervision and oversight of self-regulatory organizations; and
- investor education, which relates to the Commission's work to improve investors' understanding of sound investment practices, ability to recognize questionable products and practices, and awareness of the role of the Commission.

Registration

Firms and individuals must satisfy certain requirements to be registered and to maintain their registration. By requiring that registrants meet established standards of proficiency, solvency and integrity, upfront investor protection is provided through the registration gatekeeper function.

In 2024-2025, the Commission met its target for individual and firm registrations (95% of firm applicants and individual applications, where the Commission is the principal regulator, processed within the mandated timeframes after the final submission of necessary documents).

The Commission, together with other CSA members, delegated registration functions for investment dealers and mutual fund dealers, and the individuals who act on their behalf, to the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO) (the Delegation). The Delegation creates efficiencies and reduces regulatory burden by providing certain market participants with a single and centralized registration process. The Delegation took effect on April 1, 2025. The Commission retains concurrent authority for the delegated functions and CIRO's performance pursuant to the Delegation is subject to enhanced, risk-based oversight by the Commission.

The Commission's Registration staff continue to register portfolio managers, restricted portfolio managers, investment fund managers, exempt markets dealers, restricted dealers, and scholarship plan dealers (firms and individuals) and to work on several committees of the CSA to provide a voice for stakeholders in Nova Scotia with respect to the formation of new rules and amendments to current rules. The investment industry is constantly evolving, including new products and client service models. By monitoring these developments, we can escalate to the CSA Registration Steering Committee for any required regulatory changes, including policies and guidance.

Compliance

The efficient administration of the Commission's compliance programs assesses whether registrants are conducting their activities in accordance with Nova Scotia securities laws and deters undesirable behavior thereby providing front-end investor protection. Compliance is proactive in nature and, given the appropriate resources and support, can provide a significant return in increased confidence in the Nova Scotia capital market, reduce some of the risks of investing, and reduce the number of enforcement proceedings.

Commission staff conduct examinations of registered portfolio managers, exempt market dealers, investment fund managers and scholarship plan dealers. CIRO conducts examinations of branch offices of CIRO members in Nova Scotia, and Commission staff may also conduct such examinations under certain circumstances.

In 2024-2025, we initiated five examinations, slightly below our target of six, as we prioritized resources for seven ongoing cases tied to a complex, nationally coordinated review. The work on the nationally coordinated review was extended significantly due to novel issues that spurred separate policy discussions and the fact that the review began later than originally scheduled. As a result, no examination files were closed during the year which was also below the target of five.

Compliance staff were also busy with ongoing CSA initiatives regarding client focused reforms (CFRs), advance commission and chargeback models, and the use of registrant titles, which will all enhance investor protection. The results from the second phase of a CSA-wide review of specific areas of the CFRs will guide CSA staff in determining best practices and identifying areas where registrants require additional guidance

Self-Regulatory Organization Oversight

The oversight of CIRO by the Commission is an integral part of the Commission's compliance work to ensure that CIRO provides appropriate supervision of its members located in Nova Scotia. The diligent oversight of CIRO has resulted in more firms being examined in Nova Scotia by CIRO and better supervision of the many branch offices located in this jurisdiction.

Market Regulation staff, together with CIRO, continued to work on several CSA operational and policy development committees providing jurisdictional input to protect local investor interests, providing a voice for the stakeholders of Nova Scotia, and contributing to policy development and harmonization.

Investor Education

The Commission's Investor Education (IE) office delivers engaging and relevant investor education presentations and content to connect with Nova Scotians to increase investor protection. The content, programs, and campaigns discussed below outline how the IE office continues to enhance investor protection in Nova Scotia by educating Nova Scotians on sound investment practices and sharing the knowledge and skills they need to recognize and identify securities fraud and questionable investment products and practices.

The IE office expanded its outreach again last year, reaching more Nova Scotians directly through IE presentations. Year-over-year presentations were up 6.4%, reaching every demographic in Nova Scotia with a heavy concentration on young people and seniors.

Our Student Connections program continued to reach Nova Scotia students in high schools and post-secondary schools. Some of the schools visited last year include C.P. Allen High School, Halifax West High School, Woodlawn High, Saint Mary's University, and Dalhousie University. Engagement with St. Mary's University saw a major uptick last year with Commission staff visiting three different classes at the Sobeys School of Business, and attending presentations hosted by the SMU Commerce Society, SMU Investing Society, and the SMU Impact Fund.

Outreach to Seniors through seniors' organizations and residential facilities increased substantially last year. This included engaging with several new groups mostly through referrals from other seniors' organizations. Some of these groups included the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care, Flourish 55+ Seniors Centre, the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Academy, Chebucto Links, CARP Nova Scotia, Northwood, Gordon B. Isnor Manor, and Pemberley Seniors Living Facility.

The addition of a new Fraud Bingo program was also very popular with seniors' groups and delivered fraud prevention tips in a fun and engaging way. Fraud Bingo games have been hosted at Northwood and Gordon B. Isnor Manor, and several other games have already been scheduled with seniors' groups for 2025-26.

The IE office continued our successful partnership with the Halifax Central Library with 11 presentations last year. Those presentations will continue into 2025-26 with 11 presentations already scheduled through the end of 2025. One of the presentations at the library was filmed by Eastlink TV to appear on their Podium TV program. Our partnership with Halifax Central Library also led to a new series of presentations at the Margaret Hennigar Library in Bridgewater in May 2024.

The IE Office was also invited to speak at events hosted by several other organizations. Some of these included the 2024 CARP Nova Scotia AGM, Financial Empowerment Network of Nova Scotia's bi-monthly meeting, Money Path Atlantic's Financial Literacy Month Conference, Better Business Bureau's Presentation Series, 2025 NASAA Investor Education Training, and Atlantic Fintech's webinar series.

The Commission also hosted its own event in October 2024 at Casino Nova Scotia entitled Nova Scotia Capital Markets 2024. This half-day event delivered insightful presentations and discussions on capital raising, disclosure, investment fraud, and innovation in investing. Attendance was at capacity, and we intend to make this a bi-annual event.

The IE Office also enhanced its online reach last year by adding Instagram and Blue Sky to our social media channels which already included X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The Commission Instagram account was launched in March 2025 during Fraud Prevention Month. Fraud prevention reels were produced and shared on Instagram focusing on registered crypto trading platforms, pig butchering, the top frauds of 2025, influencers, and a special reel based on the TV show *Severance* to tie-in with the premiere of its season finale. These reels were also edited to share on Facebook, LinkedIn, and the Commission's YouTube Shorts channel. Along with the new reels, several pieces of visual IE content were developed for the Instagram channel with an initial content schedule planned through September 2025.

The Commission's Blue Sky account was also launched in March as a future alternative to the Commission's X account. New and evergreen content that was developed for X was transitioned to Blue Sky with a long-term plan to fully transition to Blue Sky in the second half of 2025.

The Commission's YouTube channel continued to see tremendous growth last year. Along with the five new reels developed for YouTube Shorts, six larger videos were published to YouTube. Topics featured in these videos included capital gains and capital losses, influencers, dividend reinvestment plans, and things to consider before you invest. Year-over-year views on the YouTube page were up 35.8%. This was led by our video on the difference between saving and investing which had 22,072 views last year and has had more than 45,000 views since being published in 2022.

Several updates and enhancements were made to the NSSC website, including enhancing the search bar results, and adding a directory for the Before You Invest Blog. The Before You Invest Blog continued to be updated weekly with relevant and timely topics including posts on artificial intelligence and investing, influencers, margin investing, Bitcoin ATM scams, choosing an investment adviser, and investment fraud prevention.

Core Area 3 – Corporate Finance Branch

Outcomes: Changes in the capital markets and regulatory regime are addressed in a timely manner - Reduction of regulatory burden on securities industry participants

The operations of the Corporate Finance Branch help to promote an efficient capital market and economy while maintaining investor protection. In pursuit of the Commission's goal set out in the 2024-2025 Business Plan to use its expertise to address market developments and changes that affect Nova Scotians, staff of the Corporate Finance Branch continued to review the regulatory framework applicable to Community Economic Development Corporations in Nova Scotia. The goal was to update and modernize the rules and harmonize them with regulatory requirements applicable to other capital raising exemptions. Corporate Finance staff also continued their CSA committee work on the reduction of regulatory burden initiatives, venture issuer regulation, derivatives, investment funds, and prospectus exemptions and regulation of fin-tech. Staff pursued, when possible, harmonization with other CSA jurisdictions of policies and procedures to continue to streamline Corporate Finance operations, including:

- publishing the CSA Systemic Risk Report for 2024;

- publishing CSA Staff Notice 51-365 *Continuous Disclosure Review Program Activities for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2025 and March 31, 2023*;
- amending National Instrument 81-102 *Investment Funds* to reduce settlement cycles to T+1;
- amending National Instruments 41-101 *General Prospectus Requirements* and 81-101 *Mutual Fund Prospectus Disclosure* to modernize the prospectus filing model for investment funds;
- approving Blanket Order 93-930 *Temporary Exemptions for Derivatives Firms and Senior Manager's Reporting*;
- amending Multilateral Instrument 96-101 *Trade Repositories and Derivatives Data Reporting*;
- approving Coordinated Blanket Order 96-932 *Temporary Exemptions from Certain Derivatives Data Reporting Requirements*;
- publishing CSA Staff Notice 96-306 and approving Coordinated Blanket Order 96-933 *Temporary Exemptions from Derivatives Data Reporting relating to Unique Product Identifiers for Commodity Derivatives*; and
- publishing data from the tenth annual review of women on boards in Canada.

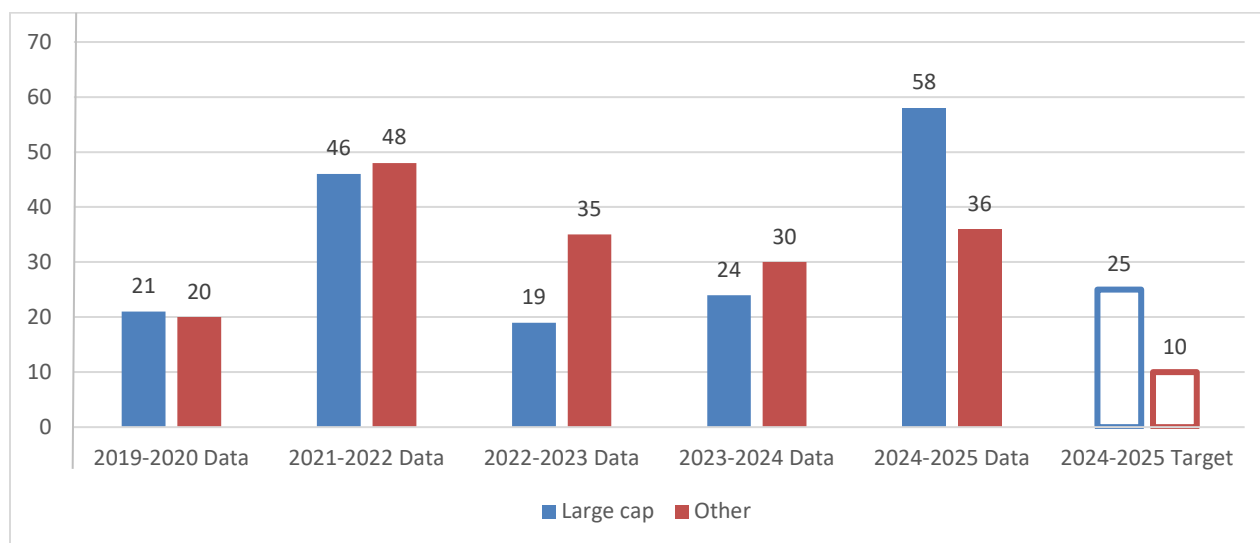
Performance measures demonstrate how efficiently the Corporate Finance Branch reviews and processes prospectuses and other offering documents filed with the Commission as the principal regulator. When the Director of Corporate Finance issues a receipt for a prospectus or non-objection letter for an offering document, an issuer can proceed to offer its securities to the public. During 2024-2025, Corporate Finance issued comment letters within three business days to three out of three (100%) short form prospectus filers, well within the target timeline. There was one long form prospectus filed during the year, with the comment letter issued within the targeted timeframe of ten business days. Corporate Finance staff reviewed two short-form prospectuses and issued the comment letter and receipt within the three and one business day requirements. Staff reviewed one base-shelf prospectus and met the required timeline of issuing a receipt within one business day. Staff reviewed four Community Economic Development Corporations' (CEDIF issuers) offering documents. All the comments and non-objection letters were issued to the CEDIF issuers within the ten and one business day timeline, respectively.

Prospectus issuers with head offices in Nova Scotia raised \$1.0 billion in 2024-2025, while CEDIFs raised \$0.93 million.

The Commission's Corporate Finance staff review public companies' filings to ensure compliance with securities laws and consistency and uniformity in the information disseminated to the public. This enables members of the public to make informed investment decisions based upon that information. In 2024-2025, staff completed reviews of Nova Scotia based public companies' continuous disclosure in two streams, separated by market capitalization: 1) large capital; and 2) other or small capital sized firms. Each of these streams review the public companies' compliance with its filing requirements.

As illustrated in the chart below, the Commission's targets to complete continuous disclosure reviews are 25% of Nova Scotia's 14 large cap public companies, based on a market capitalization of \$24.1 billion, and 10% of its 20 other or small capital reporting issuers. The reviews were above the targets in 2024-2025. Commission staff completed reviews for \$14.0 billion out of the \$24.1 billion (58%) of Nova Scotia's large cap public companies (three out of 14 large cap reporting issuers) and 8 out of 22 of the other or small cap reporting issuers (36%). While the target for large cap public company reviews is based on market capitalization, the target for other issuer reviews is based on the number of public companies due to market price volatility.

Percentage of reporting issuers based in Nova Scotia that had a review of their continuous disclosure filings in the year (by market capitalization \$ value for large cap issuers and by number of issuers for other issuers)



The Director of Corporate Finance has the delegated authority to issue cease trade orders in certain limited situations where a reporting issuer or a CEDIF issuer has failed to file its financial statements as required by securities laws. In 2024-2025, the Director of Corporate Finance issued four cease trade orders for failure to file financial and associated disclosure within mandated timeframes and revoked three cease trade orders.

Core Area 4 – Enforcement Branch

Outcomes: Enhanced protection of investors resident in Nova Scotia

The Commission's Enforcement Branch helps identify, stop and deter illegal activity in the capital markets to provide effective investor protection and instill confidence in the integrity of the capital markets.

Front-end investor protection is provided by the Enforcement Branch through:

- disruptive measures, including the issuance of investor alerts and cautions to warn the public about people and entities that may be violating securities laws or operating securities or derivatives-related scams;

- active monitoring and surveillance for questionable securities or derivatives-related activities;
- working with various financial entities, social media, website domain registrars, and other platforms to remove illegal websites and advertisements and otherwise disrupt illegal securities or derivatives-related activities; and
- seeking Commission issuance of various temporary orders and freeze directions against entities and individuals, and over accounts and assets of the targets of investigations.

The Enforcement Branch also protects investors through regulatory prosecutions for violations of securities laws. A successful prosecution allows the Commission to impose administrative monetary penalties and sanctions, such as prohibition orders, against entities and individuals perpetrating such violations. The issuance of orders of this nature cultivates specific and general deterrence objectives against like-minded entities and individuals.

The exponential growth in the number of online and digital transactions since the pandemic brought a new reality for Canadians. The increase in the scope and scale of transactions in both traditional and new financial instruments created new opportunities for fraudsters and online investment fraud as Canadians put more of their personal and financial information online and may have become less vigilant in the process.

As a result, the Enforcement Branch has witnessed a substantial increase in the number of complaints, online fraud, and the growing complexity of investigation files. Coupled with the growing volume of available records and extensive use of the plethora of available online and social media platforms, investigations and enforcement proceedings are more complex and time consuming, and require extensive legal, investigative, technological, and supporting resources to advance.

In 2024-2025, the Enforcement Branch received 100 complaints¹, of which 64 were opened as investigation files. The remaining 36 complaints were determined to be unactionable inquiries and/or were referred to other regulatory agencies as applicable. A significant amount of Enforcement Branch time and resources are spent assessing and responding to all complaints, including those that do not result in investigative or enforcement action.

With each complaint, the preliminary facts must be assessed to determine if the Enforcement Branch has jurisdiction to initiate an investigation. Enforcement jurisdiction only exists where there is a locational nexus to a “distribution” or “trade” in a “security” or “derivative.”

The Enforcement Branch consistently met its three-day target for providing an initial response to each complainant during fiscal 2024-2025.

After determining if there was jurisdiction, the Enforcement Branch arranged for a number of illegal online investment solicitations and websites to be removed to protect the investing public. In addition, the Enforcement Branch issued or contributed to the issuance of 11 local/national investor alerts and

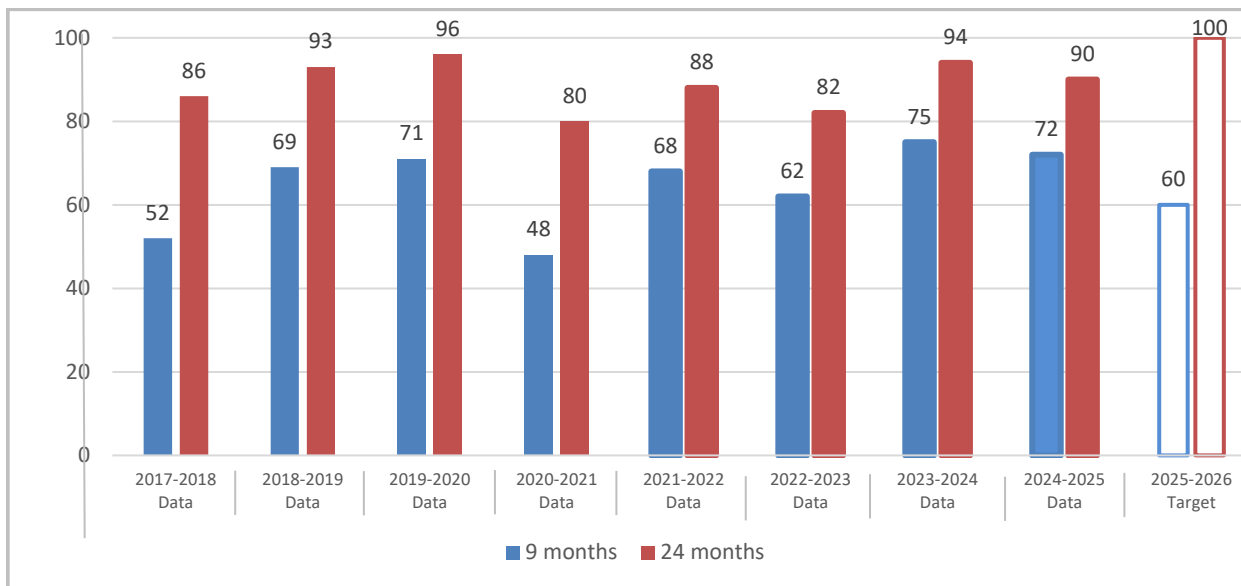
¹ “Complaints” in this report include public complaints; public inquiries; referrals from SROs and other regulatory authorities, both inside and outside of Canada; self reporting; internal departmental referrals; internal surveillance efforts and monitoring of online sources, media, social media, civil court actions and criminal conviction searches.

press releases, and 19 local cautions to notify the public of suspected scams. These local cautions are also added to the CSA's national investor alert database.

In addition, 61 investigation files were concluded in 2024-2025. Of those 61 files, 44 files (72%) were concluded within the first nine months of commencing the investigation. 11 files (18%) took between nine and 24 months to conclude. 90% of all investigative files that were closed within the fiscal year were concluded within two years of file opening.

The chart below shows that Enforcement Staff exceeded the target of concluding 60% of all investigations within the nine-month target. Enforcement Staff came close to concluding 100% of all investigations within the 24-month target, falling short by 10%.

Percentage of investigations concluded by Enforcement Staff based on: 1) 60% of investigations within nine months; and 2) all investigations within 24 months



The timely conclusion of Enforcement Branch litigation files requires the achievement of two key benchmarks once a file has been referred to enforcement counsel following investigation: 1) the completion of an initial review within 30 days; and 2) the initiation of issuance of the Statement of Allegations and Notice of Hearing within 60 days of referral or conclusion of any negotiations. The Enforcement Branch continues to meet its target with respect to these two benchmarks

In 2024-2025, the Enforcement Branch concluded five administrative enforcement proceedings. These proceedings resulted in the imposition of regulatory sanctions, \$83,500 in administrative penalties, and \$13,500 in costs.

The Enforcement Branch continues to participate in CSA committee work to develop and harmonize investigative and litigation methods and disruptive measures, to streamline and standardize

procedures to better utilize resources, share intelligence as applicable and permissible by law, and to expedite complaint resolution.

Given the increasingly complex securities and derivatives landscape and evolving nature of threats, enforcement demands a highly collaborative approach to protect investors located in Nova Scotia and elsewhere within and outside of Canada. The Enforcement Branch routinely collaborates with and/or assists other regulatory authorities with investigations and prosecutions spanning multiple jurisdictions through the CSA, NASAA and other groups.

Appendix A

Annual Report under Section 18 of the Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* (the Act) was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations,
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets,
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health, or safety of persons or the environment, or
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

Table A.1

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Commission

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2024-2025
The number of disclosures received	Nil
The number of findings of wrongdoing	Nil
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	N/A