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## **Investor Alert for ATB CRYPTO**

**Halifax** - The Nova Scotia Securities Commission (Commission) is alerting investors that ATB Crypto (<u>www.ATBCrypto.com</u>) is not registered to engage in the business of trading in securities or derivatives in Nova Scotia.

ATB Crypto claims to be an online trading platform connecting investors to contracts for difference trading in stocks, commodities, indices, foreign exchange, and cryptocurrencies. It claims to be based offshore in the Marshall Islands.

At least one Nova Scotian investor lost money after opening an account with ATB Crypto. This investor believed he was investing in cryptoassets. Although his account showed substantial returns, withdrawal requests were ignored or met with undisclosed requirements to send additional funds to ATB Crypto to cover tax consequences.

Online searches also suggest that ATB Crypto is a scam.

Stephanie Atkinson, Director of Enforcement for the Commission, says there has been a recent increase in scams involving purported online trading platforms. "This is the fourth alert of this nature issued by the Commission in the last eight weeks. Always take time to verify registration and conduct research on the entities and people you invest with. Becoming an informed investor is your best protection from irreversible financial loss," says Atkinson.

The Commission urges Nova Scotians to exercise extreme caution when dealing with entities that are not registered in Nova Scotia. It is illegal to solicit investments in Nova Scotia without registering with the Commission and complying with Nova Scotia securities laws, unless an exemption applies. To see if a company or person is registered, you can check the Canadian Securities Administrators' National Registration Search at <u>www.aretheyregistered.ca</u>.

Contact your <u>local securities regulator</u> to report investment scams or what you believe to be suspicious behaviour from anyone offering investment opportunities. In Nova Scotia, the <u>Commission</u> is the provincial government agency responsible for regulating the investment industry in the province.

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