

**For Immediate Release
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Be an informed investor: Check before you invest

Calgary – March is Fraud Prevention Month and the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) are encouraging Canadian investors to take the time to research investments before making important investing decisions. Before investing, the CSA recommends that investors follow these four easy steps:

1. **Check registration** of the person or company selling or advising about securities. The CSA [National Registration Search](#) is a simple and free tool for investors to use to check registration.
2. **Check disciplinary history** to find out if the person or company has broken regulatory rules in the past. It's easy to do through the CSA [cease trade orders database](#) and the [disciplined persons list](#).
3. **Check available tools and resources** that the CSA has to [offer](#) to assist investors in learning how to protect themselves and their investments.
4. **Check the news and search online** to see if there are any news releases or online information about the company or person.

“CSA investor education tools and resources can help Canadians become informed investors, which is one of the best defences against fraud,” said Bill Rice, Chair of the CSA and CEO of the Alberta Securities Commission. “The CSA is here to help investors protect their money and learn how to avoid investment fraud. It starts with a simple step: checking registration.”

The CSA would also like to remind investors to participate in Check Registration Day on Wednesday March 18 2015. [Checking registration](#) is easy and a great first step to becoming an informed investor. Investors who access the [National Registration Search](#) for the first time will be asked to complete a brief survey to help us make future improvements to this tool.

During Fraud Prevention Month, investors can follow tweets from [@CSA_News](#) for additional helpful tips and information on being a smart investor and fraud prevention.

The CSA, the council of securities regulators of Canada's provinces and territories, co-ordinates and harmonizes regulation for the Canadian capital markets.

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