



BC Notice 2023/01

### **Solicitation of Members for Fintech Advisory Forum**

As the initial two-year term of members of the BCSC's Fintech Advisory Forum (the Forum) recently concluded in December 2022, the British Columbia Securities Commission (BCSC) is seeking expressions of interest from financial technology (fintech) industry professionals and experts interested in participating in the Forum.

For the past two years, the Forum has advised BCSC staff on fintech trends and developments, including opportunities and risks, and provided input on fintech issues in the securities industry and securities law issues affecting fintech. The expertise of Forum members has been sought on topics including:

- Crypto asset issuance and trading, including stablecoins and DeFi applications
- Blockchain-based securities
- Open banking
- Industry and British Columbia-specific fintech developments and trends
- Facilitating innovation in capital markets

The BCSC's Fintech & Innovation Team will continue to chair the Forum, which will involve quarterly meetings, with additional consultations with Forum members from time to time.

Selected members will be invited to serve a two-year term. Previous members of the Forum may reapply for a subsequent term.

Members will be selected based on their experience in one or more of the following fields:

- Distributed ledger technology (DLT)/blockchain (including crypto-assets, trading platforms and/or DeFi);
- Artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML);
- Investment services platforms (including crowdfunding platforms and online advisors);
- Data analytics and/or big data;
- Regulatory technology/Supervisory technology (Regtech/Suptech); and
- Other emerging fintech fields.

The following areas of expertise are also desirable for Forum members:

- Knowledge of systemic risk issues;
- Familiarity with B.C.'s capital markets;



- Knowledge of the practical issues faced by fintech companies (including access to capital and talent);
- Knowledge of global fintech trends and developments; and
- Technological expertise.

Members will be selected from a variety of organizations including:

- Fintech and financial industry companies;
- Innovator functions (such as incubators, research & development programs, labs/academics, and fintech industry groups);
- Business advisors, including lawyers and accountants serving fintech clients;
- Marketplaces or related entities with relevance to the fintech sector (e.g. recognized exchanges developing blockchain clearing platforms or with other large-scale fintech initiatives).

Depending on the issues being discussed, some meetings might be attended only by relevant subsets of the Forum.

#### **Forum Application Form and Deadline**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Forum, please send your resume and any additional relevant information to [fit@bcsc.bc.ca](mailto:fit@bcsc.bc.ca) by no later than, **Friday, February 10, 2023**.

#### **Background: The BCSC and Fintech**

One of the BCSC's 2022-2025 Service Plan objectives is to advance cost-effective regulation, particularly regulation of financial technologies, and supporting innovation in fintech. The BCSC has used meetings of the Forum, as well as other stakeholder interactions, to inform its policy approach towards fintech.

The BCSC's outreach and guidance to stakeholders on fintech issues has primarily occurred through the BCSC's Fintech and Innovation Team (FIT). FIT engages in outreach with the B.C. tech community to better understand fintech issues, educate the fintech industry on how various fintech activities can trigger securities laws, and provide support to eligible businesses that are navigating securities regulatory requirements. FIT staff have presented at events across Canada and internationally, providing information on securities law, interacting with stakeholders about regulatory developments, and contributing to the Canadian and global development of consistent policy relating to fintech business models.

Since its creation in January 2017, FIT staff have responded to hundreds of ad-hoc fintech-related inquiries from B.C. persons, facilitated the authorization of innovative fintech business models (such as security token dealers, crypto investment funds, and AI-based onboarding processes), considered and/or implemented tailored regulatory schemes



for fintech business models, and worked with other regulators globally to evaluate dozens of B.C. and foreign companies wanting to engage in cross-border fintech activity.

The BCSC is also part of the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA), and as such participates in CSA fintech-related initiatives such as the CSA Sandbox. More information about the CSA Sandbox can be found here: <https://www.securities-administrators.ca/resources/regulatory-sandbox/>. Through learnings gained by FIT staff, the BCSC works within the CSA Sandbox to advocate for cost-effective, practical regulation that addresses the key risks posed by fintech activities.

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Peter J. Brady  
Executive Director