

BC Notice 2026/06

Consultation on Proposed Fee Changes

Purpose

The British Columbia Securities Commission (BCSC) is consulting on proposed fee changes. The BCSC proposes to increase some existing fees and change fees for registrants from seeking registration to maintaining registration. In addition, the BCSC anticipates making some housekeeping amendments.

Background

The BCSC is the independent government agency responsible for securities regulation in B.C. Our mandate is to protect and promote the public interest by fostering:

- a securities market that is fair and warrants public confidence
- a dynamic and competitive securities industry that provides investment opportunities and access to capital

B.C. investment markets have changed rapidly in size and complexity in the last few years and the BCSC's regulatory obligations have increased and evolved to respond to the changes. The BCSC's responsibilities include vetting public offering documents, registering and overseeing securities firms and individuals who provide advice about securities or who are in the business of trading in securities, overseeing marketplaces and the self-regulatory organizations of investment dealers and mutual fund dealers, rule-making, addressing non-compliance with the securities regulatory regime, enforcement, tribunal functions and investor education.

Capital markets are very significant to BC investors and the BC economy:

- B.C. investors held \$710B of securities at the end of December 2024 and had further exposure through their pension plan assets of \$411B¹.
- The BCSC regulates over half of the public companies listed on Canadian exchanges - more than the Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec regulators combined.
- The BCSC regulates private capital-raising activities by tens of thousands of unlisted or non-reporting issuers.
- Approximately 70% of Canada's public mining and exploration companies are based in B.C.
- More than 8,000 reporting insiders (e.g. directors, officers, significant shareholders) are connected to B.C. public companies.
- There are 1084 investment firms and 17,139 individuals based inside or outside B.C. that are in the business of trading or providing investment advice in BC.

¹ A partial view of fixed income, short and long-term investment fund, public equity securities, and pension assets, held by BC residents at December 31, 2024, per the *ISSMI Investor Economics Household Balance Sheet Report – 2025*.

As a self-funded Crown Corporation, the BCSC receives no government funding. The BCSC funds its operations entirely from regulatory fees paid by securities market participants, in accordance with the fee provisions in the *Securities Regulation*. BCSC incurred operating deficits in fiscals 2024 and 2025 and had a modest surplus in fiscal 2026. The BCSC expects to incur an operating deficit for fiscal 2027. The BCSC funds deficits by drawing down accumulated reserves that are built up over preceding years.

The proposed fee changes described in this notice are designed to allow the BCSC to return to a balanced budget for fiscal 2028. Many of the proposed fee changes are to increase flat fees that have not changed for many years. In particular, registrant fees for firms last changed in 2009 and for individuals in 2019; fees for non-fund distributions of securities, financial filings and late insider reports have not increased since 1994 or earlier. The current fee for technical (mining) reports has been in place since before 1988, and only applies to some, but not all, instances when issuers file the reports.

Summary of the Proposed Fee Changes

We propose to increase the existing fees for:

- maintaining registration by individuals and firms
- filing a prospectus by an issuer that is not a mutual fund (base fee)
- filing an annual information form
- filing a technical report
- filing a report about a distribution of securities under a prospectus exemption (base fee)
- filing an issuer's annual financial statements
- filing an insider report after the due date

We propose to change the existing fee for seeking registration by an individual or firm, and instead require the individual or firm, once registered, to pay a fee for maintaining registration in the year they become a registrant. Registrants will continue to pay a fee for maintaining registration in each following year that they remain a registrant.

We propose to expand the circumstances when a fee applies for filing or submitting a technical report to clarify that those terms refer to a filing or submitting Form 43-101F1 *Technical Report*.

Appendix A provides further information about the proposed changes to section 22 of the *Securities Regulation* B.C. Reg. 196/97 (the Fee Regulation).

In addition, we propose to amend item 24(1)(b) of the Fee Regulation to specify that in the case of a continuous distribution, the notice of proceeds and related fee is due within 30 days after the issuer files the applicable documents to continue distributing its securities. Issuers typically distribute their securities up until the date they file the new applicable documents to qualify the securities for distribution for a subsequent period. Currently, the Fee Regulation does not provide for a delay between completion of the

distribution and the preparation of the required notice of proceeds and payment of the fee. Adding a reference to a 30-day period will respond to questions from market participants who have advised that the current requirements do not align with their practices, and given the complexity of their operations, does not provide them with the time needed to determine the amount of the distribution and prepare the required materials.

Fee model and issues considered in developing the fee changes

Fee revenue must fund overall BCSC regulatory costs for enforcement, compliance, investor education, rule-making, and adjudicative hearings, which together consume the majority of the BCSC's regulatory effort. Most of our work, and related costs, do not relate to a specific activity that triggers a fee, such as filing a prospectus or applying for an exemption. For example, our work to develop a new regulatory regime for crypto assets, or to respond to emerging forms of market misconduct, like on-line fraud is not tied to specific market transactions.

The proposed fee changes also reflect, in part, the cost of staff effort and other operating costs associated with specific activities or stakeholder groups, for example:

- The BCSC incurs significant costs to examine firm registrants' compliance with securities laws, respond to complaints about registrants, educate investors about registrants, develop rules and guidance for registrants, and oversee CIRO, the front-line regulator for investment dealers and mutual fund dealers. The fees paid by registrants, including proposed increases, are intended to recover these costs.
- The BCSC incurs significant costs to review the financial disclosure of reporting issuers and address non-compliance. The fees paid by reporting issuers for filing annual financial statements, including proposed increases, are intended to recover these costs.
- The BCSC is the principal regulator for 70% of mining or mineral-exploration reporting issuers in Canada. The BCSC incurs significant costs to review technical (mining) reports. The fees for technical reports, including proposed increases and expanded circumstances, are intended to recover these costs.
- The BCSC incurs costs to review compliance with insider reporting requirements and to address non-compliance. The fee for late filings, including proposed increases, are intended to recover these costs.

The proposed fee changes will slightly shift the proportions of funding generated by key market participant groups - issuers, registrants, insiders, and derivatives counterparties. Specifically, the changes will increase the fee revenue from registrants doing business in British Columbia from 29% to approximately 30% of the BCSC's total revenue.



We estimate that the fee changes in aggregate will increase BCSC's annual fee revenue by approximately \$8M.

Timing

Subject to government approval, the revised fees would come into force later in the BCSC's current fiscal year and would apply to fees that are paid beginning April 1, 2027 except that the revised fee rates for maintaining registration would apply to fees that are paid beginning April 1, 2028.

Request for Comments

We invite your comments on the proposed fee changes. Please submit your comments in writing on or before August 25, 2026. If you send comments by email, send them as a Microsoft Word file.

Address your submission to the British Columbia Securities Commission. Deliver your comments to the email address below.

British Columbia Securities Commission
BCSCfeechanges2026@bcsc.bc.ca

Questions

Please refer your questions to:

Carla-Marie Hait
Chief Financial Officer
chait@bcsc.bc.ca

or

Noreen Bent
Deputy Director, Corporate Finance Legal Services
nbent@bcsc.bc.ca

June 24, 2026

"Brenda M. Leong"

Brenda M. Leong
Chair

Appendix A Details of Fee Changes

The changes would amend section 22 of the *Securities Regulation* B.C. Reg. 196/97. The item numbers below refer to the relevant items in section 22.

Registrants

The fees for maintaining individual registration as a dealing representative, advising representative, or associate advising representative would increase from \$350 to \$410 (Item 1(2) and (3)).

The fees for firms maintaining registration as a dealer, advisor, or investment fund manager would increase from \$1,200, \$1,500, or \$2,500 respectively, to \$1,400, \$1,755, or \$2,925 (Item 1(1) and (3)).

The existing fee for seeking to become an individual or firm registrant would be replaced by a fee for maintaining registration that would apply starting with the year the individual or firm becomes a registrant. Registrants will continue to pay a fee for maintaining registration for years other than the year the individual or firm becomes a registrant. The fee for maintaining registration in both of these circumstances would increase at rates noted above (Item 1 (1), (2) and (3)).

Prospectus

The base fee for filing a prospectus by an issuer that is not a mutual fund would increase from \$2,500 to \$3,800 (Item 9(a)).

Annual Information Form

The fee for filing an annual information form by issuers other than mutual funds would increase from \$1,000 to \$1,200 (Item 11). As is the case currently, mutual funds do not pay a fee for filing an annual information form. This will not change.

Technical report

The fee for filing a technical report (i.e. Form 43-101F1 *Technical Report*) in any circumstance would increase from \$500 to \$2,000 (Item 13).

Exempt distribution report

The base fee for filing a report about a distribution of securities under a prospectus exemption would increase from \$200 to \$300 (Item 16 (1)(d)).

Issuer's annual financial statements

The fee to file a reporting issuer's annual financial statements would increase from \$600 (if within the prescribed period), \$800 (if outside the prescribed period and no order to cease trading securities), or \$1100 (if outside the prescribed period and the commission or executive director issued an order to cease trading securities) to \$950, \$1,150, or \$1,450 respectively (Item 17(a), (b), and (c)).



Late insider report

The fee to file an insider report after the due date would increase from \$50 to \$300. (Item 19(b)).