



## Is crypto a good investment? Understanding the risks and re- wards of crypto

After a bleak 2022-2023 marred by controversy and fraud, crypto is back in the spotlight. Driven by news including headlines of the launch of US-based spot ETFs, and evolving regulatory developments, this digital asset has seen a surge in valuation, attracting investors looking for alternative investments.

A recent 2023 study by KPMG highlighted that Canada's investment sector was warming up to crypto. The report found that 22 per cent more of the surveyed financial services providers in Canada offered crypto-asset services than in 2021.

However, crypto's potential for higher returns comes with a significant risk of greater losses. Unlike conventional investments, the very features that make crypto appealing also makes it inherently risky. And this risk extends beyond price volatility — including vulnerability to scams. Understanding the basics of crypto, the associated risks and what makes it an easy target for scammers is crucial for anyone considering entering this fast-changing market.

### What's the idea behind crypto?

Cryptocurrencies are part of a wider movement to create a financial system that is open, borderless, decentralized and immutable. Proponents of crypto believe that the system would foster a culture of financial transparency and collaboration that allows for rapid innovation and development.

While commonly called 'cryptocurrencies,' the term can be misleading. In Canada, cryptocurrency is not recognized as legal tender under the Currency Act. The term 'crypto-asset' more accurately encompasses the common types of digital assets you might encounter, including utility tokens, payment tokens, virtual assets, digital currencies, or stablecoins.

### Is crypto trading legal in Canada?

Trading crypto is allowed in Canada, but not all crypto assets are considered securities. But this does not mean

that investor protections offered by securities laws do not apply to them.

To safeguard Canadian investors, starting in January 2020, the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) asserted jurisdiction over Crypto-Trading Platforms (CTPs), commonly known as crypto exchanges, operating in Canada. As a result, all CTPs in Canada must be registered with the Alberta Securities Commission or another provincial securities regulator.

### Crypto's benefits and risks

Over the years, crypto's rise to prominence can be attributed to several factors. First, its decentralized nature allows for peer-to-peer transactions without the oversight of a trusted third party like a traditional financial institution. Cutting out central authorities overseeing transactions reduces fees and speeds up processing times. Secondly, due to its highly speculative nature, investors may be drawn to the potential for higher profits, using it as a way to diversify their portfolio or make quick short-term gains.



But this allure also brings inherent risks.

### Why is crypto prone to scams?

**Decentralization and lack of regulatory oversight:** The principle of decentralization is foundational to crypto. However, the lack of oversight can also weaken investor protections.

Investors often use crypto exchanges to buy or trade crypto. In Canada, any platform trading crypto-assets must be registered with the ASC or another provincial Canadian securities regulator. Unregistered platforms might not comply with securities law, including providing false information and lacking investor protections like secure client fund handling, safekeeping of client assets and measures against market manipulation.

Also, given the borderless nature of crypto and the advantage of anonymity, in case of fraud, crypto sent to unregistered platforms located in foreign jurisdictions may never be recovered.

**Price volatility:** Crypto is known for its frequent and significant price fluctuations. These extreme swings



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often attract investors hoping for quick, short-term gains. However, the highly speculative nature of the asset class, heavily influenced by market sentiment, also creates opportunities for scammers to deploy their schemes.

While scammers often repurpose traditional investment scams like pump and dump or ponzi schemes by including a crypto element, common crypto scams include:

- **Rug Pulls:** Rug pulls, which get their name from the expression “pulling the rug out,” involve attracting investors with a new crypto project and pulling out all funds before the project is built, leaving the investors with no balance in the pool. These scams can sometimes include elements of a Ponzi scheme, where investors profit by recruiting other users with false financial promises.
- **Fake Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs):** Fraudsters frequently create fake ICOs, where a new crypto product is launched and sold to investors. These fake ICOs may have professional-looking websites and whitepapers, but ultimately offer nothing of value, leaving investors with nothing but empty promises.

### How to invest in crypto in Canada?

Before committing to putting your hard-earned money into an investment, either traditional stocks and bonds or crypto trading, always Check First. Check: if the investment suits your risk tolerance; if the crypto asset trading platform you choose to use is registered with the Alberta Securities Commission; and if you understand the business.

As every crypto enthusiast knows, thorough research, referred to as “doing your own research” DYOR is critical. It can help you understand the risks and opportunities, invest suitably, and avoid scams.

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### June Disability Awareness Month

- The Longest Day (Alzheimer’s Awareness) – June 21
- Dravet Syndrome Awareness Day – June 23
- National PTSD Awareness Day – June 27
- Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month
- Dravet Syndrome Awareness Month
- National Employee Wellness Month

- Cataract Awareness Month
- National Migraine & Headache Awareness Month

### VAD’s Annual Report available on our website!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is hosting our Annual General Meeting on June 1, 2024 at 1 pm via zoom. The annual report is being presented at the AGM and it will be posted on the VAD website after the AGM. Take a moment to review this year’s activities.

**2023-24 SNAPSHOT**

- OFFICE VISITS**  
VAD had 858 office visits last year
- CONTACT**  
VAD had 1835 Emails and phone calls last year
- SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Twitter: 60  
Facebook: 2853  
Linked IN: 1250  
Instagram: 1012
- COLLABORATIONS**  
252 collaboration meetings and 948 individuals attended Disability awareness presentations

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## THE EDMONTON EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION is TURNING 65!

Visit them at: <https://edmontonepilepsy.org/gala-65/>

**On June 22, 2024 EEA is hosting a free community event at Rundle Park. For kids and youth, enter their Mascot Contest today! Help them design the next EEA mascot.**

## UPDATE: Launching the Canada Disability Benefit

Budget 2024 provides funding of \$6.1 billion over six years, beginning in 2024-25, and \$1.4 billion per year ongoing, for a new Canada Disability Benefit, including costs to deliver the program.

The proposed design of the Benefit is based on a maximum benefit amount of \$2,400 per year for low-income persons with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64. This benefit is estimated to increase the financial well-being of over 600,000 low-income persons with disabilities.

Budget 2024 further announces the government will begin providing payments to eligible Canadians starting in July 2025, following successful completion of the regulatory process and consultations with persons with disabilities.

To deliver the benefit as quickly as possible and to ensure nation-wide consistency of eligibility, the proposed Canada Disability Benefit would be available to people with a **valid Disability Tax Credit certificate**.

To ensure access to the Canada Disability Benefit for eligible Canadians, and to address an anticipated significant financial barrier associated with benefit take-up, Budget 2024 further proposes funding of \$243 million over six years, beginning in 2024-25, and \$41 million per year ongoing, to cover the cost of the medical forms required to apply for the Disability Tax Credit.

### Next Steps

The Government is very aware that many Canadians with disabilities are in need of the additional financial support that the benefit will provide. The intent, therefore, is to move forward as fast as possible with the regulatory development process.

The next phase of the engagement process will focus on the Government of Canada's formal regulatory development process and will begin in the coming months with the publishing of the draft Canada Disability Benefit regulations in Part I of the Canada Gazette.

Following this, stakeholders and the public will be able to review and provide comments, and the Government will then analyze the comments received and make changes to the regulations if necessary.

The final regulations will then be published in Part II of the Canada Gazette, at which time the design of the benefit will be complete.

Future updates will be posted to this website as information becomes available. Please check back in the coming weeks or subscribe using the link below to receive updates.



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### Supporting Canadians with disabilities

On June 22, 2023, the Canada Disability Benefit Act received Royal Assent. This benefit will help reduce poverty among working-age Canadians with disabilities.

Working-age Canadians with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty as working-age people without disabilities and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has made things even worse. That is why the Government of Canada is trying to address the financial hardships and other barriers faced by persons with disabilities. The aim is to ensure a Canada that is inclusive for all Canadians, including persons with disabilities.

The Canada Disability Benefit is a key commitment and is the cornerstone of Canada's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) – a Plan that was promised in the 2020 Speech from the Throne. The DIAP is a blueprint for change to make Canada more inclusive for persons with disabilities. It is based on the understanding that disability inclusion benefits everyone. The DIAP will evolve over time – the aim is to take action across the Government of Canada and make targeted investments to create lasting change.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits.html>



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### Grasp Hold of the Opportunities June Offers

June has such an invitation for us all, as our days stretch longer, warmer and more inviting, it's a time to ask ourselves what opportunities we are going to embrace.

Outdoor activities throughout our communities are in full swing, inviting us to participate, accessibility may become a limitation to this invitation. Yet, as we continue to share the many ways our communities and society can assist our accessibility, the more and better opportunities for us all. I invite everyone to write in and share the many opportunities you have discovered



Take advantage and smooth out your future journey by utilizing the many opportunities that open up to you this June. Whether you are looking to

to not only brighten your summer but everyone else's across Alberta as well.

As we finish up school or look to open new creative ways to take on this summer's adventure, via travel, staycation, or new dreams of our future pivots in our life direction, my recommendation is to dive in and bring it on!

Check out all the opportunities that are available in the summer in the City the Ultimate 2024 guide to Summer Fun and check out something for you to get out and enjoy. <https://www.summercyy.ca>

Take advantage of the many programs available at the accessible camps across Alberta here is a few to start with:

- Camp He Ho Ha <https://camphehoha.com>
- Camp Horizon via Easter Seals Alberta <https://easterseals.ab.ca>
- URSA Retreat Centre <https://www.ursaretreatcentre.com>
- William Watson Lodge <http://www.albertaparks.ca/parks/kananaski/peter-lougheed/information-facilities/special-facilities/william-watson-lodge/>

Let's all offer a warm Congratulations! to all of our families that have someone special Graduating from High school, Trades Programs, College or University. Well done to you all from Voice of Albertans with Disabilities. Embrace your new adventure and all the opportunities that are available to smooth your path ahead. Let your dreams grow without any limitations! There is always an attainable step ahead, so grab hold of it even when you may see the paths look different and veer away from the norm, the end result is the same, Success!

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enter post secondary, start a business or discover a new opportunity for employment that truly works for you, there are many grants you can take advantage of. Here are just a few to start looking at as you dream of bringing your desired future closer into your grasp.

The Opportunities are there for you through programs such as:

- Disability Related Employment Supports (DRES) funding is available to pay for supports that help Albertans overcome barriers to education or employment. They offer 3 categories of support, Job search, Workplace and Educational supports.
- Canada Disability Savings Grant or the Canadian Disability Savings Bond may be available for you until December 31st of the year you turn 49.
- Entrepreneurs With Disabilities and Rewarding career discovery through Persons with Disabilities Edmonton <http://www.prospectnow.ca>
- Career Links is a program which provides employment supports for individuals experiencing challenges to workforce participation due to mental health issues
- SkillGain and The WORX programs in Calgary
- EmployAbilities Skills workshops <http://www.employabilities.ab.ca>
- Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities for \$2,800 of funding towards your education.
- Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities, you could receive up to \$20,000 per school year if you are eligible.

I truly love June and all the invitations it offers me from free adventures to small expenses to put an amazing smile on my face as well as my families. I invite you all to jump out and find your own adventure.

Always remember to grasp hold of the many opportunities June has to offer, in your neighborhood, community and across our amazing Province. Let's continue to share

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the vast adventures you have discovered that offer truly accessible relaxation, getaways or new creation ideas for your business to aid yourself or others future life path.

*Katrina Breau*



## Farewell Sam Mason

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our Accessibility Coordinator, Sam Mason. Sam has been offered a position with the government and is moving on to bigger and better things in her career. After 6 years of hard work, long hours and countless meetings, with VAD, Sam will be missed for her knowledge and friendly smile. It will be a hard role to replace but we wish her the best in her upcoming career move. Congratulations Sam!

## REMINDER AGM June 1, 2024

Just a quick reminder that the AGM will be held on June 1, between 1-3 pm. Register by contacting [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca) for the zoom link.

**See you there!**





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## ReYu's 5 Km Walk, Run & Roll

Fill your tires, put your gloves on and lace up for an exhilarating journey where every pace and push propels us towards a fun, fitness finish line festivity! The run has been our biggest fundraiser and we hope to continue to keep that a reality, so we need your help to do that! Register today and get a ReYu themed towel, limited quantity so hurry and sign up!

Register here: <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/86867/5km-walk-run-and-roll-with-reyu-2024>

Date: **Saturday, June 8th, 2024**

Time: **10 am Registration**  
**11 am Race Starts**

Food: **BBQ Lunch included in Registration Fee**

Location: **Sir Wilfred Laurier Park, Site 7, Edmonton, AB**



## ReYu's Rise of the Phoenix Gala

Step into the splendor of ReYu's Rise of the Phoenix Gala, an evening where opulence meets philanthropy under a canopy of stars. The luxe soiree, draped in elegance, promises an unforgettable night of high society and heartfelt giving, all set against a backdrop of transformative potential.

Date: **Saturday, November 2nd, 2024**

Location: **Meridian Banquet Hall**

**4820 76 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB**

Tickets: **Pre-sale starting in April 2024**

Call: **587-938-7398**



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