



Money Services Business MSB Registration in Canada

Trusted Reputation, Global Market Access, and a
Cost-Efficient Gateway into Fintech

By Eugene FEDYANIN

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Global MSB use	4
What makes it different?.....	6
What can you do with Canadian MSB	7
Compliance and regulatory requirements	9
Safeguarding end-user funds	11
MSB registration process.....	13
Registration with the Bank of Canada.....	15
Post-registration support.....	18
Taxation Overview	20
Serving clients globally with a Canadian MSB ..	21
Buying a shelf-ready Canadian MSB	24
About BMP Global	25
Our Services	25
Glossary of terms	26
Contact	30

info@bmpglobal.io

bmpglobal.io

WhatsApp +371 28 114 110

Telegram @cbdobmp

[Click here to book a free consultation](#)

[Follow us on LinkedIn](#)



Introduction

A Canadian Money Services Business (MSB) registration, regulated by FINTRAC, authorizes activities such as currency exchange, money transfers, payment processing, and virtual currency transactions.

Respected for its transparent compliance standards and global recognition, it is accepted by many international banks and payment processors. Compared to full banking or EMI licenses, it offers lower costs, faster registration, and simpler operations, making it an ideal entry-level license for fintech startups and established players alike.

With Canada's strong legal framework and reputable financial environment, an MSB license serves as both a credible first step into regulated finance and a gateway to global partnerships.

Who Should Read This?

If you are:

- Fintech founder
- Payment service providers
- Neobank, crypto-fiat platform
- Seeking cost-efficient access to SWIFT and international banking.
- Looking for a globally recognized, reliable, and affordable license.

...then this document is for you.

A Prominent Fintech Regulation

Canada is one of the world's most trusted financial jurisdictions, known for its strong legal system, political stability, and transparent regulation. An MSB registration, supervised by FINTRAC, offers a credible and cost-efficient entry into the global fintech and payments space. Unlike many licenses restricted to specific regions, a Canadian MSB has no geographical client limits, allowing businesses to serve both local and international markets. This global reach, backed by Canada's strong reputation, inspires confidence among banks, payment processors, and corporate partners.

Canadian MSBs can operate in areas such as currency exchange, cross-border remittances, merchant payment processing, and fiat-crypto conversions. For example, a new crypto exchange can leverage MSB status to secure payment partnerships, while a remittance firm can link into global payout networks. Established fintechs often use it to quickly expand services or complement higher-tier licenses.

As the industry embraces alternative payment providers, acceptance of Canadian MSBs is growing, with more banks, EMIs, and PSPs onboarding well-compliant MSB-licensed firms. This blend of credibility, low entry cost, and operational flexibility makes Canada a strategic choice for fintechs worldwide.

Let's explore what that means, what are the benefits and how to utilize it.





Global MSB use

The Canadian Money Services Business (MSB) registration has evolved from a domestic regulatory framework into a globally recognized license category, increasingly relied upon by fintechs, payment service providers, and crypto companies. Initially designed to regulate currency exchanges, remittance operators, and later virtual currency dealers, the MSB framework (administered by FINTRAC) has grown in stature due to its transparent compliance rules, stable regulatory environment, and adaptability to evolving financial services.

From Local Oversight to Global Recognition

The MSB designation first emerged in the early 2000s, following Canada's commitment to FATF (Financial Action Task Force) standards and its adoption of AML/CTF laws targeting money laundering and terrorist financing. Over time, the scope expanded to include new financial technologies, especially after 2014, when virtual currency dealers were formally brought under the MSB framework. This regulatory clarity positioned Canada ahead of many jurisdictions in addressing digital assets, long before crypto compliance became a global priority.

International Perception and Growing Trust

Initially, MSB registration was seen mainly as a domestic compliance requirement, but by the late 2010s, it began to gain traction internationally. Several factors drove this shift:

- **Alignment with FATF standards** ensured that Canada's framework was understood and respected by foreign regulators.

- **Clear AML/CTF guidelines** provided confidence to international banking partners.
- **Early regulation of virtual currencies** helped MSBs bridge the gap between fiat and crypto in a compliant way.

As European and global payment institutions sought reliable partners in non-EU jurisdictions, the Canadian MSB began to be seen not as a "light" license but as a serious, credible registration for companies with robust compliance cultures.

Flexibility and Payment Rail Access

A defining advantage of the Canadian MSB is its flexibility in building cross-border payment structures. Unlike EU EMI license holders, which often must maintain a majority of their transaction volume within the EEA, MSBs face no formal geographic restrictions, allowing them to design client bases and transaction flows freely, subject to partner acceptance.

This flexibility extends to:

- **SEPA access via partnerships** - While MSBs cannot directly join SEPA as banks or EMIs can, they increasingly partner with European payment institutions to gain indirect access.
- **SWIFT integration** - MSBs can establish correspondent relationships with banks globally, often faster than EMI licensees burdened by EU-specific rules.
- **Crypto liquidity and fiat on/off ramps** - MSBs can engage with global liquidity providers, OTC desks, and exchanges without EU-style structural limitations.



Access to Banking and Liquidity Providers

While bank account opening has historically been a challenge for non-bank financial institutions, Canadian MSBs benefit from Canada's strong banking sector reputation and FATF-compliant regulatory oversight. Many international banks and payment processors recognize MSB registration as a legitimate KYC anchor, enabling:

- Multi-currency operational accounts
- Segregated client fund accounts via partner banks
- Direct connections to liquidity providers for both fiat and crypto assets

Canada for International Fintechs

For many companies, especially those based outside Canada, MSB registration serves as a strategic first license. The reasons include:

- **Global credibility** - Trusted by banks and payment processors in multiple regions.
- **Cost efficiency** - No large capital lock-up, unlike EMI or banking licenses.
- **Speed to market** - Weeks instead of months or years to secure regulatory approval.
- **No geographic client restrictions** - Flexibility to target global markets from day one.
- **Crypto-fiat compatibility** - One of the first regulated pathways for virtual currency services.

Summary: the Canadian MSB has matured from a domestic compliance mechanism into a globally recognized regulatory tool, enabling fintechs to build payment networks, integrate with banking partners, and operate internationally with credibility. Its growing acceptance by European payment institutions, combined with flexibility around SEPA, SWIFT, and crypto liquidity providers, makes it a unique and cost-effective option. For many international fintechs, Canada is not just a licensing jurisdiction - it's a launchpad for global financial operations.



What makes it different?

While Canada's MSB registration shares some functional similarities with licensing regimes such as the European EMI (Electronic Money Institution) or the UK EMI, its scope, cost, and compliance framework are quite distinct. Understanding these differences is crucial for fintech founders, payment businesses, and crypto platforms deciding on the right regulatory path.

1. Scope and Regulatory Focus

A Canadian MSB, regulated by FINTRAC, primarily covers currency exchange, money transfer, payment processing, and dealing in virtual currencies. Unlike an EMI license, it does not authorize the issuance of electronic money or IBANs under PSD2, nor does it grant passporting rights across multiple jurisdictions. Instead, it focuses on AML/CTF compliance and operational transparency, offering broad international reach without specific geographic restrictions.

2. Cost and Speed of Entry

The MSB framework offers significantly lower entry costs compared to EMI regimes in the EU or UK, where paid-up capital requirements can start at €350,000. Canadian MSB registration has no substantial capital lock-up and typically involves lower legal and operational costs. Registration timelines are also much faster (often completed within weeks), whereas EMI applications can take 6–12 months or more.

3. Operational Flexibility

Unlike EMIs, which must safeguard client funds under strict segregation rules and operate within a more rigid regulatory environment, Canadian MSBs enjoy greater operational flexibility. They can provide services globally (subject to local laws in target markets) without being bound by EU passporting rules or regional client mix requirements.

4. Banking and Payment Network Access

While EMIs can integrate directly into SEPA or other settlement systems, Canadian MSBs typically rely on partnerships with banks, payment processors, or other licensed institutions for rails. This can be an advantage for companies focusing on flexible, cross-border solutions without being tied to one region's infrastructure.

5. Use Case Positioning

An EMI is often a fit for businesses seeking deep integration into European payment ecosystems, issuance of IBANs, and fully regulated e-money services. A Canadian MSB, by contrast, works best for companies that need a credible regulatory status to operate internationally, test business models, onboard global clients, and build banking and payment relationships without the cost and rigidity of higher-tier licenses.

Bottom Line: a Canadian MSB is not a replacement for an EMI, it's a different tool. It offers speed, cost efficiency, and global operational reach, making it ideal as an entry-level or complementary license. For many fintechs, it's the fastest path to market credibility and global client onboarding, while keeping the door open for future expansion into more complex licensing regimes like the EU or UK EMI.



What can you do with Canadian MSB

A Money Services Business (MSB) registration in Canada, supervised by FINTRAC, authorizes a broad range of financial activities that make it a versatile framework for both traditional and fintech-driven business models. While it is not a banking license, an MSB registration covers a set of clearly defined services that can be combined or tailored to different business models, offering flexibility for startups, established financial institutions, and niche service providers alike.

Key Activities Possible Under a Canadian MSB License

Currency Exchange

- MSBs can buy, sell, or convert foreign currencies for clients, whether through physical exchange services, online platforms, or integrated digital wallets.
- Example: An online travel platform integrates a currency exchange feature, allowing customers to pre-purchase foreign currency before trips, with delivery via partnered FX agents.

Money Transfer Services

- This includes domestic and cross-border remittances for individuals or businesses, either directly or through partner payout networks.
- Example: A remittance app targeting expatriates in Canada enables instant transfers to family members overseas by integrating with payout partners in Asia, Africa, or Latin America.

Payment Processing & Merchant Services

- MSBs can process customer payments, settle merchant transactions, and manage payouts for online platforms, marketplaces, and service providers.
- Example: An e-commerce payment gateway uses its MSB license to onboard merchants, process card payments, and settle funds in multiple currencies.

Dealing in Virtual Currencies

- MSBs can buy, sell, or facilitate transactions involving cryptocurrencies and other digital assets, provided they meet AML/CTF obligations.
- Example: A fiat-to-crypto exchange enables users to purchase Bitcoin or stablecoins with credit cards or bank transfers, using its MSB license to establish credibility with banking and payment partners

Issuing or Redeeming Money Orders, Traveler's Cheques, or Similar Instruments

- Although less common in purely digital businesses, MSBs can issue or redeem payment instruments as part of their service offering.
- Example: A payment solutions provider issues digital money orders for businesses to pay suppliers in countries with limited banking access.

Hybrid Service Models

- Many MSBs operate a mix of services to meet diverse customer needs. For instance, a single platform might combine foreign exchange, remittances, and crypto on/off ramps under one brand.



Why This Matters for Fintechs

The MSB framework's flexibility allows businesses to build layered service ecosystems. A startup can begin with one regulated activity, such as currency exchange, and gradually expand into others, like payment processing or virtual currency dealings, without undergoing entirely new licensing processes.

Strategic Use Cases

- **Crypto Exchange**
MSB status allows a business to legally operate as a fiat-to-crypto or crypto-to-fiat exchange, enabling customers to trade digital assets while meeting AML/CTF obligations. By leveraging the Canadian regulatory framework, exchanges can build credibility with banking partners, card processors, and liquidity providers. For example, a crypto platform can settle transactions via bank accounts in Canada or abroad, process payments in multiple fiat currencies, and integrate with international blockchain networks.
- **Payment Gateway**
MSBs can act as merchant service providers, offering businesses the ability to accept payments from clients worldwide. This includes integrating card acquiring, alternative payment methods, and direct bank transfers. A Canadian-licensed gateway can also connect with global settlement networks, providing competitive FX rates and faster processing times for international sales.
- **Money Remittance with Account Opening via Third-Party Banking Service Provider**
MSBs can operate as global remittance platforms even without their own in-house banking license. By partnering with third-party banking service providers, **such as European EMIs**, they can open correspondent accounts and use those to send and receive payments internationally. This setup enables smooth payouts to multiple jurisdictions while maintaining a regulated structure, making it particularly attractive for companies serving developing markets or niche diaspora communities.
- **Global Payout Platforms**
Using MSB licensing, companies can offer cross-border payouts to freelancers, gig workers, or suppliers. This can include currency conversion, local bank transfers, and integration with mobile money services in emerging markets.
- **Cross-Border Commerce Support**
Canadian MSBs can help SMEs receive payments from overseas buyers in their own currency, convert funds, and settle in the business's preferred currency, reducing FX costs and delays.

In essence, a Canadian MSB license offers an adaptable regulatory base for multiple financial activities, making it a practical tool for both niche service providers and globally scaling fintechs. It supports rapid product diversification, partnerships with payment rails like SEPA and SWIFT, and access to liquidity providers, especially for those operating in the crypto and cross-border payments sectors.



Compliance and regulatory requirements

Operating a Money Services Business in Canada requires navigating a clear but multi-layered regulatory environment. The framework is designed to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and other illicit financial activity, while enabling legitimate businesses to operate in both domestic and global markets.

1. Can a non-resident UBO be listed?

Yes. Non-resident Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs) are permitted. However, they must undergo standard compliance screening - this includes checks against PEP, sanctions, and terrorist listings per FATF and OFAC standards. Anyone holding a passport from a sanctioned jurisdiction (e.g., Russia, Iran, North Korea, Syria) is disallowed.

2. Which nationalities are prohibited?

Canada sanctions several countries under the United Nations Act (UNA), the Special Economic Measures Act (SEMA), and other directives. These include **Belarus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe**, among others.

3. Is a non-resident executive acceptable?

For **provincial-level registration** (e.g., British Columbia), non-resident executives are allowed. But for **federal MSB registration** with FINTRAC, it is required to have at least one Canadian-resident executive or compliance officer to streamline banking relations and regulatory oversight.

4. Is share capital required?

No minimum share capital is mandated by law. However, having a reasonable working or prudential capital buffer is prudent: this helps in building confidence with banks and service providers.

5. Is physical office required?

At the federal MSB level, you can start without a physical office, even a virtual setup may suffice for registration. But if you engage in retail payment activities under the RPAA (Retail Payment Activities Act) and will negotiate with the Bank of Canada, a physical footprint in Canada is expected. This can be modest, such as a co-working desk with mail and storage facilities.





Core Documents & Policies for MSB Operations

1. AML Risk Management Framework

Outlines the company's overall strategy for identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks related to money laundering and terrorist financing. Includes risk-scoring methodology for clients, transactions, and geographies.

2. AML/CFT Procedure

Step-by-step internal process for detecting, reporting, and preventing money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT). Defines staff responsibilities, escalation routes, and record-keeping rules.

3. AML/SFT – KYC Policy

Covers procedures for Know Your Customer (KYC) verification and screening against sanctions, as well as measures for detecting Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFT). Specifies onboarding checks for individuals and corporate clients.

4. Business Continuity Management & Disaster Recovery Policy

Details the measures to ensure uninterrupted service in case of operational disruptions. Includes contingency planning, system backups, recovery timelines, and responsibilities during emergencies.

5. Business Plan

A structured document describing the company's activities, target markets, competitive positioning, projected revenues, and operational model. Also maps the regulatory framework in which the MSB operates.

6. Business Risk Assessment

A documented analysis of all risks the MSB faces - financial, operational, legal, cyber, and reputational - and the mitigation strategies for each.

7. KYC Obligatory Documents List

Defines the exact identification and verification documents required from clients (e.g., government-issued ID, proof of address, corporate registry extracts for businesses).

8. Suspicious Transaction Monitoring Procedure

Sets out transaction monitoring rules, red-flag indicators, and steps for filing Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) with FINTRAC or other authorities.

9. Onboarding Procedure

A workflow describing the step-by-step process of accepting a new client, including document collection, risk scoring, and account activation.

10. Operational Flow

A visual and/or written description of daily operational processes - how transactions are initiated, processed, reconciled, and recorded.

11. Organizational Structure

An updated chart showing management hierarchy, key personnel roles (including AML Officer, MLRO), and departmental responsibilities.



Additional Policies Required for Bank of Canada (RPAA Supervision)

12. Security Incident & Customer Complaints Management Policy

Procedures for identifying, recording, and responding to security incidents (e.g., cyberattacks, data breaches) and handling security-related customer complaints promptly and transparently.

13. Safeguarding Policy

Defines how client funds are protected from operational or financial risks, often via **ring-fencing** in segregated accounts. Includes reconciliation frequency, oversight procedures, and withdrawal restrictions.

Best Practice Notes

- Even if certain policies are **not required at the time of MSB registration**, they should be in place before active operations begin, as **FINTRAC** or the **Bank of Canada** may request them during audits or compliance reviews.
- Policies should be **customized to the specific business model** - a crypto exchange MSB will have different transaction monitoring triggers than a fiat remittance-focused MSB.
- Keeping policies **up-to-date** is critical; regulators expect periodic reviews and updates reflecting changes in law, risk environment, or operational scope.

Safeguarding end-user funds

One of the most critical obligations for a payment service provider and a key regulatory focus under Canada's Retail Payment Activities Act (RPAA) - is the safeguarding of end-user funds. The concept is simple but essential: if a payment service provider holds money that belongs to its customers, that money must be protected so it can be returned to them in full and without delay, even in the event of the provider's financial distress or insolvency.

Safeguarding is not just a compliance checkbox; it is the backbone of trust between a payment institution and its clients. Customers hand over funds in the expectation that they will be available when needed - whether for a cross-border remittance, payment processing, or conversion into another currency. Any doubt about that safety erodes confidence, damages the brand, and can result in regulatory intervention. This is why RPAA enshrines safeguarding into law, with detailed requirements on how and where these funds are stored, how often they must be reconciled, and what protections must be in place.



Under RPAA, payment service providers (PSPs) who hold client funds must ensure that those funds are:

- **Held in a designated safeguarding account with a financial institution** such as a Canadian bank, credit union, or trust company.
- **Protected by insurance or a guarantee** from an approved insurer or guarantor if the funds are not placed in a qualifying safeguarding account.
- **Fully segregated from the provider's own operational funds** to prevent commingling and ensure availability in the event of insolvency.

A notable feature of the Canadian framework is that safeguarding accounts may be maintained with banks anywhere in the world, provided the institution holds a full banking license and operates in a jurisdiction with an AML and compliance regime broadly comparable to Canada's. This ensures that client funds remain under stringent oversight and within a robust regulatory environment. However, safeguarding with non-bank financial institutions, such as EMIs, is generally not acceptable, even if they operate under strong protections like PSD2, unless they also hold a banking license. In practice, this requirement directs PSPs toward well-regulated international banks that can meet these compliance and oversight standards.

The RPAA also defines **strict reconciliation requirements**:

- Funds held for customers must be reconciled **at least daily** against the provider's records of outstanding obligations to those customers.
- Any shortfall discovered must be immediately corrected from the provider's own funds.
- Surpluses should also be investigated to ensure records are accurate.

While the legislation does not set a specific "amount" threshold for safeguarding (the requirement applies regardless of the balance size) - it is particularly critical for high-volume PSPs, where even minor percentage discrepancies can translate into large sums.

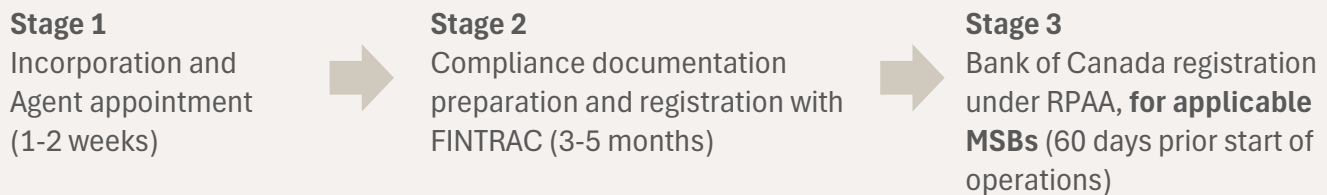
From a practical perspective, safeguarding is both a regulatory mandate and a commercial advantage. Many banks, payment processors, and institutional partners will only work with PSPs who can demonstrate robust safeguarding arrangements, especially in cross-border transactions. For a Canadian MSB expanding internationally, strong safeguarding practices not only satisfy RPAA compliance but also serve as a persuasive trust signal for global counterparties.

In short, safeguarding under RPAA is about far more than meeting a rule: it's about building resilience, maintaining liquidity, and ensuring that client funds are insulated from business risks. This, in turn, underpins the credibility of Canada's payment ecosystem and is one of the reasons the jurisdiction enjoys growing global confidence among fintechs and payment institutions.



MSB registration process

Registering a Money Services Business (MSB) in British Columbia involves a multi-stage process, starting with corporate formation and ending with compliance readiness. **BMP Global is committed to take on all of the tasks below as a turnkey solution.** Below is the typical sequence for a new entrant.



Stage 1: Incorporation and agent appointment

The first step is to incorporate your Canadian entity in British Columbia.

If the company is **fully managed without a local resident UBO or executive**, you must appoint a **local agent**. This agent acts as your official point of contact for local interactions with the BC Corporate Registry and other government bodies.

The agent's role typically includes:

- Receiving official correspondence
- Coordinating with provincial authorities
- Assisting in the submission of the company's **annual report** and other mandatory filings
- Provision of legal address
- Handling executive secretary function and keeping records of internal registries (e.g. Shareholder Registry etc.)
- Handling relationship with BC Registry (Registry House of British Columbia) for corporate matters
- Assist with incorporation documents, articles of association, share certificates etc.

Incorporation can usually be completed within a few business days, but having a compliant registered address and agent arrangement in place is critical before moving forward.



Stage 2: FINTRAC Registration

Once the company is incorporated, the next step is to prepare the required policies, procedures, and compliance framework for MSB registration with FINTRAC (Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada).

This involves:

- Drafting AML/CFT policies.
- Defining operational flows and risk assessments.
- Filing application forms

After submitting your application to FINTRAC, processing times vary, but approvals can typically be obtained within 3-5 months. During this period, FINTRAC may request clarifications or additional documentation.

Stage 3: Bank of Canada Registration under RPAA (*For Applicable MSBs*)

If your business will be providing **fiat payment services** as defined under the **Retail Payment Activities Act (RPAA)** - such as account issuance, funds holding, payment remittance, or clearing and settlement - you must register with the **Bank of Canada** in addition to FINTRAC.

Key points to note:

- The application must be submitted **at least 60 days before starting operations** - even if full approval will not yet be received by your intended start date.
- Within a few business days after submission, your company's status will appear on the Bank of Canada's public registry with the label "**Applied**".
- This "Applied" status does **not** mean your registration is approved, but it is an early public indicator that the process has started.
- Having this public listing is often enough to begin onboarding discussions with **banking service providers**, such as those offering SEPA/SWIFT payment rails.

⚠ Important:

This step **does not apply** to crypto-only MSBs that do not engage in fiat payment activities covered by the RPAA.



Registration with the Bank of Canada

The **Retail Payment Activities Act (RPAA)** and its implementing regulations have reshaped the regulatory environment for Canadian Money Services Businesses (MSBs) engaged in **fiat-related payment activities**. While every MSB must register with FINTRAC for AML/CTF supervision, RPAA introduces a **second layer of oversight** by the **Bank of Canada**, aimed at operational risk management and safeguarding client funds. Importantly, **MSBs operating exclusively in virtual currency** with no fiat account issuance, client fiat fund holding, or fiat remittance - are **exempt** from RPAA registration.

The RPAA only applies when fiat payment functions are offered, either alone or in combination with crypto services.

Scope of RPAA Registration

Under RPAA, the following activities trigger mandatory Bank of Canada registration:

- **Account Issuance** – Providing payment accounts that can send, receive, or store fiat funds.
- **Funds Holding** – Holding fiat funds on behalf of clients before transfer or withdrawal.
- **Payment Remittance** – Initiating electronic fiat transfers on customer instructions.
- **Payment Authorization** – Approving or facilitating payment transactions.
- **Clearing and Settlement** – Enabling the exchange and settlement of payment obligations.

If your MSB performs any of these functions, RPAA registration is required **in addition to FINTRAC registration**.

Key Differences Between FINTRAC and Bank of Canada Oversight

Aspect	FINTRAC	Bank of Canada (RPAA)
Focus	AML/CTF compliance	Operational risk, safeguarding of client funds
Primary Role	Monitor suspicious transactions and enforce AML laws	Ensure safety, efficiency, and reliability of payment services
Applicable To	All MSBs	Fiat payment service providers (Mixed fiat+crypto MSBs)
Crypto-Only MSBs	Covered	Exempt



Share Capital Requirements

There is **no statutory share capital requirement** for either provincial MSB or RPAA registration. However, maintaining reasonable **prudential capital** demonstrates financial stability and may facilitate partnerships with banks, payment processors, and institutional clients.

Physical Presence

- **RPAA Registration:** Requires a **physical office in Canada** meeting security, data protection, and visitor access control requirements.
- **Practical Approach:** Many companies start with a **co-working desk** or small leased office, provided it meets regulatory expectations.

Safeguarding and Policy Requirements

RPAA-registered MSBs must implement:

- **Safeguarding Measures** – Designated accounts for client funds, ensuring they are segregated and protected.
- **Operational Risk Policies** – Covering incident reporting, data breaches, and business continuity.
- **Incident Management Framework** – Procedures for handling security incidents and customer complaints.
- **Transaction and Client Data Security** – Policies ensuring compliance with data protection laws.

These policies may **not be required at initial FINTRAC registration**, but are essential for RPAA compliance and may be reviewed during supervision.

Why RPAA Registration Matters

- Enhances **credibility** with Canadian and international banks.
- Aligns your MSB with **global payment service best practices**.
- Provides a **competitive edge** for attracting institutional partners.
- Demonstrates commitment to **client fund protection and operational resilience**.

Registration Process

Under the Retail Payment Activities Act (RPAA), the registration of payment service providers (PSPs) is conducted electronically via the **PSP Connect** platform, available from **November 1, 2024**. All entities falling under the RPAA scope must submit their registration **no later than 60 days before commencing regulated operations**. Failure to register by the statutory deadline may result in administrative penalties starting at **CAD 1 million** and an immediate prohibition on providing payment services until registration is completed.



Registration Steps

1. **Account Creation** – Set up a PSP Connect profile to access the registration system.
2. **Business Information Submission** – Provide full corporate details, including:
 - Legal and trade names, domain names, and associated websites.
 - Registered business address and official contact channels.
 - Ownership structure, details of key personnel, and governance arrangements.
 - Description of actual or intended payment functions.
 - Information on agents, distributors, or affiliates performing regulated activities on behalf of the PSP.
 - Current and projected transaction volumes, including split between Canadian and foreign clients.
3. **Safeguarding Framework** – Outline the mechanisms for protecting end-user funds, supported by risk management and incident response policies.
4. **Regulatory Confirmation** – Provide evidence of existing **FINTRAC registration** or equivalent provincial-level authorisation.
5. **Fee Payment** – Pay a **non-refundable registration fee** of approximately CAD 2,500 (subject to annual Consumer Price Index adjustment), payable directly to the **Bank of Canada**.

Ongoing Compliance Requirements

After registration, PSPs must maintain compliance on an ongoing basis. Core obligations include:

- **Corporate Information Updates** – Notify the Bank of Canada of any material changes in ownership, governance, or operational structure.
- **Risk Management & Incident Reporting** – Maintain documented operational risk controls and incident response procedures, with periodic reporting to the Bank of Canada.
- **Safeguarding Compliance** – Hold and manage client funds strictly in accordance with the Bank's safeguarding guidelines.
- **Annual Returns & Audit** – File annual compliance reports and undergo internal or external audits as required.
- **Staff Training** – Ensure employees receive regular training on RPAA obligations and related compliance requirements.
- **Recordkeeping** – Retain comprehensive records of all client transactions and operational data in line with statutory retention periods.
- **Physical Presence in Canada** – Maintain a staffed physical office. Businesses managed primarily from outside Canada must still demonstrate regulatory compliance and may be subject to additional scrutiny.



Post-registration support

Securing your MSB registration is only the first milestone. The real challenge begins once you are authorized and expected to operate efficiently, remain fully compliant, and maintain accurate corporate governance from day one. At BMP Global, we stay with you beyond the registration stage, offering end-to-end operational, legal, and compliance support tailored to the Canadian environment.

Corporate Governance & Documentation Integrity

One of the most overlooked (yet critical!) areas for long-term MSB ownership is maintaining **complete shareholder and corporate records**. In Canada, shareholder information is **not public** and is accessible only through the corporate registry agent or the company's executive secretary.

We act as this **vital bridge** between you and the BC Registry, ensuring:

- Accurate shareholder registry maintenance, essential if you later sell your company.
- Preservation of corporate resolutions, annual filings, and officer appointment records.
- Timely and compliant submission of annual corporate reports.

We have seen many cases where incomplete or missing records delayed transactions, blocked ownership transfers, or even caused regulatory complications. With our structured corporate record-keeping, you avoid these pitfalls entirely.

Fiscal Year Structuring

In Canada, your fiscal year can begin on **any date** and run for a full 12-month cycle. This flexibility allows you to align your financial year with operational realities, for example, matching seasonal cash flow or group reporting timelines. We help you select and register the fiscal year that best supports your operational and tax strategy.

Accounting & Annual Financial Reporting

All annual financial statements must be prepared and signed off by a **locally certified accountant**. We work with trusted accounting professionals across Canada to provide:

- Bookkeeping in compliance with Canadian accounting standards.
- Year-end financial statements and tax filings.
- Coordination with auditors, where required.

By managing your accounting locally, you ensure smooth regulatory reviews and avoid delays during annual reporting cycles.



Leadership & Talent Placement

We assist you in building a leadership and compliance structure that meets both regulatory expectations and internal governance needs:

- Recruitment and vetting of executives, AML Officers, Chief Compliance Officers, and other key roles.
- Provision of **interim secondees** to maintain operational continuity while permanent hires are finalized.
- Ensuring your management team reflects substance, independence, and operational capability.

Physical Presence & Office Solutions

For MSBs that require physical offices, for example, those registering under RPAA with the Bank of Canada - we source and secure premises that meet compliance expectations:

- Flexible co-working or private offices that scale with your team size.
- Facilities with secure storage, mail forwarding, and visitor access control.
- IT and communication infrastructure setup with appropriate data protection measures.

Operational Documentation & Templates

We help prepare and maintain the documents you need for smooth daily operations and regulatory readiness:

- Customer agreements, onboarding terms, and privacy policies.
- AML/CFT, safeguarding, and incident-response frameworks.
- Regulator-ready templates for reporting, compliance logs, and transaction monitoring.

Ongoing Regulator Interaction

Post-registration, interaction with FINTRAC, provincial authorities, and - where applicable - the Bank of Canada will continue. We provide:

- Assistance with change notifications, ownership updates, and amendments to your service scope.
- Timely responses to supervisory queries and compliance reviews.
- Liaison during audits and regulatory inspections.

This way, BMP Global ensures that your MSB remains fully compliant, operationally efficient, and always “transaction-ready”, whether you are scaling up, entering new markets, or preparing for an eventual sale.



Taxation Overview

Operating a Money Services Business (MSB) in Canada, even if managed remotely, brings both opportunities and responsibilities in terms of taxation. Canada's tax system is multi-layered, combining **federal** and **provincial/territorial** taxes, along with specific rules for cross-border ownership, VAT-equivalent regimes (GST/HST), and double-taxation relief.

1. Federal Corporate Tax

All Canadian-incorporated companies are subject to a federal corporate income tax on their worldwide income.

- **Standard rate: 15%** on taxable income.
- This rate applies to most corporations, including MSBs, regardless of whether the owners are residents or non-residents.
- Tax is calculated on **net income** after deducting allowable expenses.

2. Provincial Corporate Tax (British Columbia Example)

In addition to federal tax, corporations pay **provincial corporate income tax** in the province where they are registered or where they carry on business.

- **British Columbia standard rate: 12%** on taxable income.
- Combined federal + BC rate: **27%**.
- **Small Business Deduction (SBD):** For **Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs)** with taxable income up to CAD 500,000, the combined tax rate can drop to around **11%–12%**.

⚠ However, most foreign-owned MSBs **do not qualify** for SBD, as it's intended for Canadian-controlled entities.

3. Remote Management & Permanent Establishment Risk

- Non-resident owners can manage the company remotely without triggering **personal tax residency** in Canada, provided they do not spend significant time physically in the country.
- However, if strategic control and decision-making are deemed to occur **outside Canada**, certain tax treaty rules may affect where profits are considered earned.
- Canada has **broad tax treaty coverage** to prevent double taxation and define “permanent establishment” thresholds.

4. Goods and Services Tax / Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST)

Canada does not have “VAT” in the EU sense, but operates a **GST/HST** system:

- **GST (federal):** 5% on most goods and services.
- Some provinces harmonize GST with provincial sales tax into a **HST** (higher combined rate). BC keeps a separate **PST** (7%), which generally does not apply to financial services.
- **Financial services**, including most fiat payment processing, currency exchange, and crypto transactions, are **GST/HST-exempt**.
- MSBs usually do not charge GST/HST on their core services, but still pay GST/HST on taxable goods/services they purchase.



5. Taxation of Crypto vs. Fiat Transactions

- **Crypto-fiat exchange** is generally treated the same as currency exchange and exempt from GST/HST.
- Gains/losses on proprietary crypto holdings may be taxed as **business income** or **capital gains**, depending on activity level.
- Fiat remittance services are taxed on net business income, not on gross transfer amounts.

6. Dividend Taxation for Non-Residents

- When an MSB distributes profits to non-resident shareholders, **withholding tax** applies.
- **Default rate:** 25% on dividends paid to non-residents.
- **Reduced rates:** Many **bilateral double-taxation treaties** lower this to 15%, 10%, or even 5%, depending on ownership percentage and country of residence.

- Canada has treaties with most major economies, including EU states, the UK, Switzerland, Singapore, and the UAE.

7. Double-Taxation Treaties

- Treaties allocate taxing rights between Canada and the shareholder's country, reducing or eliminating double taxation.
- They also clarify the definition of "permanent establishment" and the treatment of cross-border income such as interest, royalties, and management fees.

8. Volume Allowances & Progressive Taxation

- Canada does not offer lower corporate tax rates based on **transaction volume** for foreign-owned companies.
- The only "reduced rate" regime is the Small Business Deduction for Canadian-controlled private corporations.
- Low-revenue MSBs pay the same rates as large-volume operators, although effective tax may be reduced through deductible expenses.

Serving clients globally with a Canadian MSB

For fintechs, payment service providers, and crypto-fiat platforms, the ability to serve clients across multiple regions is a key competitive advantage. A Canadian MSB registration offers a highly flexible framework with **no geographical restrictions** on the clients you can onboard, enabling operations both domestically and internationally. This makes it an attractive option for companies targeting global markets without the regional limitations that many other licensing regimes impose.

Global Reach Without Passporting Limits

Unlike EU-based licenses, which rely on "passporting" mechanisms to operate in a defined group of countries, the Canadian MSB framework is inherently international in scope. Once registered with FINTRAC, an MSB can legally service clients anywhere in the world, provided compliance obligations are met and the company adheres to local laws in the jurisdictions where its clients are located.



With a Canadian MSB:

- You can onboard clients from any jurisdiction not subject to Canadian sanctions or prohibited under FATF guidelines.
- You are not restricted to a specific regional bloc.
- Your operations are recognized under a credible and transparent regulatory framework.

This global usability significantly shortens time-to-market for businesses aiming to establish cross-border payment flows or crypto-fiat ecosystems.

Serving High-Risk or International Markets

The Canadian MSB model also accommodates relationships with higher-risk markets and sectors, such as remittance corridors, offshore fintechs, or crypto exchanges, provided enhanced due diligence and AML/CTF controls are in place.

For example, an MSB can:

- Act as a payment gateway for a European EMI that needs to serve clients in regions outside the EEA.
- Provide remittance services into multiple jurisdictions via correspondent accounts with international banking partners.
- Operate as a liquidity provider for crypto platforms seeking fiat on/off ramps.

Institutional Clients and Client Base Ratios

Canadian MSBs can also onboard **institutional clients** such as other payment institutions, EMIs, or MSBs. In these arrangements, the **origin of the end-users' transactions becomes a critical factor** for banking partners and payment networks.

Some providers, particularly in the EU, require that **more than 50% of the transactional volume from institutional clients originates from outside Europe** in order to maintain compliance with their own licensing and risk exposure policies. This means that if you are servicing, for example, a Canadian MSB or an offshore PSP, you must carefully track where the end-user base is located to ensure you remain eligible for SEPA or SWIFT access through third-party providers.

A well-documented breakdown of your institutional clients' customer base is often a prerequisite for onboarding with larger payment institutions.



Reverse Solicitation

When serving clients in regions where your MSB does not actively market or hold a local license, one legal concept becomes particularly relevant: **reverse solicitation**. Reverse solicitation means that:

- The client must initiate the business relationship on their own.
- The MSB cannot actively market or promote its services in that jurisdiction.
- Only services explicitly requested by the client can be provided.

For Canadian MSBs, reverse solicitation can be a practical way to extend access to global clients, such as high-net-worth individuals, institutional partners, or crypto investors, without directly breaching local promotion or licensing rules. However, this mechanism is subject to **important limitations**:

- You must maintain proof that the client approached you first.
- Marketing materials must not target the restricted jurisdiction.
- Some regulators still interpret reverse solicitation narrowly, so reliance on it should be well-documented and used with caution.

When properly applied, reverse solicitation can allow a Canadian MSB to operate in otherwise closed or restricted markets, while maintaining compliance and reducing licensing burdens in those regions.

Prohibited “Nesting”

A critical compliance consideration in the Canadian MSB ecosystem is the prohibition against **unauthorized nesting**. Nesting occurs when one regulated financial entity allows another institution, licensed or unlicensed, to operate through its own accounts without the knowledge and explicit approval of its banking or payment partners. The risks include:

- Hidden transactional flows that bypass direct compliance oversight.
- Exposure to unvetted counterparties and unassessed jurisdictions.
- Potential violations of correspondent banking agreements, leading to account termination.

Canadian MSBs must ensure that any sub-clients or partner institutions are **formally disclosed, vetted, and approved** by their own banking partners. Payment institutions providing SEPA, SWIFT, or other network access often include strict contractual clauses against undisclosed nesting. Failure to comply can lead to:

- Immediate account closures.
- Regulatory investigations.
- Irreversible reputational damage that can severely limit future banking options.

Maintaining a **transparent and direct relationship** between your MSB, your partners, and any institutional clients is not just good compliance practice - it is essential for the longevity of your payment infrastructure.



Buying a shelf-ready Canadian MSB

For businesses looking to start operations quickly, purchasing a shelf-ready Canadian MSB can be a fast-track alternative to incorporating and registering from scratch. In many cases, this approach bypasses the waiting period for FINTRAC registration, as the company is already fully registered and in good standing. Once the transfer of ownership is approved, operations can begin much faster than with a new application - often within **2-3 weeks** from the submission of required documents.

However, it is important to note that this **does not exempt** the company from registering with the **Bank of Canada** under the Retail Payment Activities Act (RPAA), if applicable. As covered in earlier sections, the RPAA requires notification **at least 60 days before starting regulated activities**. Therefore, even with a shelf company, this timeline still applies for PSP-related operations.

Pros & Cons of Buying an Existing MSB

Pros	Cons
Fast market entry, often within weeks instead of months.	Risk of inheriting regulatory or compliance issues from prior operations.
Immediate operational capability, no need to wait for FINTRAC registration.	Requires thorough due diligence, including review of past transactions and client relationships.
Can be easier to onboard with banking partners if the company has a clean history.	Unknown source companies on the open market may have hidden liabilities.
Established corporate structure, often with policies already in place.	Previous owners may not disclose full operational history.

Why Choose BMP Global for a Shelf MSB

At **BMP Global**, we specialize in creating and maintaining clean, compliant shelf MSBs that are ready for fast transfer. We also act as **authorized agents** for some of our existing clients who decide to sell their companies. In these cases, we already know the corporate history, transaction background, and compliance record - significantly reducing the risk compared to buying from an unverified resale agent.

By sourcing your shelf-ready MSB from BMP Global, you benefit from:

- **100% remote** and hassle-free transfer
- **Verified history** with documented compliance standing.
- **Known transaction record** to avoid unpleasant surprises after transfer.
- **Faster transfer process** due to our direct involvement in the incorporation and maintenance of the company.

For details on current availability and pricing, [please contact us directly](#).



About BMP Global

At BMP Global, we make regulatory success simpler, faster, and more effective.

We are a **legal fintech consultancy** specializing in compliance and licensing for crypto and traditional financial businesses across the globe. Over the past seven years, we've delivered 350+ projects in Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, helping our clients navigate complex regulations with confidence.

Our team of ex-bankers, lawyers, compliance professionals, and executives doesn't just secure licenses, we become part of your team, guiding you through every stage of your growth. Many clients see us as an extension of their compliance department: approachable, practical, and deeply committed to their success.

Licensing is just the beginning.

We help you build the full infrastructure your business needs: from banking solutions and payment rails to software and operational frameworks, ensuring you have the tools to scale securely and sustainably.

With BMP Global, you gain a partner who understands your challenges and delivers the solutions you need to grow.

Our Services

Pre-Obtained MSB Transfer:

Acquire a shelf-ready, FINTRAC-registered MSB in as little as **2-3 weeks** from document submission. No physical presence or travel required.

Fresh Incorporation & MSB Registration:

Full company setup in Canada, followed by a complete FINTRAC registration from scratch, tailored to your intended business activities.

Local Office Sourcing and Legal Address:

Find and secure physical or co-working space that meets operational and regulatory needs, including mail forwarding and secure document handling.

Bank of Canada Application Support:

Guidance and assistance in preparing and submitting your RPAA-compliant application to the Bank of Canada, including safeguard arrangements and operational readiness.

Compliance Documentation:

Drafting and delivery of AML/CTF policies, operational procedures, safeguarding frameworks, onboarding manuals, and other regulatory documents required for MSB and RPAA compliance.

Ongoing Reporting & Accounting:

Annual MSB renewals, filing of required reports, and full accounting services provided by trusted Canadian professionals.

Banking Provider Sourcing:

Connection to payment rails and banking partners (including SEPA/SWIFT-capable institutions, correspondent accounts, and crypto-friendly banking service providers).

[>>> Click here to book a free meeting with us](#)



Glossary of terms

Account Information Service (AIS)

A regulated PSD2 service allowing third-party access to users' bank account data with consent (e.g., for budgeting apps).

Agent for Service

A person or company appointed to act as the local representative for a corporation with no resident directors or executives in Canada, responsible for receiving official correspondence and filings from provincial or federal authorities.

AML (Anti-Money Laundering)

A framework of procedures and laws to prevent criminal use of financial systems. Includes KYC, transaction monitoring, reporting obligations.

AML/CFT Policy

Internal documentation outlining the institution's approach to anti-money laundering and terrorist financing compliance.

Audit Trail

A secure, traceable log of all internal transactions, customer interactions, and compliance events - required for audit and supervision.

Bank of Canada (BoC)

Canada's central bank, responsible for monetary policy, currency issuance, and - under RPAA - oversight of certain payment service providers, including MSBs engaged in fiat remittance or account-based payment services.

Beneficial Ownership Register

An internal record of all shareholders and ultimate beneficial owners (UBOs) of a company, mandatory for corporate governance and often required for due diligence in M&A transactions.

British Columbia (BC) Incorporation

A popular provincial registration for MSBs due to flexible residency requirements for directors and executives, and straightforward filing processes.

Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

A documented framework ensuring a company can continue operating critical functions during disruptions. Required for MSBs operating under RPAA.

Business Plan (MSB)

A formal description of the company's services, target markets, compliance approach, and financial projections, often required by FINTRAC and banking partners.

Business Risk Assessment

An internal analysis identifying the operational, compliance, and market risks of an MSB's activities, forming part of the AML/CTF framework.

CFT (Counter Terrorist Financing)

A regulatory effort to identify and prevent the funding of terrorism via financial systems, tightly linked to AML frameworks.

Corporate Income Tax (CIT)

Tax on a corporation's taxable income. In Canada, CIT is levied federally (15%) plus provincial rates (e.g., BC 12%).

**Correspondent Account**

An account provided by a financial institution (often a bank or EMI) that enables an MSB to access payment networks such as SEPA or SWIFT.

Crypto-Only MSB

An MSB registered solely for dealing in virtual currencies, exempt from RPAA registration with the Bank of Canada unless also engaging in fiat-based payment services.

Data Protection / GDPR

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) sets rules for processing personal data. While not Canadian law, GDPR standards often guide global fintech data handling. Canada's equivalent is PIPEDA.

Digital Wallet

A financial product allowing customers to store, transfer, and spend e-money or cryptocurrencies digitally.

Due Diligence (DD)

The investigative process performed before acquiring a pre-obtained MSB, to identify any regulatory, financial, or reputational risks.

EBA (European Banking Authority)

The EU agency responsible for regulatory guidance, rulebooks, and supervisory coordination on PSD2, AML, and banking matters.

EEA (European Economic Area)

A 30-country area comprising EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. Passporting rights apply across this region.

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)

A general term for transferring funds electronically between accounts. MSBs may require RPAA registration if offering EFT services for clients.

EMI (Electronic Money Institution)

A regulated entity licensed to issue electronic money and provide payment services under PSD2 within the EU/EEA.

FINTRAC (Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada)

Canada's federal AML/CTF regulator overseeing MSBs, requiring registration, ongoing compliance reporting, and suspicious transaction reporting.

Fiscal Year (Canada)

A company's chosen 12-month accounting period, which can start on any date, not necessarily January 1.

FIU (Financial Intelligence Unit)

The national authority that receives and processes AML-related reports and liaises with law enforcement when necessary. In Canada, this function is carried out by FINTRAC.

Fresh MSB Registration

The process of incorporating a new entity in Canada and applying for FINTRAC registration from scratch, as opposed to acquiring a pre-obtained (shelf) MSB.

Governance & Risk Policy

A policy setting standards for decision-making, delegation, risk oversight, and control functions in financial institutions.

Institutional Client (MSB)

Another licensed financial entity (e.g., a payment institution, EMI, or VASP) using an MSB for payment rails, liquidity access, or correspondent services.

**KYC (Know Your Customer)**

The process of verifying a client's identity and assessing risk before initiating a business relationship.

KYB (Know Your Business)

The process of verifying a corporate client's ownership structure, UBOs, business model, and AML risk.

Local Office Requirement

Under RPAA, MSBs engaging in fiat-based payment services must maintain a physical office in Canada, which may be a co-working space with secure facilities.

MiCA (Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation)

The EU framework regulating crypto service providers. It complements EMI rules for firms offering both fiat and crypto services.

MIFID (Markets in Financial Instruments Directive)

A separate EU directive governing investment firms and securities markets - not applicable to MSBs unless offering investment services.

ML/TF Risk Assessment (Money Laundering / Terrorist Financing Risk)

An internal assessment tool required to understand exposure to financial crime risks across services and client types.

MLRO (Money Laundering Reporting Officer)

The designated officer in charge of AML compliance and reporting suspicious activity to local authorities.

MSB (Money Services Business)

A Canadian regulatory term for entities offering money transmission, FX, payment processing, or dealing in virtual currencies.

Nested Relationship

An arrangement where one financial institution processes transactions for another through its own account - prohibited without proper licensing and disclosure, due to high AML/CTF risks.

Non-Resident Executive

A company director or officer who is not a Canadian resident. Permitted under provincial incorporation (e.g., BC), but federal-level registration under RPAA may require at least one resident executive.

Non-Resident UBO

An ultimate beneficial owner based outside Canada. Allowed for MSB ownership, subject to AML checks and no sanctioned country association.

Passporting

The legal right of financial institutions licensed in one EEA country to operate across all EEA countries without additional licenses.

Payment Initiation Service (PIS)

A PSD2 service that lets third parties initiate payments on behalf of a customer, without needing access to full banking credentials.

Payment Rails

The underlying financial networks used to transfer money - SEPA, SWIFT, VISA, Mastercard, or proprietary platforms.

Permanent Establishment (PE)

A concept in taxation determining if a business has a taxable presence in a foreign jurisdiction.

Pre-Obtained MSB (Shelf Company)

An already incorporated and FINTRAC-registered MSB available for transfer to a new owner, enabling faster operational start-up.

**PIPEDA (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act)**

Canada's primary federal privacy law governing how private sector organizations collect, use, and disclose personal information.

Reverse Solicitation

A legal doctrine allowing non-licensed firms to serve clients in a jurisdiction only if the client initiates the relationship. Active marketing is prohibited, and evidence of client initiation must be retained.

RPAA (Retail Payment Activities Act)

Canadian legislation requiring certain payment service providers, including some MSBs, to register with the Bank of Canada and meet safeguarding, operational, and reporting standards.

Safeguarding (Canada)

The requirement under RPAA to protect client funds through segregation in a bank account or equivalent protection in a jurisdiction with comparable AML and banking standards.

SAR (Suspicious Activity Report)

A mandatory report filed by an MSB to FINTRAC when a transaction or client raises AML/CTF concerns.

SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area)

An EU-wide payment system that standardizes euro transfers across member states, allowing efficient and fast payments.

Segregated Account

A dedicated bank account where client funds are stored separately from the institution's own funds to ensure full protection.

Shelf Company with MSB Registration

A pre-incorporated, already FINTRAC-registered company available for fast transfer of ownership to a buyer.

SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)

A global messaging network for cross-border payments, commonly used for international B2B settlements.

Tax Treaty / Double Taxation Agreement (DTA)

A bilateral agreement between two countries to prevent double taxation on the same income and to establish rules for tax residency and withholding tax rates.

UBO (Ultimate Beneficial Owner)

A natural person who ultimately owns or controls a legal entity. MSBs must identify UBOs during KYB processes.

VASP (Virtual Asset Service Provider)

A business providing crypto-related services like exchange, custody, or wallets. In Canada, VASPs are regulated as MSBs when serving Canadian clients.

Contact Us



BMP Global delivers a comprehensive range of services to support fintech businesses throughout their regulatory and operational journey. We specialize in building licensing frameworks across multiple jurisdictions, offering solutions such as Swiss SRO, Canadian MSB registrations (both newly created and pre-obtained), VASPs, MiCA-compliant CASPs, European EMIs, Hong Kong MSOs, gaming licenses, and non-licensable crypto structures.

Beyond licensing, we provide global incorporation services and help clients identify the right banking infrastructure partners for their needs: from SEPA and SWIFT payment rails to solutions with named IBANs, debit card issuance, and access to liquidity providers. At BMP Global, we don't just help you get licensed - we **accompany you through the entire fintech journey**, ensuring you have the tools, connections, and compliance support to scale successfully.

Start with a **Free Call**.

Dive Into Canadian MSB or Find the Right License



BMP GLOBAL is the trade name of:

SIA OreonTech

FinTech legal and compliance consultancy
Reg.#40203547049
Anninmuizas blvd. 41 - 173
LV-1067, Riga, Latvia

info@bmpglobal.io

bmpglobal.io

WhatsApp +371 28 114 110

Telegram @cbdobmp

[Click here to book a free meeting with us](#)

[Follow us on LinkedIn](#)

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is provided for **introductory and general informational purposes only**. It does not constitute legal, financial, tax, or regulatory advice and should not be relied upon as such. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the content at the time of publication, **BMP Global makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, about the completeness, timeliness, or accuracy of the information provided.**

Readers are encouraged to **seek independent professional advice** before making any decisions or taking any actions related to the subjects discussed herein. Regulatory requirements and interpretations may change without notice, and the applicability of the information will depend on the specific facts and circumstances of each case.

Use of the information contained in this document is **entirely at your own risk and responsibility**. BMP Global, its affiliates, partners, and employees shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential losses or damages arising from reliance on or use of this material.

All references to legislation, regulatory frameworks, and governmental authorities are based on publicly available information and are subject to change. The inclusion of examples, case scenarios, or references to third-party services does not imply endorsement or recommendation.

By accessing and using this material, you acknowledge and agree to the terms of this disclaimer.

