



Protecting Trade-Marks in Canada: Costs & Procedures

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TRADE-MARK PROTECTION
PROCEDURES & ESTIMATED COSTS

Using an unregistered mark confers only limited rights and protection on the user/ owner. Registration provides additional rights and advantages, including: (1) proof of ownership; (2) exclusive use across Canada up to 15 years (subject to renewals); (3) the right to sue others for infringement and claim additional damages; and (4) the right to apply for registration in the U.S., and many other countries, for up to 6 months.

Searches

Prior to investing time and money in developing a new brand or trade-mark, and before using a mark in business or making application to register, it is prudent to undertake searches and to have the searches reviewed by counsel. There are different levels and types of searches which may be appropriate, depending on the circumstances. Clients may also request a written opinion/search summary of results.

	Fees	Disbursements ¹ (Search Company fees)
Full Availability (comprehensive search)	\$600 – 1,000 ²	\$425
Registry (check of Trade-Mark registry)	\$400	\$210
Design (for a logo)	\$400	\$225
Combined Design/ Word	\$500 - \$800 ²	\$585
Combined U.S./ Canadian	\$1,000 - \$1,500 ²	\$1,100

¹ normal 3 day turnaround

² for search and legal opinion

Applications

The following approximate fees apply for a single, straightforward trade-mark application in Canada. In the event of unanticipated complications, additional fees would be payable, based on the amount of time required to deal with the issues.

	Fees	Disbursements (Search Company fees)
Initial consultation / basic pre-screening	\$500 - \$1,000	
Preparing / Filing Trade-Mark Application	\$1,000 - \$1,500	\$250
Responding to Trade-Marks office / prosecuting Application to conclusion	\$500 per basic TM office action	
Registration and obtain Certificate	\$250	\$200

Please note that the process of obtaining registration can be relatively slow, normally between 12-15 months from application to final registration in Canada.

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