Incorporation Cost Checklist

Budgeting a Canadian corporation as a non-resident | Open Corporation For $35

1. Decide the nominee question first

- [ ] Can you supply a director resident in Canada?
- [ ] If not, compare a nominee fee against a jurisdiction with no residency rule.
- [ ] Nominee services run roughly CAD 500 to 2,500 a year.
- [ ] This single decision moves the first-year cost more than anything else.

2. One-time government fees

- [ ] Federal: CAD 200 to 250 online.
- [ ] Ontario: around CAD 300.
- [ ] Alberta: around CAD 275.
- [ ] British Columbia: around CAD 350.
- [ ] NUANS or provincial name search: CAD 20 to 75.

3. One-time service fees

- [ ] Incorporation service from $35 plus the government fee.
- [ ] Compare against law firms at CAD 1,000 to 3,000 and up.
- [ ] Confirm exactly what the quoted price includes.
- [ ] Ask whether the CRA Business Number registration is included.

4. Annual recurring costs

- [ ] Registered office address: CAD 50 to 300 a year.
- [ ] Annual return filing: CAD 20 to 50.
- [ ] Nominee director, if used: CAD 500 to 2,500.
- [ ] T2 corporate tax preparation: CAD 800 to 1,500.

5. Banking costs

- [ ] Account opening is often free.
- [ ] Monthly fees run CAD 10 to 30 and up.
- [ ] Budget for transaction and international wire charges.
- [ ] Allow extra time; banking is usually the slowest step.

6. Costs that appear later

- [ ] Extra-provincial registration if you trade beyond one province.
- [ ] GST/HST once Canadian sales pass CAD 30,000 a year.
- [ ] Payroll deductions if you hire anyone working in Canada.
- [ ] Sector licences and permits where your industry requires them.

7. Before you commit

- [ ] Confirm the current director residency rule for your jurisdiction.
- [ ] Confirm the current government fee directly with the registry.
- [ ] Total the first year, not just the incorporation.
- [ ] Total year two as well, since the recurring lines repeat.

Want the real number for your case?

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