



COLLEGE OF PATENT  
AGENTS & TRADEMARK AGENTS

COLLÈGE DES AGENTS DE BREVETS ET  
DES AGENTS DE MARQUES DE COMMERCE

# Call for Comments

## Proposed Licence Fee Ranges for 2027 and 2028

# Context

As an independent regulator, CPATA's funding comes exclusively from fees, 90% of which are licence fees. The College sets licence fees at amounts sufficient to have the necessary resources to meet its mandate. CPATA is taking steps to adjust licence fees for 2027 and 2028.

**Between mid-January and February 27, 2026, CPATA will hold a call for comments on the proposed licence fee ranges for 2027–2028, with the expectation of a moderate fee reduction for each of these years.**

Subsequently, the Board of Directors will determine the fee amounts, and CPATA will work with the Government of Canada toward implementing the fee changes in Schedule 1 of CPATA's By-laws, which are drafted with the Department of Justice.



# About CPATA

CPATA is the independent public interest regulator of patent agents and trademark agents in Canada. We regulate approximately 2200 licensees throughout Canada, in English and French.

Our vision is to provide the public with access to a globally-respected body of patent agents and trademark agents who are highly skilled, ethical, and current in their knowledge.

CPATA's mandate, as entrusted to the College by the Government of Canada through the CPATA Act is broad, and includes:

- setting competency standards for patent agents and trademark agents;
- setting fair entry-to-practice requirements that develop competent patent agents and trademark agents, including developing and administering fair and defensible qualifying examinations;
- implementing the Code of Professional Conduct that applies to all agents;
- managing a Public Register of all licensees and Foreign Practitioners;
- creating professional regulatory systems to address complaints against licensees and with respect to unauthorized practice;
- establishing expectations for professional liability insurance, continuing professional development and pro bono requirements; and,
- promoting innovation in the delivery of patent and trademark services.



# 2026-2028 Strategic Framework

CPATA's Strategic Framework for 2023-2025 came to a close at the end of last year. As CPATA looks forward to its [2026-2028 Strategic Framework](#), it is evaluating the financial resources required to meet its objectives.

Key initiatives in the coming years include:

- developing supervised practice training resources to support trainees and supervisors;
- consulting with the professions and the public to develop continuing professional development requirements, returning to active practice requirements and pro-bono service approaches;
- continuing to develop and administer the qualifying examinations;
- continuing to address agent conduct inquiries, complaints and unauthorized practice and fraud concerns;
- continuing to support the evolution of patent agent and trademark agent privilege in the public interest; and
- continuing to explore potential new entryways into the professions.





# CPATA's Financial Position

## Funding Model and Budget Process

CPATA is an independent, professional regulator. The College's funding comes exclusively from fees, 90% of which are licence fees. The remaining funding comes from exam fees, application and certificate fees, and interest income. CPATA has never received funding from the Government of Canada or other sources.

CPATA is set up as a corporation without share capital under the CPATA Act. The overarching budget principle is to have sufficient funds to meet our statutory mandate and provides long-term stability for the organization.

CPATA is transparent about its budget processes, and all budgets are publicly available on this [page](#). CPATA's annual budgets for the following year are approved by the Board of Directors at its public December meeting. All materials for CPATA's Board of Directors meetings are made public prior to the meeting on this [page](#).

## Revenue Budget

CPATA's **revenue budget** is calculated by multiplying the projected number of licences expected by the licence fee amounts, then adding additional revenue from exam fees, application and certificate fees and interest income. As CPATA's budget is approved in December for the following year, and the licence renewal period is between February and March, CPATA's revenue budgets must be based on projected numbers of licences (and agents).

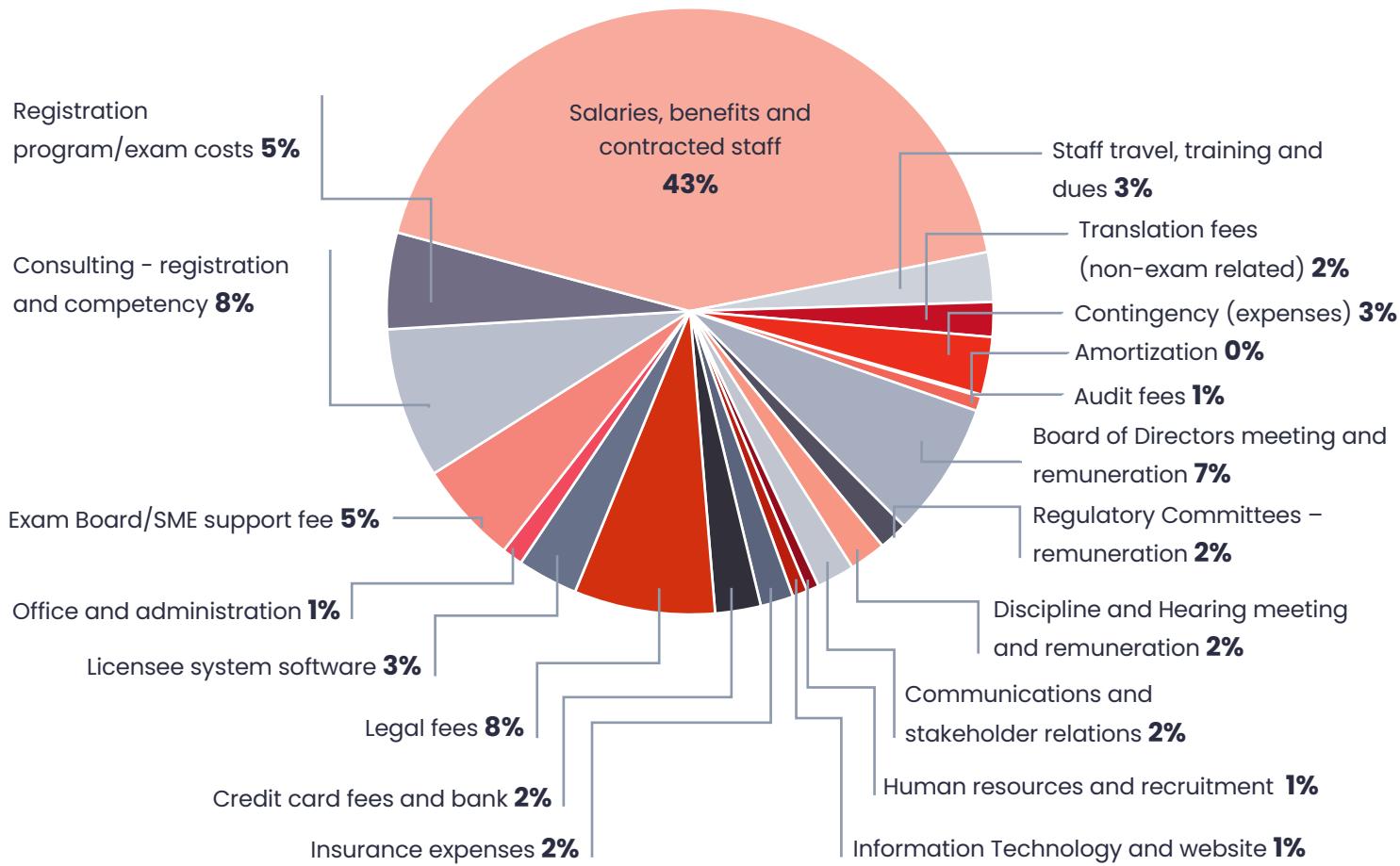
For 2026, based on available licensee information, CPATA has projected a 4% decrease in the number of Class 1 trademark agents and a stable number of Class 1 patent agents, as well as stable numbers of Class 2 and Class 4 trademark agents and patent agents.

Based on these licensing figures, **CPATA's revenue budget for 2026 is \$3,990,000.**

# Expense Budget

CPATA's **expense budget** is built on a zero-based budgeting method. This means CPATA strives to match income with expenses as closely as possible. Expenses are based on prior regulatory experiences regarding core ongoing regulatory functions such as setting exams, the number and nature of complaints and unauthorized practice matters and considering program costs for specific initiatives such as policy development of continuing professional development requirements or resource development for trainees and supervisors. **For 2026, CPATA's expense budget is \$3,249,000.**

Major expense categories for CPATA include salaries for its 8 staff members; Board of Directors and Committee remuneration; professional competency and exam development costs; exam administration costs; and legal fees mostly related to professional responsibility (complaints and discipline).



## Expenses

	Budget 2026
Amortization	\$4,000
Audit fees	25,000
Board of Directors meeting and remuneration	234,000
Regulatory Committees – remuneration	50,000
Discipline and Hearing meeting and remuneration	63,000
Communications and stakeholder relations	66,000
Human resources and recruitment	21,000
Information Technology and website	26,000
Insurance expenses	57,000
Credit card fees and bank charges	79,000
Legal fees	244,000
Licensee system software	105,000
Office and administration	36,000
Exam Board/SME support fees	178,000
Consulting – registration and competency	261,000
Registration program/exam costs	167,000
Salaries, benefits and contracted staff	1,387,000
Staff travel, training and dues	86,000
Translation fees (non-exam related)	60,000
Contingency (expenses)	100,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,249,000</b>

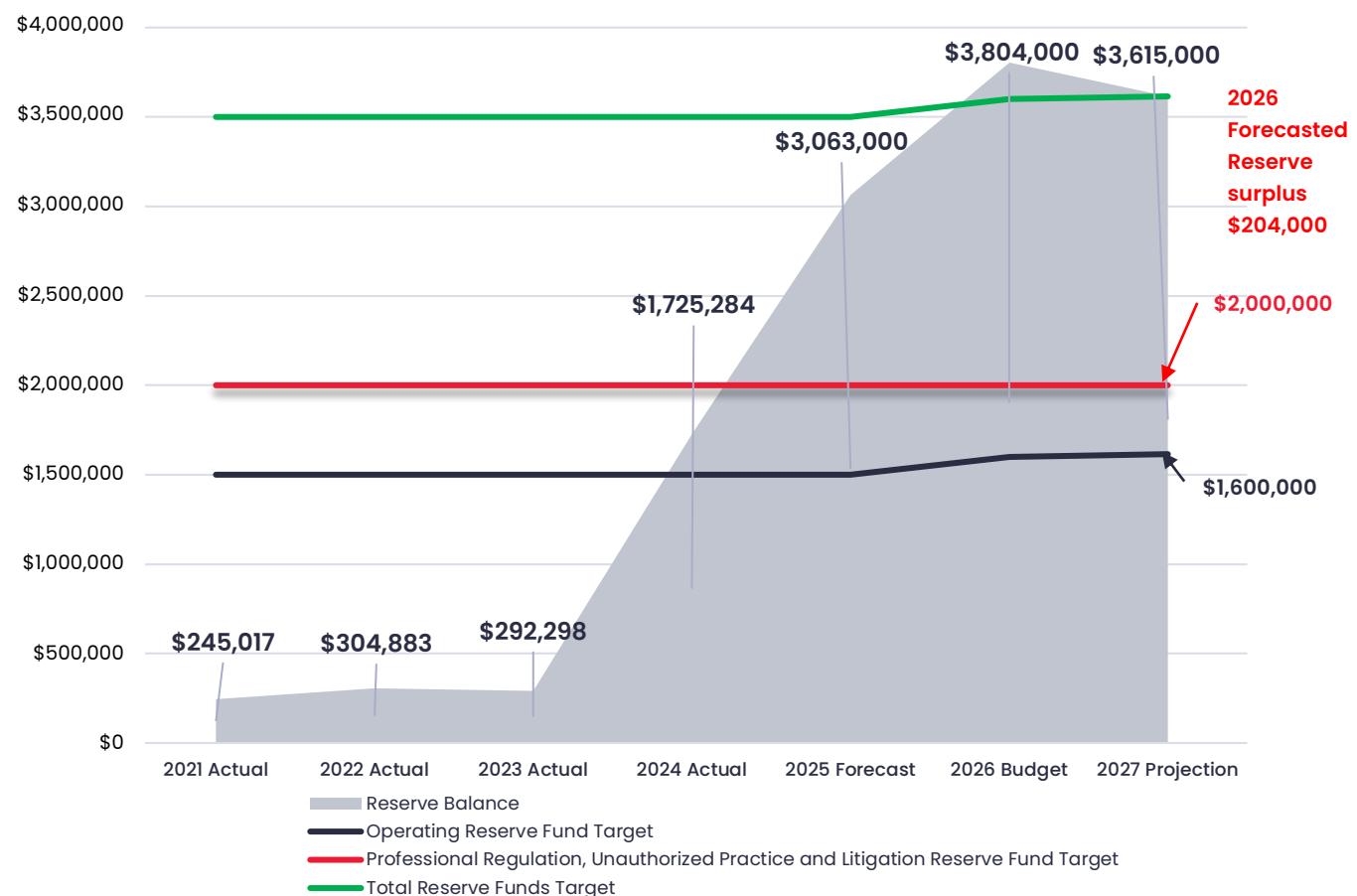
## Reserves

Regulators require financial reserves to ensure the stability, continuity and resilience of the organization. It is best practice for regulators to set aside and invest money to safeguard against unexpected events, address unpredictable unbudgeted expenses, respond to emerging needs, support investigations and discipline proceedings and more. Reserve funds are even more important to CPATA as a new regulator since the College does not have historical data and trend information about the size of the professions and the volume or cost of professional regulation matters.

In 2024, CPATA established two separate reserve funds. The **Operating Reserve Fund** was set up to support the College's day-to-day operations. The **Professional Regulation Reserve Fund** (renamed the Professional Regulation, Unauthorized Practice and Litigation Reserve Fund in 2025) was set up to support the College's professional regulatory costs, including legal fees, investigations, complaints, discipline and unauthorized practice matters.

Initial target amounts were established in 2024 at 3-6 months of operating expenses for the Operating Reserve Fund and \$750,000 for the Professional Regulation, Unauthorized Practice and Litigation Reserve Fund. In 2025, a thorough review of the reserve policies and information of over 50+ regulators was undertaken to update CPATA's target amounts to be appropriate for the long term. The new target amounts are a minimum of 6 months operating expenses for the Operating Reserve Fund, set at \$1,600,000 for 2026, and \$2,000,000 for the Professional Regulation, Unauthorized Practice and Litigation Reserve Fund (combined \$3,600,000 for 2026).

At the end of 2026, CPATA expects to meet these reserve targets, if we do not need to withdraw from these funds in the meantime.



# Long-Term Budget Assumptions and Proposed Licence Fee Ranges for 2027 and 2028

**CPATA is taking steps to adjust licence fees for 2027 and 2028, with the expectation of a moderate fee reduction for these years.**

CPATA has modeled preliminary, high-level projections for its expenses and revenues for the next few years, to propose licence fee ranges for 2027 and 2028. CPATA expects that its expense budget will increase over time due to normal inflationary pressures experienced by all regulators. Following 2026, we have assumed stable numbers of licensees, with new Class 3 agents offsetting any attrition in Class 1 agents, to calculate the projected revenue budget. Based on these projections, CPATA is proposing licence fee ranges for 2027 and 2028 which will be required to balance the budget for those years.

Below are the current estimated ranges being considered for Class 1 and 2 licensees.

Item	2026 Fee	Proposed Fee Range for 2027	Proposed Fee Range for 2028 (2027 + 2% CPI increase)
Issuance or renewal of a class 1 licence	\$1,877	\$1,450 – \$1,550	\$1,480 – \$1,580
Renewal of a class 1 licence for a licensee who is both a patent agent and a trademark agent	\$2,815	\$2,175 – \$2,325	\$2,218 – \$2,372
Issuance or renewal of a class 2 licence	\$1,564	\$1,208 – \$1,292	\$1,232 – \$1,318
Renewal of a class 2 licence for a licensee who is both a patent agent and a trademark agent	\$2,346	\$1,812 – \$1,938	\$1,848 – \$1,977

CPATA sets fees in [Schedule 1 of its By-laws](#). The proposed fee ranges for Class 1 and 2 described above will be finalized by amending items 10–13 of Schedule 1. The other items addressed in Schedule 1 (exam fees, application fees, class 3 and 4 licence fees, etc.) would remain indexed to inflation each year according to the Consumer Price Index.

CPATA's By-laws are regulations for the purposes of Canada's *Statutory Instruments Act* and are therefore drafted in conjunction with the Department of Justice and published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Responses to this call for comments, as well as actual financial data such as licence renewal numbers and expenses in 2026, will be used by the Board of Directors to help inform its decision on fees for 2027 and 2028. CPATA will subsequently work with the Department of Justice to adjust Schedule 1 of CPATA's By-laws for 2027 to reflect the new fees.

Licence fees beyond 2028 may be aligned with expense budgets or may be adjusted by CPI if appropriate. CPATA will continue to carefully manage its programs and expenses, and will continue to assess its operational needs for beyond 2028. CPATA will seek input from the professions and the public on any further licence fee changes beyond cost-of-living increases.

## How to Provide Input

**CPATA is taking steps to adjust licence fees for 2027 and 2028, with the expectation of a moderate fee reduction for these years.**



Before **February 27, 2026**, please provide your feedback in response to this consultation paper by:

1. Filling out [this survey](#)

*OR*

2. E-mailing your response to [info@cpata-cabamc.ca](mailto:info@cpata-cabamc.ca)