

FAQ

Tariff and Customs Advisory Program

1. What is the Tariff and Customs Advisory Program (TCAP)?

The TCAP provides Atlantic Canadian businesses with up to 12 hours of subsidized consulting from customs brokers, international trade consultants, or trade lawyers, up to a maximum value of \$1750.00 (plus HST). It is designed to help businesses navigate U.S. tariffs, customs challenges, and supply chain issues.

2. Who is eligible for the program?

To be eligible, companies must:

- Be a registered company, headquartered in Atlantic Canada, with exportable products and services, impacted by tariffs and retaliatory tariffs.
- Be in good standing with CRA and TCAP's federal and provincial partners.

3. How much does it cost to participate?

There is a one-time participation fee of \$99.00 (no HST). This is payable after your application is approved and can be paid via cheque, e-transfer, credit card or direct deposit.

4. What kinds of support can I get through this program?

Support may include:

- Understanding U.S. tariff impacts on your products.
- Exploring ways to minimize duties and penalties.
- Improving trade compliance and customs documentation.
- Optimizing supply chain strategies.
- Getting legal advice on trade restrictions or disputes.
- Understanding trade agreements and compliance
- Navigating customs and regulatory requirements
- Identifying cost-saving opportunities like duty drawbacks and free trade zones
- Understanding the tariff impacts of diversifying to a new market

5. How do I apply?

You can apply through the program's [Application Portal – Tariff and Customs Advisory Program](#). The program is administered by the [Nova Scotia Association of Community Business Development Corporations \(NSACBDC\)](#) and reviewed in partnership with ACOA and provincial government representatives.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until January 31, 2026, or until funding is depleted. We anticipate a high level of interest in this program so recommend you apply early as spaces are limited.

6. Who are the consultants?

Companies choose their own consultants, with expertise in customs and tariffs (custom brokers, trade professionals and trade lawyers). NSACBDC has created a directory to help you find the right expertise. Priority is given to providers based in Atlantic Canada.

7. Can I work with a consultant I already know?

Yes, if the consultant is a licensed customs broker, trade lawyer, or international trade professional they are eligible to provide the consulting.

8. What happens after I'm approved?

Once your application is approved:

- You'll receive a confirmation email and an invoice for the \$99.00 (no HST) fee.
- You'll choose your consultant.
- A letter will be issued via email to your company and the consultant outlining the scope of support.
- After consulting is complete, the consultant will invoice NSACBDC, and you'll be asked to complete a short program evaluation. In some cases, the consultant's contract for services may require the company to pay the invoice directly, in these cases the NSACBDC will reimburse the client upon proof of payment of the invoice.

9. When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply is January 31, 2026.

10. When does the program end?

All consulting services must be completed and invoiced by February 28, 2026.

11. How do I know if my company needs this program?

If your company exports goods or services to the U.S. and faces challenges related to tariffs, customs compliance, or supply chain costs, TCAP can provide valuable insights and solutions.

12. What industries can benefit from the program?

TCAP is beneficial for various industries, including:

- Manufacturers exporting goods to the U.S.
- Food & Beverage companies affected by agricultural tariffs.
- Retailers & Distributors exporting consumer goods.
- Tech & Industrial companies navigating complex trade policies.

13. What happens if I need more than 12 hours of consulting support?

The program covers up to 12 hours of expert guidance, up to a maximum value of \$1750.00 (plus HST). If additional support is required beyond this, businesses can

discuss extended consulting arrangements directly with their assigned expert.

14. Is my business information kept confidential?

Yes. All program administrators and government committee members participating in the program are required to maintain confidentiality and will not share any proprietary or strategic business information without your consent.

15. Who do I contact if I have questions?

For additional information, please visit the [Tariff and Customs Advisory Program](#) webpage or contact the [Regional Business Development Advisor](#) for your region of the province.

The Tariff and Customs Advisory Program is delivered by the Nova Scotia Association of Community Business Development Corporations and is an initiative of the Atlantic Trade and Investment Growth Strategy (ATIGS), funded in part by the Government of Canada and the four Atlantic Canadian provinces.

