



FOR CANADIAN & CROSS-BORDER SHOPIFY SELLERS

# The Canadian Seller's Sales Tax Map.

Where you have to register, what you have to charge, and the one Shopify setting that keeps tax collection automatic without paying Shopify's new per-order fee. One reference, every province.

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## COVERS

GST / HST + all four PST provinces

## READ TIME

About 6 minutes

## BEST FOR

Shopify, Amazon, DTC sellers

### PART ONE

Shopify's new tax fee, the forced migration, and how to stay on a free setting that still does the work.

### PART TWO

The province-by-province registration map, the rates, and the four traps that catch growing sellers.

## PART ONE

# Shopify now charges to calculate your tax.

Shopify Tax looks up the rate for each order and applies it at checkout. It used to be free. It now carries a per-order fee once your store passes a sales threshold, and Shopify is moving stores onto it automatically.

**WHAT IT COSTS****0.25% per order**

On Canadian orders, capped at \$0.99 each, once you pass \$100,000 in sales. US orders run 0.35%. Small per order, real over a year.

**THE CATCH****Auto-migration**

Even stores on the free Basic Tax setting are scheduled to be switched to the paid service unless you opt out before the date shown in your admin.

**How to stay free, in three clicks:**

- 1** Open `Settings > Taxes and duties`, then click into **Canada**.
- 2** Click **Manage**, then select **Basic Tax**. It is free, and it still applies the correct provincial rate at checkout automatically.
- 3** **Save**. That locks in your choice and opts you out of the migration to the paid service.

**Why this is an easy call in Canada.** Canadian rates run from 5% to 15%, they are set at the province level, and they almost never change. Basic Tax handles that for free. You give up only rooftop-level precision and liability alerts, neither of which a Canada-only seller needs. Skip Manual Tax, which makes you maintain every rate by hand for the same price of zero.

## PART TWO

## Where you have to register.

A setting picks the rate. It does not tell you where you are required to register and collect, and that is the part worth getting right. The federal piece is the same everywhere. Four provinces run their own tax with their own rules.

TAX & JURISDICTION	RATE	YOU GENERALLY MUST REGISTER WHEN...
<b>GST / HST</b> Federal · CRA	<b>5%–15%</b>	Your taxable sales pass <b>\$30,000</b> over four consecutive calendar quarters. HST applies in ON (13%), NS (14%), and NB / NL / PE (15%); GST alone is 5%.
<b>British Columbia</b> PST	<b>7%</b>	You are located outside BC and your sales to BC customers pass <b>\$10,000</b> in any 12-month period.
<b>Saskatchewan</b> PST	<b>6%</b>	<b>NO THRESHOLD</b> You make <b>any</b> taxable sale into Saskatchewan, unless you sell only through a registered marketplace.
<b>Manitoba</b> RST	<b>7%</b>	Generally at <b>\$30,000</b> in Manitoba sales, but out-of-province online sellers are often required to register at <b>\$10,000</b> .
<b>Quebec</b> QST	<b>9.975%</b>	Your sales to Quebec consumers pass <b>\$30,000</b> in any 12 months, under the specified QST system for out-of-province suppliers.
<b>Alberta</b> + NT, NU, YT	<b>5%</b>	GST only. <b>No provincial sales tax</b> to register for.

**Rates current as of 2026, including Nova Scotia's drop to 14%.** Thresholds and rules change. Treat this as your starting map, not a filing position. When you are close to a line, confirm it before you assume.

## PART TWO

## Four traps that catch growing sellers.

These are the ones we see most often. None of them show up in a Shopify setting, and each can mean back-tax you have to pay out of your own margin.

### 1 Treating \$30,000 as a per-province number

The federal threshold is your total taxable sales across all of Canada, not per region. Cross it once and you register federally.

### 2 Assuming Saskatchewan has a safe harbour

It does not. A single taxable sale into the province can create a registration obligation, even with no presence there.

### 3 Thinking inventory in Canada flips a switch

Storing stock in a Canadian warehouse is one factor the CRA weighs, not an automatic trigger on its own. It is worth a proper look, not a guess.

### 4 Leaving recoverable tax on the table

Registered sellers can often recover the GST/HST they pay on Shopify fees, advertising, freight, and customs. Many never claim it.

#### WHERE JONES & COSMAN COMES IN

## We tell you exactly where you need to be registered.

We work with Canadian and cross-border e-commerce sellers to map your registrations province by province, set up clean collection in Shopify and Amazon, and recover the tax you are owed on your costs. The fee is the easy part. Knowing your obligations before they become a problem is what we do.

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