Guide to Firm Registration Renewal



Published: February 2024

WHY IS FIRM RENEWAL REQUIRED?

The registration of each registered firm is valid from the date of registration to the 31st day of March annually. All firm registrations must be renewed annually in accordance with By-Law 267.

Annually, Firm Registration Renewal involves:

1.
Providing a fulltime employee
count for the
firm

2.
Listing/updating
firm's
partner/ownership
structure

3.
Update/add
addresses for
other office
locations

4.
Payment of
Annual
Renewal Fee

WHAT ARE THE DATES TO KNOW? February 2024 Renewal notices sent to all Firm Represely will receive a separate notice for each receive.

Renewal notices sent to all Firm Representative via email. You will receive a separate notice for each registered firm for which you are listed as the representative. Reminder notice. Mid-March 2024 March 31, 2024 Final deadline for renewal. April 2, 2024 Suspension warning - deadline to complete firm registration renewal. If not complete within thirty (30) days, firm registration will be suspended. May 1, 2024 Suspensions issued and suspension fee applied. Last date to apply to have a suspension lifted. June 3, 2024 June 4, 2024 Revocations issued.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Before Logging In

The following items will be required in order to complete your firm registration renewal(s):

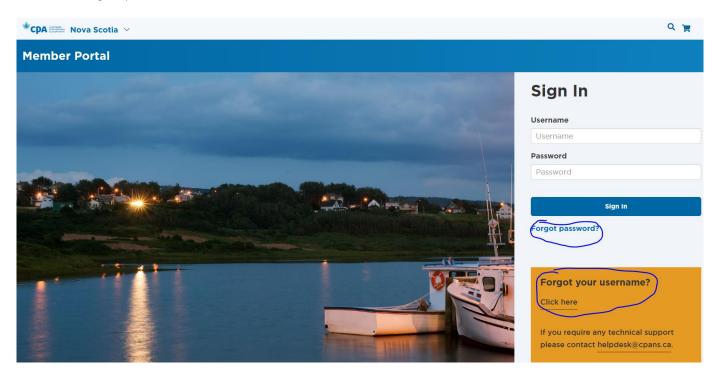
| 1. | Full-time employee count for each firm you are renewing. | |
|----|--|--|
| 2. | List of the firm's partner/ownership with the current shareholder amounts. | |
| 3. | Assisting Accountant Information, if applicable (in the case of a sole proprietorship or operating professional corporation with only a sole CPA owner). | |
| 4. | Other office address(es), if applicable. | |
| 5. | Copy of Discovery Insurance Policy. | |

Setting up your password for the first time

1. From the CPA Nova Scotia website home-page, click the green button "Member Portal":



2. If you have forgotten either or both your username and/or password, click on the "Forgot password?" link under the Username and/or Password boxes:



3. Enter your **email address** in the Forgot Password box and click **'Submit'**. <u>Your username is always your preferred email address</u> with CPA Nova Scotia.

Passwords must be a minimum of 10 characters with at least 1 letter and 1 number.

If you do not receive the password reset email after 20 minutes or have any technical issues, please contact helpdesk@cpans.ca.

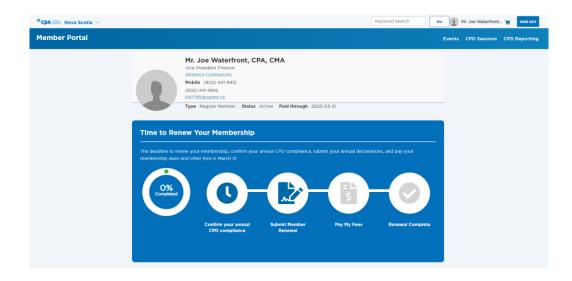
| Renewal Fees | Fee | HST | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Firm Registration Renewal Fee | \$75.00 | \$11.25 | \$86.25 |

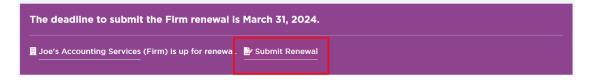
HOW IS FIRM RENEWAL COMPLETED?

After Logging In

You will be taken to the landing page that displays your personal Membership Renewal Progress Bar as well as a purple box indicating the need to renew all firm registrations for which you are listed as the firm representative.

1. Submit Firm Renewal





- Click on "Submit Renewal"
- If you are the representative for more than one registered firm, additional firms will also be listed here. Each one must be completed separately.

Step 1 - Firm Information

• This displays the current firm information on file. You will not be able to make any changes here other than to add or change a website address. Any other changes must be requested directly by contacting registrations@cpans.ca.

Step 2 - Training Office Information

 You will be required to confirm whether or your firm trains candidates in the Experience Verification and/or Pre-Approved Program Routes.

Step 3 - Firm Representative

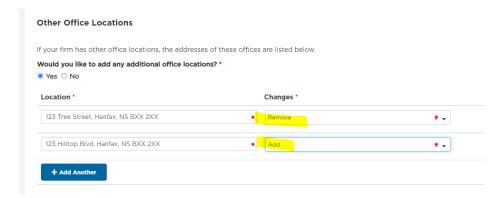
• If you are not the current firm representative, you must contact us directly at registrations@cpans.ca so that we may make the change and give the new representative access to the renewal.

Step 4 - Registration Options

- You have one of two options:
 - o Renew my firm's registration proceed through remainder of Steps; or
 - o Deregistering my Firm -see Deregistration Section in this document.

Step 5 - Other Office Locations

- You must add any additional office location that you may have.
- If you want to remove one click the "remove" in the "Changes" Column:



Step 6 - Firm Size

• Please enter the number of full-time employees (including CPAs, accounting technicians, etc.) employed at the firm (including owners/partners)

Step 7 - Assisting Accountant

- If you are a sole practitioner or sole owner of an operating professional corporation, in accordance with By-Law #311A, sole practicing CPA's must provide written confirmation of the appointment of an assisting accountant to be responsible for returning client records in the event of the appointing member's death or incapacity.
- You must choose one of two options appoint an assisting accountant or provide appoint CPA Nova Scotia to appoint an Assisting Accountant in the event of your death or incapacity and provide your emergency contact information in the area provided.

Step 8 - Partners

• If there are partners in the firm, they will be listed with the current percentages of ownership. If no percentages are shown, you must click "yes" that you want to make changes to the shareholder ownership and then enter the amounts for each. You will also be able to add or remove shareholders as required.

Step 9 - Areas of Practice

• You will be presented with a list of current services offered by the registered firm. You will be able to accept as is or make changes.

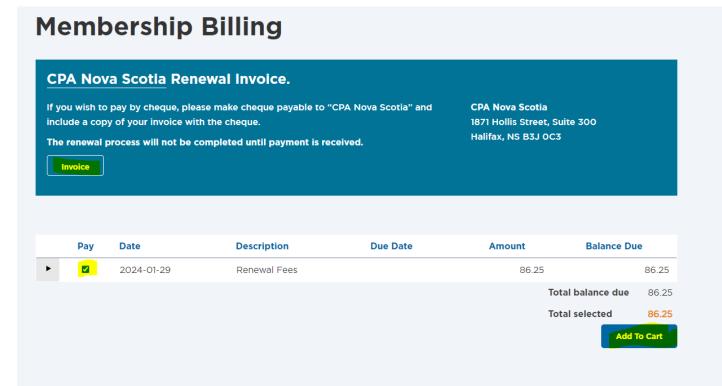
Step 10 -Declaration

- You must select the checkbox here to indicate your concurrence with the renewal declaration.
- Type your full name in the box indicated.
- Click on Proceed to Fees.

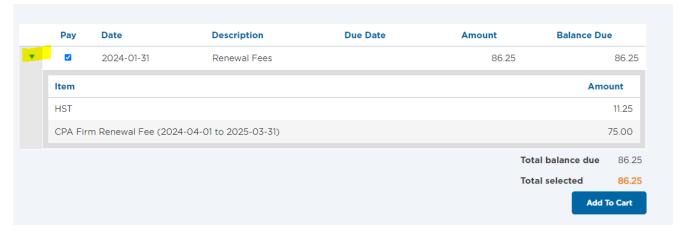
2. Firm Renewal Fees

Step 11 - Fees Payment

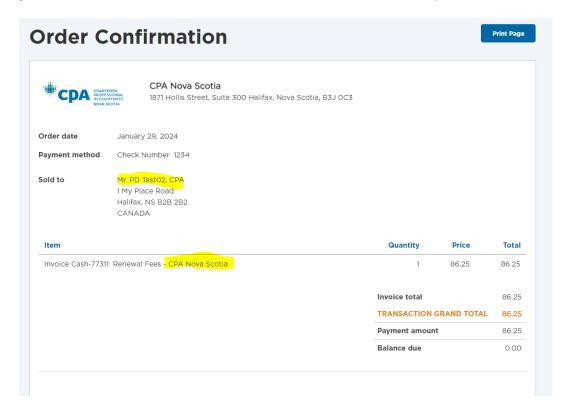
- Here you will be able to access your invoice to print and send with your cheque for payment or you can add the items to your cart and pay online.
- If you opt to pay online, you must click the box under "Pay" and then "Add to Cart".



• If you want to see a breakdown of the fees, click the arrow beside the check box:



You will also see an Order Confirmation below that you can print for your records. The "Sold to" will be your name, but the firm name will show in the Item description:



3. Firm Deregistration

If you wish to deregister your firm, the process is slightly different. You will still log in as per the above and click on "Submit Renewal" for the firm you wish to deregister.

Step 1 - Firm Information

• This displays the current firm information on file. You will not be able to make any changes here other than to add or change a website address. Any other changes must be requested directly by contacting registrations@cpans.ca.

Step 2 - Training Office Information

 You will be required to confirm whether or your firm trains candidates in the Experience Verification and/or Pre-Approved Program Routes.

Step 3 - Firm Representative

• If you are not the current firm representative, you must contact us directly at registrations@cpans.ca so that we may make the change and give the new representative access to the renewal.

Step 4 - Registration Options

• Select 'Deregistering my Firm'

Step 5 - Deregistration Request

- Please read the information carefully. You may not apply to deregister your firm if:
 - There are complaints pending and the request is not supported in writing by the Investigation Panel;
 - o There are outstanding fees or other amounts owing to CPA Nova Scotia;
 - o If the firm is still offering public accounting or other regulated services to the public;
 - o The firm does not currently hold money or other property in trust for clients and all client matters must be complete.
- Registered personal professional corporations (PCs) should consider the impact of deregistration to an operating PC, specifically, Bylaw 246 (d) to (e).
- Enter the date all practice ceased.
- You may <u>not</u> apply for deregistration if your firm will be ceasing practice at a future date. The firm registration must be renewed.
- You <u>cannot</u> proceed with deregistration if your firm name contains a protected designation and still has an active status with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies (Service Nova Scotia).

Step 6 - Professional Liability Insurance Declaration for Former Firms

- Please select one of the following options:
 - o My firm has ceased all practice; or
 - o My firm has been purchased by another firm
- In the case that your firm has ceased all practice, you must provide the Discovery Insurance Policy. You will not be able to deregister if this is not in place. It must be in place for at least six (6) years from the date the applicant ceases practice.
- In the case that your firm has been purchased by another firm, you will have to enter the successor firm and indicate whether or not they will be covering the discovery insurance. In cases where they will not be, the discovery insurance details must be entered here.

Step 7 - Declaration

- You must select the checkbox here to indicate your concurrence with the renewal declaration.
- Type your full name in the box indicated.
- Click on Submit.

Once all details have been entered, and you click "Submit", it will take you to a screen indicating that the request has been submitted and that CPA Nova Scotia will follow up regarding next steps.

Firm registration renewal is considered complete when all required steps of the renewal are submitted, and payment is received. You will no longer have a purple alert box on the home page of your member portal log in.

Need help?

Contact <u>helpdesk@cpans.ca</u>