

Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2025 Annual Report

Date: May 26, 2026
To: Economic and Community Development Committee
From: Executive Director, Court Services Division
Wards: All

SUMMARY

In accordance with the Relationship Framework approved by City Council for the Toronto Licensing Tribunal (TLT), the Chair's 2025 Annual Report is being communicated to the Economic and Community Development Committee for information. Court Services provides administrative support to the TLT and is bringing this report forward for the first time. The decision to have Court Services submit this report was made jointly by Court Services and Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS).

The TLT is an independent quasi-judicial body that makes decisions about business licensing matters brought forward by MLS, or at the request of a licence holder or applicant, in accordance with Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing, Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire, and for short-term rental companies, Chapter 547, Licensing and Registration of Short-term Rentals.

The TLT is comprised of seven members inclusive of the Chair, appointed by City Council for a four-year term, and it receives administrative support from the City of Toronto's Court Services Division. The Tribunal operated with five active members in 2025. The decision to continue to operate with two vacancies was based on manageable caseload. Training and development for members continued throughout the year, and all member training and onboarding requirements were met.

In 2025, the TLT scheduled 117 appearances before a hearing panel, reflecting a 41% increase compared to 83 appearances in 2024. There was a total of 44 scheduled hearing dates, and 1 request for an in-person hearing date. The panel members were seized on the in-person matter that was heard over the course of 4 days. In 2025, the top licence types that appeared before the Tribunal were:

- Taxicab Owner's Licence
- Vehicle-For-Hire Driver's Licence
- Eating Establishments Licence

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Court Services recommends that:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 27, 2025, Economic and Community Development Committee received for information EC13.2. Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2024 Annual Report

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EC21.2>

On May 29, 2024, Economic and Community Development Committee received for information EC13.2. Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2023 Annual Report

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EC13.2>

On May 31, 2023, Economic and Community Development Committee received for information EC4.5: Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2022 Annual Report

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EC4.5>

On April 12, 2022, General Government and Licensing Committee received for information: GL30.18: Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2021 Annual Report

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.GL30.18>

On November 2, 2021, General Government and Licensing Committee received for information GL27.20: Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2020 Annual Report

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.GL27.20>

On November 2, 2020, General Government and Licensing Committee received for information GL17.7: Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2019 Annual Report and Update on 2018 Recommendations.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.GL17.7>

On October 7, 2019, General Government and Licensing Committee received for information GL8.18: Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2018 Annual Report.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.GL8.18>

On June 14, 2018, Licensing and Standards Committee received for information LS26.1: Toronto Licensing Tribunal 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.LS26.1>

COMMENTS

The TLT is an independent, quasi-judicial body consisting of seven members chosen by Toronto City Council (six members and one Chair) for a four year term. The Tribunal conducts hearings and renders decisions on the refusal, granting, suspension or imposition of conditions on licences where an applicant or licensee appeals a staff decision or MLS staff seek enforcement of the requirements of a licence.

The TLT receives administrative support from the City's Court Services Division. Hearings are open to the public and are scheduled every Thursday, unless otherwise noted. The Tribunal conducts itself in accordance with its own Rules of Procedure and the Statutory Powers Procedure Act and its members are bound by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. The Tribunal has the authority to:

- Approve or refuse an application for a licence;
- Approve or refuse the renewal of a licence;
- Place conditions on a licence; or
- Suspend or revoke a licence.

A wide variety of businesses such as restaurants, public garages, and commercial parking lots, as well as mobile businesses such as vehicles-for-hire, and driving instructors, operating in the City of Toronto must obtain a licence.

MLS may refer a licence to the Tribunal for a hearing if the licensing by-law or any other law has been breached, as well as refuse to issue or renew a business licence because the licensee has exceeded the business licensing thresholds as a result of Criminal Code, Highway Traffic Act, or by-law convictions.

Those who have made an application for a business licence, changes to an existing licence, or a renewal, and are denied by MLS may request a hearing before the Tribunal by completing and submitting a Request for Hearing form.

The Tribunal will issue Written Reasons for Decision for contested cases before the Tribunal, which are posted online. In 2025, the Tribunal issued three Written Reasons for Decision following a hearing.

The Toronto Licensing Tribunal Chair's Annual Report, contained in Attachment 1 to the report, covers TLT activities from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

CONTACT

Brian Halloran, Manager, Court Operations - Tribunals, Court Services, 416-392-5546, brian.halloran@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dianne Kasias
Executive Director, Court Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Toronto Licensing Tribunal Chair's 2025 Annual Report