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SUMMARY REPORT

Ontario Municipal Tobacco and Vaping Retail Licensing Summary-2025

2nd Edition: February 2026

Background

Those who sell tobacco and/or vaping products in Ontario must abide by the rules outlined in the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, for age restriction, signage, display and promotion, and type of products sold. As of July 1, 2018 all Ontario retailers selling tobacco products were required to hold a provincial tobacco retail dealer's permit issued under the Tobacco Tax Act (TTA).[1] There is no such permit or licensing required for retailers selling vaping products or other nicotine products (e.g. nicotine pouches) in Ontario.

As of January 1, 2020, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act requires tobacconist (at least 85% of the retailer's inventory at the time of registration must consist of specialty tobacco products) and specialty vape stores (at least 85% of its sales from the previous 12 months are from vaping products) to register with their respective local public health unit (no fee associated with this registration).[2] Tobacconists established prior to 2020 require only 50% of sales to consist of specialty tobacco products.[2]

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act does not prevent municipalities from imposing stronger local tobacco or vaping control measures. The Act explicitly states that where there is a conflict between its provisions and those of municipalities, "the provision that is more restrictive" prevails.[3]

The regulatory authority of municipalities in Canada is set by provincial law. In Ontario the Municipal Act and the City of Toronto Act, provides authority to the 443 Ontario municipalities and the capital city. The Ontario Municipal Act gives local governments broad scope of authority for by-laws concerning 'health, safety and well-being of persons', for 'consumer protection' and for 'business licensing'.[4]

The Smoke-Free Ontario Scientific Advisory Committee (SFO-SAC) 2016 report provided evidence that retailer licenses and retail license fees can increase compliance with in-store tobacco retail restrictions and reduce the number of licensed retailers.[5]

Objective

This summary captures municipal tobacco and vaping retail licensing by-laws in Ontario.

How to Use This Document

The by-laws listed in the table below appear in alphabetical order of jurisdiction.

Legend for items included in the by-laws:

T = Tobacco Products

V = Vaping Products

The licensing fees documented do not necessarily capture total cost for municipal licensing, additional fees and taxes may also be required. Costs may also have changed since the writing of this document.

The list of by-laws does not necessarily capture all by-laws in the province. This first edition was developed using Canadian Cancer Society's Tobacco Retailer Licence Fee Summary[6] and Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada's Tobacco Retailing: A scan of available regulatory approaches.[7] Updates to this edition were made based on those submitted by Public Health Unit staff as of September 30, 2025.

The document will be updated as new and revised by-laws are developed and amended.

For additional Ontario municipal tobacco and vaping by-laws see Ontario Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis By-law Summary.

Note on Terminology

Any reference to tobacco in this document refers to commercial use of tobacco, which is not associated with the sacred and traditional uses of tobacco, which Indigenous peoples have been using for thousands of years. Traditional or sacred tobacco differs from commercial tobacco both in the way that it is harvested and in the way it is used in ceremony and prayer, often for healing and purifying.

Revision History

The revisions outlined in the table below represent the most recent updates to this document. The updates reflect all changes made since the last published version.

Page number	Municipality/Region
4	Chatham-Kent
5	Hamilton
5	Kingston
5	London
5	Markham
6	Mississauga
6	Oakville
7	Oshawa
7	Ottawa
7	Richmond Hill
8	Toronto
8	Vaughan
8	Windsor

Ontario Tobacco and Vaping Retail Licensing By-law Summary Table

Jurisdiction	Retail Category	T	V	Retail Licence By-Law	Description of By-law Requirements	Description of By-law Restrictions	Date Passed Last Date Amended	Initial Licensing Fee	Licence Renewal Fee
Brampton	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-law No. 184-2023, Schedule 27	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferrable. • License is automatically suspended when an automatic prohibition order is issued by the Ministry of Health for sale of tobacco and vaping products.	Nov 1, 2023	$321.00	$321.00
Burlington	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-law No. 42-2008	• Annual renewal required. • Zoning Clearance Certificate (dated within 12 months of licence application). • Inspection letter dated within last 90 days, issued and signed by MOH or designate confirming the business complies with the Region of Halton Health Department requirements.	• Licences are not transferrable. • Prohibition from selling any matches, lighters, novelty lighters, etc. to any person under 19 years of age.	May 20, 2008	$193.80 - $515.10	$193.80- $515.10
Chatham-Kent	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-law No. 151-2022, Schedule T	• Annual renewal required. • Successful inspection by the Medical Officer of Health (after application submission and before licence issued).	• Licences are not transferrable.	Aug 8, 2022	$326.00	$169.00
Cornwall	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-law No. 201-2005	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferable.	Nov 14, 2005	$40.00	$40.00

Jurisdiction	Retail Category	T	V	Retail Licence By-Law	Description of By-law Requirements	Description of By-law Restrictions	Date Passed Last Date Amended	Initial Licensing Fee	Licence Renewal Fee
Hamilton	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-law No. 07-170, Schedule 27	• Annual renewal required. • Successful inspection by the Medical Officer of Health (after application submission and before licence issued).	• Licences are not transferable. • Licence may be revoked or refused if issuance hinders public safety. • Licence may be revoked or refused if licensee has any outstanding fees or fines. • License will be revoked if automatic prohibition is issued by Ministry of Health.	Nov 30, 2023	$869.00-$1,082.00	$780.00-$863.00
Kingston	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-Law 2025-34, Part 24 & Part 26	• Annual renewal required.	• Licenses are not transferable.	Nov 18, 2025	$349.00-$549.00	$349.00-$549.00
London	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-Law L.-131-16, Schedule 9	• Annual renewal required. • Approval by Zoning By-Law required.	• Licenses are not transferable.	Sep 24, 2024	$318.00	$318.00
Markham	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-Law 2018-90, Schedule 24	• Annual renewal required.	• Licenses are not transferable.	Jun 24, 2022	$459.50	$459.50

Jurisdiction	Retail Category	T	V	Retail Licence By-Law	Description of By-law Requirements	Description of By-law Restrictions	Date Passed Last Date Amended	Initial Licensing Fee	Licence Renewal Fee
Mississauga	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-Law 0001-2006, Schedule 26	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferrable. • License will be revoked if automatic prohibition is issued by Ministry of Health.	Jan 18, 2006	$358.47	$259.71
North Bay	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-law 2012-225, Schedule Q	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferrable. • Licences may not be issued or may be revoked if the applicant has outstanding Property taxes owing to the City or any outstanding fines under the Provincial Offences Act.	Nov 26, 2012	$50.00	$50.00
Oakville	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-Law 2015-075, Schedule 35	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferrable. • License will be revoked if automatic prohibition is issued by Ministry of Health. • License will be permanently revoked upon a vaping product retailer's third conviction under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act within five years of the first conviction.	Jun 17, 2024	$227.00	$227.00

Jurisdiction	Retail Category	T	V	Retail Licence By-Law	Description of By-law Requirements	Description of By-law Restrictions	Date Passed Last Date Amended	Initial Licensing Fee	Licence Renewal Fee
Oshawa	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-Law 122-2024, Schedule L	• Annual renewal required. • Property ownership or lease of premises. • Basic floor plan of premises. • Commercial general liability insurance with a liability limit of not less than two million dollars.	• Licences are not transferrable.	Nov 4, 2024	$500.00	$300.00
Ottawa	Any retail store where tobacco and/or vaping products are sold	x	x	By-Law 2024-474, Schedule 12	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferrable. • License will be revoked if automatic prohibition is issued by Ministry of Health.	Oct 31, 2024	$1,048.00 - $1,192.00	$1,048.00 - $1,192.00
Richmond Hill	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		Municipal Code Chapter 826	• Annual renewal required.	• Licences are not transferrable.	Feb 2, 2009	$419.00	$419.00
Sudbury	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-Law 2004-350, PART VIII & PART IX	• Renewal required. • Criminal Record Health Unit search required initially and every 5 years after. • Exception to those holding convenience store licence under Part VIII.	• Licences are not transferrable.	Dec 16, 2004	$440.00	$150.00

Jurisdiction	Retail Category	T	V	Retail Licence By-Law	Description of By-law Requirements	Description of By-law Restrictions	Date Passed Last Date Amended	Initial Licensing Fee	Licence Renewal Fee
Toronto	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		Chapter 545, Article XIII	• Annual renewal required. • Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check. • Retailers that sell tobacco products along with other products (e.g. convenience stores) require a cigars, cigarettes and tobacco endorsement added to licences for businesses.	• Licences are not transferrable.	Jan 29, 2020	$788.33	$384.88
Toronto	Any retail store were vaping products are sold		x	Chapter 545, Article XLVI	• Annual renewal required. • Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check. • Retailers that sell vaping products along with other products (e.g. convenience stores) require a vaping product endorsement added to licences for businesses.	• Licences are not transferrable.	Jan 29, 2020	$772.87	$377.33
Vaughan	Any retail store where tobacco products are sold	x		By-Law 122-2022, 28	• Annual renewal required.	• Not reported.	Dec 5, 2022	$520.00	$302.00
Windsor	Tobacconist	x		By-Law 395-2004, Schedule T1	• Annual renewal required.	• Not reported.	Jan 1, 2025	$321.00	$239.00

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