

October 24, 2017

Mayor Gregor Robertson & Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4



Re: City of Vancouver Regulation on Short-term Vacation Rentals

Dear Mayor Robertson & Council,

In view of the city's public hearings on short-term vacation rentals (STRs), the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC) would like to take the opportunity to inform you of our position on this important file.

TIABC has done extensive work around the province with communities, associations and destination marketing organizations to determine the extent of the short-term vacation rental issue and the best way forward for local, provincial and federal governments.

At its core, the proliferation of unregulated, short-term vacation rentals has contributed to the lack of available and affordable housing for workers and residents in the City of Vancouver and elsewhere in the region. What's more, the ability for landlords to easily convert long-term rental housing into STRs has created an underground accommodation sector that also unfairly competes with the city's commercial accommodation sector.

TIABC supports the City of Vancouver's proposed regulation on short-term vacation rentals. In our view, the issue must be tackled by local governments first, followed by action by the Province in the form of rescinding tax regulation 78(1)b that would then compel all accommodation providers (regardless of size) to remit both the PST and Municipal & Regional District Tax (MRDT). Currently, only operators of four rooms or more are required to do so.

TIABC is not against short-term vacation rentals. However, we strongly support regulation, like the City of Vancouver is proposing, that benefits residents, consumers, and the local community, and ultimately helps return a portion of the much-needed long-term rental housing stock to the market.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Walt Judas', is located below the 'Best Regards,' text.

Walt Judas, CEO
778-953-0620