

March 27, 2019

**TIABC RESPONDS TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN CORPORATIONS
REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION NETWORK SERVICES (ride-hailing):
BOUNDARIES, SUPPLY, FARES and DRIVER'S LICENSES**



Vancouver: The Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC) welcomes the all-committee report on ride-hailing services, but stops short of endorsing all of the committee's recommendations.

While TIABC supports many of the committee's recommendations including the sharing of data by TNCs, the elimination of boundary restrictions on operators (including taxis), maximum vehicle age limits, and minimum trip pricing, it does not agree with the recommendation to allow operators with only a Class 5 driver's license, and the notion of an unlimited size of a TNC fleet.

The organization has long taken the position that it is not against ride-sharing and recognizes visitor demand for the service. However, it has also maintained that BC's well-established and professional commercial passenger transportation sector must be considered and protected as part of any new passenger transportation regime.

TIABC contends that it's neither about making it easier or creating barriers for transportation network companies (TNCs) to operate in BC, but rather taking into account all the ramifications these new services will have on BC communities and the existing commercial passenger transportation sector.

"Because TNC drivers will essentially become quasi-commercial operators, the same standards should apply that are required by taxi companies," explained TIABC Chair, Alroy Chan. "A class 4 license is an extra level of training and security that provides additional assurance of passenger safety. Moreover, because taxis are currently restricted by fleet size, transportation network companies should fall within the same limits. Conversely, changing the standards for both taxis and TNCs is another option, although not preferred."

TIABC supports the taxi industry's attempt to modernize its services by booking trips and accepting cashless payments through an app, and agrees with the BC Taxi Association, the City of Kelowna and other organizations that dynamic pricing be allowed for taxis during slow periods of the day. However, it cautions against surge pricing that takes advantage of consumers during periods of high demand.

TIABC has called on government to affirm the Passenger Transportation Board as the body to maintain oversight of passenger transportation services for both commercial operators and new TNCs. The organization looks forward to providing further input to the Province as it develops ride-hailing legislation later this year.