

TOURISM GOLDEN POSITION ON SHORT TERM RENTALS.

Tourism Golden acknowledges that whilst consumer demand for short term rentals (STRs) continues to grow; generating visitation and tourism revenues for the destination, it also recognises that the unchecked growth of STR units impacts our long-standing accommodation stakeholders, particularly small owner-operator businesses, by reducing revenues and occupancies and creates the potential to undermine destination reputation.

The shift of long-term rentals into STRs also creates a critical shortage of available and affordable rental accommodation which in turn results in labour shortages during the important high season.

The exponential and unfettered growth in short term nightly rentals within municipal neighbourhoods may negatively affect the safety, quality of an authentic visitor experience as well as impacting destination reputation.

Recognizing that there is no single solution to the complex issue of STRs, Tourism Golden will continue to lobby for the following:

1. The creation of a legal framework by municipal, regional district and provincial government that recognises STR operators as commercial businesses with the associated property and other taxes, zoning qualification, licensing, utility and other fees and that sets minimum standards of fire and safety, parking and liability insurance.
2. The proactive and consistent enforcement of all by-laws pertaining to STRs by government to compel STR operators to act legally by all levels of government.