

Tourism Golden
PO Box 20181
521 9th Avenue North
Golden
B.C. V0A 1H0



Karen Cathcart
Electoral Area A Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

January 27th, 2020

RE: PLANNING & LEGISLATION FOR SHORT TERM RENTALS

Dear Director Cathcart

Tourism Golden is the Destination Marketing Organisation (DMO) for Golden and CSRD Area A. Tourism is a primary economic driver in Golden with visitation increasing exponentially in the past 10 years. Whilst our primary objective is to increase visitation and tourism revenues we also recognise that it must be achieved sustainably and responsibly.

Tourism Golden's research confirms the growing demand for short term rentals and we appreciate the value that these bring to the visitor economy.

At the same time, we are concerned about the uncontrolled number of cabins, homes and suites that have been constructed in Area A to monetise as short term rentals. In 2016 an unofficial count revealed 120 short term rentals in Area A. In September 2019, 490 active short term rentals were identified, representing a growth of 143% - almost 290 new units - added within a 12 month period. Since that time we hear almost daily of new short term rentals being planned or built, many of which are owned by outside investors whose primary interest is in generating revenue.

As volumes grow beyond the capacity of the existing civil infrastructure, residents are already expressing concerns about traffic and safety on roads not designed to handle the increased volume. Water is a finite resource and already the availability, volume and quality of water is a problem for some in Area A and one which will only be exacerbated as water usage continues to rise with each additional short term rental created. Without legislation and accompanying education and enforcement, there is also concern about the proper management of sewage and other waste. As we can see from the problems being experienced in Nicholson, relying on individuals to manage sewage and waste responsibly is a flawed approach that may prove more costly in the future for the CSRD and its residents.

A sustainable tourism economy relies not just on growth, but also on understanding the impact of growth on water resources, on capital infrastructure, on the environment and on the visitor experience as well as on quality of life for residents.



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Whilst we recognise that there is resistance from residents to planning and regulation in Area A and other districts within the CSRD, we believe it is the responsibility of the Director and CSRD board to play an active role in managing this issue which has the capacity to impact the quality of life and health of residents, the visitor experience and threaten the viability of the tourism industry.

We respectfully offer that the regulation of short-term rentals is now critical and we request that the topic be added to the CSRD board agenda for immediate review and further action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Sweeting". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Joanne Sweeting
Executive Director

