

February 1st, 2024

To whom it may concern,

On December 4th, 2023, City Council passed a motion to direct Staff to seek feedback from the Tourism and Housing Sectors regarding the Provincial Government's Short-Term Accommodation Act. Your organization has been identified as being part of either the Tourism or Housing Sector. Council's motion is as follows:

That Council directs staff to seek feedback from our tourism and housing sectors to prepare options for response, including the option to "Opt-Out" of the provincial Short-Term Accommodation Act so as to be prepared to respond as soon as the option to do so becomes available.

The Short-Term Accommodation Act (the Act) was granted Royal Assent on October 26th, 2023. In December 2023, the Ministry of Housing released the *Short-Term Rentals: Policy Guidance for Local Governments* (the Guide), which established how the Act will be applied and enforced. As per the Guide, the Act sets out to "strengthen tools to support local government enforcement of short-term rental bylaws, return short-term rentals to the long-term housing market, and establish a provincial role in the regulation of short-term rentals."

The Guide also establishes an exemption for Municipalities. Municipalities with a population greater than 10,000 and with a rental vacancy rate over 3% for two consecutive years may be eligible to "opt-out" of certain regulations set out in the Guide. Administration is currently looking into whether this exemption would be applicable to the City of Prince George.

The City of Prince George is seeking feedback from your organization regarding the exemption option under the Short-Term Accommodation Act. Please provide your feedback to devserv@princegeorge.ca by Thursday, February 15, 2024.

To learn more about the Short-Term Accommodation Act, please visit:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/short-term-rentals>

Yours truly,



Deanna Wasnik
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City of Prince George