SUBMISSION – LIBERTY DES ROCHES-DUECK

ITEM 5 OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DATED APRIL 5, 2022 REGARDING REGULATING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

To the City Council and Execurive Policy Committee,

My husband and I own a resort in Manitoba with over a dozen cabins. We have 40 years of first hand experience in the tourism and hospitality industry, both as hosts and as guests ourselves. We care deeply about Manitoba's ability to attract the next generation of tourists. Their dollars and expanded knowledge of travel possibilities take them all over the world. When they do choose to come to Manitoba, we make sure they experience the beauty we see in the magnificent natural world around us. Our business model of comfortable furnishings and deluxe customer care, all within a gorgeous provincial park sets a very high bar! It's fair to say we take hospitality to heart.

When my husband and I travel, we go for months at a time and we structure our experiences around AirB&B's, worldwide. This has worked out well for us from Peru to California to the Far East. We have met lovely people all over the world, and really appreciate the small, personal touch of independent owners caring for us while abroad. It simply doesn't match what a hotel offers in terms of personalized, boutique experience. Hotels have their place, and AirB&B's do, as well.

I understand that Council is considering licensing and regulating Short Term Rentals in Winnipeg. Please add my name in support of this initiative, as these AirB&Bs are a valuable gem, and an integral part of keeping Manitoba current in terms of the worldwide tourism market. I am all for supporting the enterprise of these hardworking, small scale hosts.

I also believe that AirB&Bs should be regulated, just like any other business in the province, in terms of taxation, health and safety, and labour laws. Many of my fellow businesses struggle to make ends meet, and to see AirB&B owners not being held to the same standards is galling. As well, the 'gentrification' of neighbourhoods should be carefully navigated.

That being said, Manitoba, in general, relies very heavily on tourist dollars, and as travellers begin to emerge after a 2 year Covid 19 hiatus, we will need to be able to compete with other Canadian cities. Tightly restricting AirB&Bs may serve only to hobble Winnipeg's efforts to access this sorely needed revenue.

Kind regards,

Liberty Des Roches-Dueck

Whiteshell Lake Resort

& Fort Garry Homeowner