To the City of Winnipeg Council,

My wife and I recently bought a cabin in rural Manitoba for two purposes – one to give us a place to meet with our grown children, their spouses and our grandchildren. We were unable to find a place to rent for a week in the summer that would hold us all that was still available. By buying a cabin and renting it out to other families we could both afford to provide ourselves a place to gather at times and also provide other families the opportunity to do this.

The cabin needed extensive renovations to make it ready for year round use and we are nearing the end of that process. We look forward to being able to host families from Winnipeg and surrounding areas as well as from around the world. We will cater to people coming for a week's summer holiday or an extended winter weekend for snowmobiling or ice fishing. When people come, they will need and expect a pleasantly furnished facility so that they can focus on what they will want to do with their time and not have to take care of the place. The facility includes an outdoor fire pit, an indoor woodstove and an outdoor hot tub, exclusively for their use. As you can see, this is quite a different experience from what a hotel provides.

Our daughter and son-in-law, who live in Michigan, own several AirB&Bs where they live and have seen a variety of people coming to stay for a variety of purposes. Many of these stays would be difficult if forced to use a hotel due to length of stay, or other needs. Since many of their places are single family homes, the experience for guests is quite different than what a hotel offers. The guests can settle into the residential neighbourhood as if they were living there, walk to the neighbourhood park, sit out on the backyard deck, and bar-b-que a nice steak dinner.

I understand that Council is considering regulating Short Term Rentals in Winnipeg. I am in support of this, as long as the regulations don't serve to essentially eliminate them. These AirB&Bs provide an excellent service to people coming to visit Winnipeg who have different needs than what hotels are able to provide. They also provide the individual entrepreneurs with an opportunity to earn some income on their investment. They help keep Manitoba current compared to what everywhere else in the world is offering their guests. I am all for supporting the enterprise of these hardworking, small scale hosts.

Yours,
David Sarlo,
Charleswood