Hi,

My name is Diana Pelley. I live and own a Residential Cleaning Service in Portage la Prairie. During the course of the past 18 years I have frequently made trips to Winnipeg to buy supplies for my business. During the winter I have been stranded in Winnipeg by winter storms that have shut down highways. On such occasions, only one time was I able to obtain a hotel room in Winnipeg. Every single hotel was sold out.

Short Term Rental properties help individuals like myself who do end up having to stay during their travels, whether it is planned or unplanned. Winnipeg is big on sporting events and these such events were frequently the reasons given to me as to why all the hotels I had called were sold out. Staying at a hotel is not an ideal situation. There is often families with children screaming down the hallways and jumping on furniture. It is not usually a quiet night sleep.

The Short Term Rental properties provide opportunities for families to travel with their children and have the benefits of a full home that has a full kitchen with all the supplies without disturbing other people. It is more private and accommodating. All they need to do is bring their food. Locations like this benefit when people travel for medical appointments. I had a brain tumor removed in 2014. My husband wanted to be by my side during my 4 day post surgery period before I was allowed to return home. As a patient, I have met numerous other individuals who have had to travel long distance for medical treatment and they required the assistance of a family member for their post surgery care. Which also meant this same individual had to travel with them and get post surgery care instructions before the patient could be discharged. These individuals need a place to stay. I have seen patients that required staying longer than expected, and their travel companion or family member was advised that the hotel they rented in was fully booked and they would have to leave. Hotels over book all the time. But short term rentals that use a booking platform cannot over book.

While I am advocating for STR property owners in Winnipeg, I am also aware that what one City enforces as restrictions makes it much easier for other surrounding communities to also enforce. I have recently bought a property with Historical status in the Grand Marais, Grand Beach area. My property was originally built as a bunk house for renting to the many tourists that took the train out to Grand Beach every weekend during summers. I am currently in the process of restoring the building back into a usable rental property. My concerns are that should Winnipeg restrict, or ban Short Term Rentals...communities like Grand Beach and Gimli will do the same.

As a property owner it is my responsibility to ensure that my Guests understand the local bylaws and house rules. I fully understand the frustrations of property owners when a neighboring rental property has party after party with disruptive noise and property damage. This has become a problem because the Short Term Rental Platforms, such as Airbnb don't vet the guests and allows bad guests to take full advantage of rental properties. If rental owners were encouraged or required to be licensed and insured while following basic rental guidelines, these nuisance parties would be prevented.

My cottage neighbors and I have discussed the preventative measures I will be implementing so that my property will not be a party destination. Measures such as:
- Driver's License and photo ID required to rent
- Credit Card number on file
- Non-Refundable Deposit to rent location
- Fees to be paid in full by the arrival day
- Number of Guests and age of each Guest staying in the rental (so EMS can be notified of this info in the event of an emergency)
- Name and Home Address of each person staying at the location
- No additional Visitors to be in the rental property aside from the Guests listed in the rental application
- No parties allowed
- No events such as Birthdays, Anniversaries, Stag/Stagette, Weddings, Baby Reveals etc.

These are only some of the reasonable measures that have been able to reduce negative experiences with Short Term Rental Guests.

It is my hopes that my letter falls into the hands of someone who can see that not only do I use STR's responsibly, I also am a responsible business owner who has the best interest of my community put first.

Sincerely,

Diana Pelley