City Council,

I'm an avid traveller and enjoy meeting new people immensely. My favourite places to stay are small, quiet, Mom and pop -or mom and mom! operated businesses who have their guest's comfort and joy as their first priority. These are homes or apartments right in the communities I'm visiting, next to small cafes, grocery stores, and a laundromat, -not faceless brand name hotels by the airport within walking distance of nothing, hotels which charge 20 dollars to launder a pair of socks when Air Canada brings you to Winnipeg and sends your luggage to Toronto.

The environmental footprint is another thing to consider, we LOVE that our guests are always steps away from the services they need and walking distance from the Art Gallery, a hockey game, or fireworks at the Forks. I've spent the past year doing laundry, vacuuming, and ironing pillowcases so that our guests to Winnipeg can have a local experience, right here at the heart of the Spence neighbourhood.

Nobody likes being told what to do with their own home. Our short term rental guests in one suite have made extensive renovations to our distressed property possible. Without our hard work inviting them here and keeping them comfortable and happy, there's absolutely NO financial way we would have been able to improve our circumstances by tearing out our first floor down to the studs to prepare a beautiful new space for our new long term tenants.

Many of the city of Winnipeg's proposed new Short Term Rental regulations would have shut down the restoration of this 1907 character house before it began, The one property permitted besides your principal residence being one of them, and the nonsensical total ban on STR's in R1 R2 zoned areas another one.

Imagine travelling to smaller town in Cuba to find that your neighbourhood "habitación" was closed due to misplaced civic overreach, and that you HAD to now stay in the industrial or commercial area?…

Or going to Chefchaouen, Morocco, to learn that you'd now be forced to stay in the largest Kasbah they had, instead of with the family you had planned to?…

Or that your casita in México had to close due to a poorly thought out decision at City Hall and you're now left ONLY with the option of a commercial resort with a bland buffet and no sense whatsoever of the country you're visiting?

I'm asking the City of Winnipeg to celebrate and SUPPORT a wide range of hospitality and accommodation options for our visitors, short term local neighbourhood rentals being one of them. We're happy to follow rules and pay taxes, but we need your help- not constant stress and concern for our livelihood. Variety really is the spice of life! Consider your vote today wisely.

Asmara Polcyn
She/Her
Fort Rouge Neighbourhood Resident
Spence Neighbourhood Landlord