

From: Kenzie Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 5:02 PM
To: legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvrd.bc.ca>
Cc: Danielle Myles Wilson <Danielle.MylesWilson@cvrd.bc.ca>; [REDACTED]
Subject: [URGENT] Request for Late Agenda Item - Electoral Areas Services Committee

Hi Allison,

On behalf of Tourism Cowichan Society, I am forwarding the attached letter to ask if this could please be included as a late item on the agenda under Correspondence for the Electoral Areas Services meeting this Wednesday, March 20th?

Thank-you,
Kenzie



Kenzie Knight (she/her)
Tourism Development Specialist

Phone (250) 667-8558

Address #201-1934 Boxwood Rd, Nanaimo, BC



We gratefully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Halalt, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Pauquachin, Ditidaht & Pacheedaht Peoples.

March 14, 2024

Allison Boyd
Acting Deputy Corporate Officer
Legislative Services, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Re: Balancing Short-Term Vacation Rental Regulations for Sustainable Tourism and Affordable Housing

Dear Allison,

As representatives of Tourism Cowichan Society, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed regulations on short-term vacation rentals within our communities. While we acknowledge the importance of regulating this sector to ensure the well-being of residents and the sustainability of our housing market, we urge careful consideration of the potential impacts on both our local tourism economy and the availability of affordable housing.

In our shared commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive tourism ecosystem, we seek to strike a balance between regulation and innovation. While ensuring access to affordable housing for residents remains paramount, we also acknowledge the need to support our local hosts and tourism businesses. The decision to opt-in to provincial short-term rental regulations without considering broader implications could inadvertently hinder the growth of our tourism industry.

With a limited number of hotels and other traditional lodging options, vacation rentals offer flexibility, affordability, and unique experiences that cater to a wide range of travelers, including families, solo adventurers, and group travelers. These rentals not only contribute to the vibrancy of our destination but also generate significant revenue streams that support the livelihoods of many small business owners within our community, including restaurants, shops and tour operators. Restricting the availability of short-term rentals could lead to a shortage of accommodation options, thereby deterring potential visitors from choosing Cowichan as a destination.

We kindly ask that Tourism Cowichan Society be given a seat at the table in discussions regarding short-term rental regulations. As partners we have a unique opportunity to collaborate and find innovative solutions that address regulatory concerns, safeguard affordable housing, and empower our hosts and entrepreneurs to thrive in the sharing



economy. By fostering open dialogue we believe we can help to inform a regulatory framework that supports the needs of our residents while also promoting a sustainable and inclusive tourism industry.

Thank you for your dedication to our community and our shared vision for the future of tourism in the Cowichan Valley.

Sincerely,



Bob Day
Chair, Tourism Cowichan Society

