

AIRBNB CALGARY BENEFITS

I'd like to start by saying that I believe the proposed amendments to BYLAW 32M98 to be very reasonable. I would be happy to pay the proposed \$100 annual registration fee as part of the suggested amendments. I feel this registration process would standardize some things and help to eliminate the hosts who are not as committed to their responsibilities, helping to keep Calgary's neighbourhoods harmonious.

The decisions made at this meeting could either help or greatly impede beneficial Airbnb hosts like myself from continuing to host. I have created a list outlining the reasons Airbnb hosts are valuable, so we stay protected and valued during this necessary regulating process.

FIRSTLY AIRBNB EMPOWERS LOW-INCOME CALGARIANS

For those not able to earn a high salary, whether they are disabled in some capacity, laid off from work, work in fields with fluctuating salaries, are newly self-employed, or are a stay-at-home parent who needs an alternate source of income, Airbnb can help balance out expenses and stabilize the lives of people who need it.

Personally, I am disabled from working in conventional workplaces, as I have severe respiratory reactions to fragrance, and, while this condition is gaining awareness, most spaces are still not accessible for me. So I am self employed, offering diverse services in ways that I can, but Airbnb is a much-needed support for me.

The work I do as an Airbnb Superhost helps me to supplement my income and start paying off my debt. Since I determine my own house rules on Airbnb, I can maintain a fragrance free space with my guests, so hosting them doesn't affect my health.

This added Airbnb income helps Calgarians like me live more comfortably.

IT BENEFITS NEWCOMERS TO CALGARY AND WELCOMES TRAVELERS ON A BUDGET

Guests often thank me for providing them with a home away from home, or a calm place for them while they are in the midst of an otherwise chaotic transition. You can see their heartfelt appreciation in their reviews here: <https://www.airbnb.ca/users/show/218366525>

2. HOTELS AND LONG-TERM RENT ARE BOTH GOOD OPTIONS, BUT WHAT ABOUT STAYS THAT AREN'T QUITE SHORT OR LONG-TERM?

I have hosted a lot of guests who are transitioning to live in Calgary. They tend to stay for around 3 weeks to a month and a half.

It takes a lot for a newcomer to get set up in a new country; when they get off the plane here, they may have to get a phone, a car or transit pass, documentation, a Canadian bank account, and winter wear.

Airbnb gives them an affordable place to stay that is fully-furnished, often with access to a kitchen, ready for them when they get off the plane. While they are getting oriented in the city and looking around for a place to rent long-term, they can stay in an Airbnb in area of the city that is close to their work or university. They can focus on recovering from jet lag, knocking some of these things off their to-do list, getting a feel for the city, finding potential neighbourhoods to settle in, etc.

This is too long for them to stay in an expensive hotel but not long enough to rent a place, especially if their moving dates don't line up with the first of the month. Airbnb has been a valuable asset in supporting these newcomers to Calgary.

3. TRAVELLERS ON A BUDGET

For the budget traveler, or someone who is a freelancer who cannot expense their hotel to a company, the price is the biggest deterrent for them to book their trip. Getting travellers to our city helps the local economy and tourism tremendously. We wouldn't want to make it more difficult for them to choose Calgary by not having a wealth of Airbnb accommodation available to them.

And Airbnb isn't competing on a level of hotel accommodation, as they cater to different kinds of people. Some guests still prefer hotel accommodation, perhaps due to things such as flexible check-in hours, a concierge desk, in-house restaurants, ATM's etc. At a recent Airbnb meeting with around 80 local superhosts, the host of the event mentioned that hotels in Calgary are having their best year, and that travellers spend more money and staying longer by staying in an Airbnb (source unknown).

IT HELPS THE CALGARY ECONOMY

4. LOCAL TOURISM AND BUSINESSES

Providing budget travellers with a more economical place to stay like Airbnb means they can afford to spend more locally. Once their travel funds are no longer going into pricey accommodation, it can go anywhere in the city and area to support local businesses.

This helps out the local economy through their spending in local services and businesses such as restaurants, cafes, farmer's markets, as well as the tourist attractions throughout the city. They will also be paying for transit tickets, taxis, Ubers, and food delivery, all of which helps Calgarians, both directly and indirectly.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK HERE TODAY. I HOPE AIRBNB HOSTS CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED IN THEIR IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS. THANK YOU.

CITY OF CALGARY
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