



Policy Brief

TITLE: Short Term Rental Accommodations Regulation – City of Brantford

ISSUE:

The City of Brantford is considering regulating Short Term Accommodation Rentals (traditional Bed and Breakfasts, and operators connected with platforms like Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO with a stay of approximately 28 consecutive days or less) as part of its Business Licensing Program. The Chamber has been approached by members in support of increased regulation of this market, as well as by the City of Brantford requesting a position on the regulation or non-regulation of STRs.

BACKGROUND:

A variety of regulatory models exist in municipalities across North America with some key regulatory characteristics, including: municipal license and registration, a “primary residence” rule, capping the number of days per year, lodging tax, entire and vacant homes, zoning, enforcement, and health and safety.

A scan of Chambers and Boards of Trade across the province has determined that most have not taken a strong position on this matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Chamber of Commerce Brantford-Brant urges the City of Brantford to:

1. Allow for entrepreneurial activity to meet consumer demand for this sector, which may increase opportunities for tourism and allow for existing home ownership to continue.
2. Implement a regulatory framework that minimizes the negative consequences of short term rentals and ensures consumer and neighbourhood safety.

Resources:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/how-regulate-rise-short-term-rental-platforms-airbnb>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/home-sharing-guide-ontario-municipalities>