

MONK
& NUN
Interiors

I'm writing to you in regards to the new Tourist Accommodations Legislation and would like to share my views at the committee meeting on March 11th, 2019.

My husband and I own Monk & Nun Interiors, a small family run business located in the Annapolis Valley. Our services offer Home Upgrades, Home Staging, Design Consultations, and Vacation Rental Management. We understand the full scope of what's needed to bring Nova Scotia tourist accommodations up to par, making them most attractive to tourists from around the globe.

In our experience, it is evident that the majority of short-term rental owners in rural Nova Scotia could use support on where to begin and how to best modernize their small-scale tourist accommodation. Many cottages in rural Nova Scotia have been in the family for years, where old furniture goes to live it's last chapter, wall decor is a collection of anything and everything, and mismatched cutlery is alive and well. Although sentimental to the family, these are not the types of vacation rentals that tourists are looking for. I believe that if the province would like to reach their goal of increasing the tourism sector to \$4 billion in annual revenues by 2024 and drawing on small-scale tourist accommodation as a portion of that growth, then the province should also provide professional resources to current vacation rental owners on how to best accomplish the modernization of their home.

I also note that there is an opportunity for the province to provide insight on creative funding and municipal by-law amendments for those who are interested in purchasing multiple small-scale tourist accommodations or building tourist accommodations on their property in order to contribute to the overall goal. Local residents lack the funding to make the improvements, don't know where to begin with the modernization and/or see the opportunity but are held back by a. lack of funds or by b. municipal by-laws to develop their land. Rural Nova Scotians and enterprise alike can be positively impacted by this growth, if the support system is put into place by the province and we work together in welcoming tourists.

We are thrilled by this announcement and hope we can be a significant part of helping Nova Scotia reach its tourism goals.

If there is any way we could be of assistance or involved in tourism meetings around this legislation, please let us know.

Noelle McGough

Monk & Nun Interiors

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