

TO: Nova Scotia Law Amendments Committee
FROM: Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
DATE: March 11, 2019
SUBJECT: TIANS Statement re: Bills 99 and 101



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The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) is pleased to see legislation introduced in the House of Assembly on March 8th by the provincial government to address the inequities created by the proliferation of unregulated short term accommodation rentals (STR). This issue has been a primary concern facing tourism operators in the province and the framework proposed through Bills 99 and 101 will address many of the existing inequities.



Tourism Matters to Nova Scotia. Last year Tourism revenue was **\$2.7 billion**; generating over **\$300 million** in tax revenue for all levels of government to support education, health care, and infrastructure. Over **40,000** people are employed in the NS tourism industry (Stats Canada) and the industry has embraced the challenge of the **\$4B goal** set by the One NS Report.



TIANS has been extremely encouraged by the commitment of the Minister of Business to accelerate efforts on this file since the Working Group Report was tabled in late 2018. TIANS had asked for regulatory fairness and we believe these Bills are a significant step forward. Through regulatory fairness and practical solutions, we believe we can attract new product by increasing accommodation capacity and simultaneously protect the public interests.



The new conditions outlined in the proposed legislation such as requiring online portals be registered as businesses operating in the Province; the repeal of the Tourist Accommodation Act (TAA) and replacement with a new, streamlined registration system through Access Nova Scotia and the criteria that limits STR to Principle Residence only, are all positive steps towards addressing unregulated accommodation in the province.

TIANS looks forward to the public consultation phase which will allow for additional discourse on two specific areas.

1. The current language of proposed Bill 101 states that individuals providing Short Term Rentals in their principle residence would not be required to register. TIANS, along with its partners support full registration for all STR providers. A standard, simplified registration process for all will build a

more equitable business environment, increase access to room inventory (particularly in times of high demand) and provide government and industry alike with better economic metrics to measure growth.

2. TIANS, along with partner organizations such as the Hotel Association of NS, and the Bed and Breakfast Association of NS, support the current regulatory threshold for residential properties as four rooms. We understand under proposed Bill 99 that government is planning to review this and look forward to better understanding the rationale. Industry has confirmed their confidence with the four room threshold as an appropriate number.

TIANS will continue to work with government and industry partners over the coming months to ensure that the new regulations contribute to a sustainable tourism economy in all regions of the Province.

The leadership by this government in addressing this long-standing issue reaffirms their commitment to Nova Scotia's #1 Service Export Sector and supports industry efforts to meet the \$4 Billion revenue target by 2024.

As the Voice of Tourism, TIANS appreciates the opportunity to share a provincial industry perspective with the Law Amendments Committee as it reviews these important pieces of legislation.

For additional information, please contact:

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