



Legislative Services

July 26, 2023

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Controls on Airbnb, VRBO and Others Which Affect Municipal Rentals

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of July 24, 2023 passed the following resolution:

Whereas global technology platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO were created to improve global access to rental opportunities, particularly those available for vacation or shorter-term business purposes, and

Whereas the impact of these “disruptive technologies” on rental markets has raised the following concerns in the past decade:

- Concentration of ownership and proliferation of landlord corporations with minimal interest in or accountability to local communities
- Removal of housing stock from long-term rental markets with resulting increases in rents
- Lack of control over occupancy (e.g. families vs large groups of partygoers)
- Incidence of nuisance infractions (noise, garbage, parking), and

Whereas any reduction in the availability of long-term housing stock runs counter to the Province of Ontario’s goal of 1.5 million additional homes in the next 10 years, and

Whereas growth in short-term rental markets may also have a negative impact on housing affordability for the seasonal workers who service tourist destinations or farming communities, and

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Mailing Address:

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Whereas implementing local/municipal restrictions through municipal law enforcement tools (licensing) and municipal planning tools (zoning by-law restrictions) may push demand to other communities, and

Whereas some platforms (e.g. Airbnb) are already working toward providing notice to owners about municipal regulations and licensing through a license number field, and

Whereas some jurisdictions (e.g. Quebec, Scotland) have acknowledged the limitations of local authorities/municipalities in controlling the impact of global technologies and have developed comprehensive regulatory frameworks, and

Whereas a comprehensive, consistent regulatory approach is likely to prove more effective in Ontario,

Now, therefore, be it resolved,

That: Council requests the Government of Ontario to establish a regulatory framework requiring digital platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO to:

1. Require owners using the digital platforms to comply with municipal planning and licensing regulations, and
2. Prevent advertising of properties that are not registered with the relevant municipality, and
3. Provide a contact with the platform to ensure ongoing and effective communications for provincial and municipal officials and further

That: The Province of Ontario work with municipalities to address situations in which long-term housing stock has been lost to corporate ownership of short-term rental properties and further

That: A copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario (Hon. Doug Ford), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Hon. Steve Clarke), local MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all municipalities in Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Ashlea Carter, AMP

Deputy Clerk

acarter@forterie.ca

AC:dlk

Attach.

c.c. The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing minister.mah@ontario.ca
Jennifer Stevens, MPP - St. Catharines JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca
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All Ontario Municipalities