

Tourism
PRINCE GEORGE

City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

July 30, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

The provincial government has recently announced changes to the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) which include: 1) expanding the eligible uses of the revenue to include affordable housing initiatives, and 2) including online accommodation platforms (Airbnb) in the collection of PST and MRDT on purchases of accommodation through their platforms.

In keeping with these announcements, the MRDT Program Requirements have been updated to reflect the changes. In particular, the revised Program Requirements include the following clarifications:

1. MRDT revenues from online accommodation platforms can be used for affordable housing initiatives;
2. General MRDT revenues cannot be used for affordable housing initiatives unless the designated recipient can demonstrate support of tourism stakeholders and accommodation providers; and

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3. The requirement to demonstrate accommodation provider support will remain unchanged (at least 51% of the number of establishments that collect the tax representing at least 51% of the total number of rooms). Individual hosts that only list on online accommodation platforms will not need to be consulted.

Please see revised details in Sections 7 and 8 and Appendix 1.8 and 2.4 in the MRDT Program Requirements:

<https://www.destinationbc.ca/getattachment/BC-Tourism-Industry/Municipal-and-Regional-District-Tax-Program/Program-Requirements-Application-Procedure/MRDT-Program-Requirements-SUMMER-2018-MASTER.pdf.aspx>

On behalf of the Tourism Prince George Board of Directors, I am inquiring as to whether or not Council intends to use the MRDT (the new online accommodation platform revenue and/or the general MRDT revenue) for affordable housing initiatives, as this will determine next steps with our 2019 budget and planning process. The deadline for submitting the 2019 MRDT Tactical Plan is November 30, 2018.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



David McQuinn
Board Chair

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