



**Nellie's**  
Shelter, Education & Advocacy  
for all women and children

**EX26.3.25**

970 Queen Street East  
PO Box 98118  
Toronto, ON M4M 1J8

June 15, 2017

Jennifer Forkes  
Secretariat, Executive Committee  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Jennifer,

To the members of the Executive Committee of City of Toronto Council, I am writing today in response to *EX* [26.3] Proposed Regulations for Short-term Rentals for Consultation to express Nellie's support for home sharing in Toronto.

As you may be aware, Nellie's operates programs and services for women and children who have or are experiencing oppressions such as violence, poverty and homelessness. Last year we served 133 women and children at our shelter, and another 500 women through our Community Outreach and Support program office, including providing prepared and packaged foods to 80 women and their children through our weekly food program.

We were delighted last fall when staff from Airbnb's office in Toronto contacted us to discuss ways that we could work together to help our community. After taking the time to understand the needs of the women and children we work to support, Airbnb brought together their own staff as well as a large cross-section of their hosts from across the city for an event to provide donations and raise awareness of our mission. Since then, they have continued to support us in multiple ways.

Our organization and others like us, rely on the support of individuals and organizations in the community to continue to do the work we do. Airbnb and its hosts have demonstrated a commitment to being responsible and caring neighbours in our city. That is why I hope that you and your colleagues will consider the social impact that Airbnb has had and will continue to have in Toronto.

Many single women across the City, who sometimes struggle to make ends meet, are relying on home sharing, through AIRBNB, to increase their sources of income in order to make ends meet. It is also remarkable to see how AIRBNB has organized groups of hosts to give back to organizations providing shelter to homeless individuals and families.

As you contemplate the future of home sharing for Toronto I encourage you to put forward recommendations that are sensible, fair, and take into account the good work that can come from organizations like Airbnb having a place in our city.

Sincerely,

Margarita Mendez  
Executive Director

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**Administration**

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**Shelter Crisis Line**

Tel: 416-461-1084  
Fax: 416-461-0976  
TTY: 416-461-7561

**Children & Youth**

Tel: 416-461-0946

**Community Support**

Tel: 416-461-2052  
Fax: 416-461-0970  
outreach@nellies.org

**Transition Support Worker**

Tel: 416-461-0980, 416-461-3404, 416-645-0249  
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**United Way**  
Toronto & York Region