

# EX26.3.10

June 13, 2017

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

To the members of the Executive Committee of Toronto City Council

Re: EX (26.3)

I am writing today in response to EX (26.3) to express my support for home sharing in Toronto.

As a proud member of Toronto's vibrant culinary scene for over thirty years and having represented it with Tourism Toronto in New York and London, with the Canadian government in Japan and South America and as both Chair and President of Restaurants Canada in cities and towns across Canada, I know first-hand the global reputation of Toronto as a diverse and hospitable city. Visitors are drawn to explore and stay in one of the city's many dynamic neighbourhoods.

I have seen the positive impact that home sharing has on the restaurant industry in Liberty Village and across the city, bringing millions in tourist dollars to local businesses beyond the downtown core. In October 2016, Airbnb released a report estimating that Airbnb guests had spent \$75 million at Toronto restaurants over the previous twelve months, a huge boost for an industry with notoriously tight margins.

The people who share their homes through Airbnb (hosts) help provide unique, one-of-a-kind experiences to many of these tourists. According to a recent study, Airbnb brought more than 450,000 guests to Toronto last year that spent over 417 million dollars in the city.

But there is more to home sharing than just tourism. It helps everyday people in our city. As the cost of home ownership far outstrips the rate of inflation, hosting helps earn a little more money each month to pay the bills, or to save for a rainy day. Hosts recommend their favourite neighbourhood restaurants for a meal and local boutiques for a special souvenir, supporting business and delighting their guests.

I understand the need for the city to develop rules for home sharing in Toronto. It is imperative that the regulations stay in step with changing practices. However, considering that the vast majority of Airbnb hosts share their primary residence, on a casual and occasional basis, for a small income supplement, I believe that fair and sensible rules for home sharing are possible. I encourage you to bear in mind the varied benefits for Toronto and Torontonians.

Yours truly,



Donna Doohier,  
Executive Chef/Owner

MILDRED'S

TEMPLE  KITCHEN