



Corporation of the Village of Cumberland

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News Release

For immediate release

September 8, 2022

Cumberland Updates Short Term Vacation Rental Regulations

Cumberland, BC – On Tuesday September 6th, Village Council adopted amendments to the Business License Bylaw No. 896, 2009 related to short term vacation rentals. This completes a Council priority project to review and update Cumberland's vacation rental regulations. The initiative was born out of the 2020 Housing Needs Assessment highlighting a shortage of attainable housing options in the community.

Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw No. 1027, 2016 was adopted on August 8, 2022. These, along with Business License Bylaw amendments were developed through a review of regulations in other areas, and community engagement within Cumberland. This included an online survey with 658 responses and two community meetings held in February 2022. The Advisory Planning Commission, Economic Development Steering Committee and Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committees all reviewed the changes and provided input to Council.

The new regulations continue to permit vacation rentals only in the Infill Residential Zone (R1-A), the Recreation and Tourism Zone (RE-1), and on two spot zoned properties within the Village Core Commercial Mixed-Use Zone (VCMU-1).

Aiming to strike a balance between the use of vacation rentals to provide needed tourist accommodation, and protecting the community's long term rental housing, vacation rentals are now:

- Permitted only on properties that also have a principal resident (an owner or tenant) living on it.
- Permitted only in one dwelling unit on a property. This can be the main dwelling, or a secondary suite, or an accessory dwelling unit.
- Limited to a maximum number of three bedrooms.
- Limited to a maximum number of six guests.
- Required to post a modestly sized outdoor sign with contact information on the property.
- Prohibited to be operated on the same property as a daycare use.

Residents will also continue to be permitted to rent out individual rooms in their principal residence, similarly to a bed and breakfast operation.

In addition, the new business license regulations require the operator to:

- Display their valid Village of Cumberland business license within the dwelling unit used as a vacation rental.

- Identify a valid Village of Cumberland business license number in each advertisement, listing, or promotional material that is intended to communicate the availability of a vacation rental.

Anyone who has been operating a vacation rental that complied with the Zoning Bylaw prior to these changes is permitted to continue to operate under the previous regulations.

With the completion of the short-term regulation review, the Village is again actively accepting business license applications for short term vacation rentals.

For more information see Cumberland.ca or contact info@cumberland.ca