

From: [Sarah Noonan](#)
To: [Lisa Slomke](#)
Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018 11:52:49 AM

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Mayor and Members of Council:

As business owners and commercial tax payers within the town of Fort Frances we would like to express our dismay with council's decision to hastily implement the 4% accommodations tax without sufficient dialogue and a more reasonable time line for doing so.

Having a representative visit a few of the businesses affected the week before passing a motion to implement this tax by [January 1, 2019](#) does not constitute proper consultation. A meeting with all those affected should have been organized to obtain input to the plan and the timing of executing it.

Since the passing of this motion, there have been two meetings with the implementation committee and local hotels, however many concerns and questions persist:

- Why are these monies are needed? What assessments were completed to justify this need?
- How will the success of this tax be measured?
- What justification to 4%; why not 2% or 3%?
- What adjustments and costs to administrative infrastructure are required by the businesses affected to implement this new tax?
- How will our customer base accept this tax?
- What say will these accommodation businesses have in how these monies are spent? Why 50% for tourism and not 100%?
- What government agencies are exempt from this tax?

We are requesting that the implementation of this new tax be postponed until such time as the above concerns may be properly addressed. We are supportive of initiatives that support tourism and our local economy and appreciate a partnership to work towards this goal. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and await your response.

Respectfully,

Sarah Noonan - La Place Rendez-Vous
Wade Friesen - The Sleepy Owl
Bryce Campbell - Copper River Inn

Sent from my iPhone