



**TOWN OF CANMORE**  
**RECORD OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**  
**Public Hearing**

Council Chamber at the Canmore Civic Centre, 902 – 7 Avenue  
Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

This document contains the written submissions received in response to the notice of public hearing for the following bylaw:

**Business Registry Licence Bylaw Amendment 2024-27 – Omnibus**

Submissions are sorted in alphabetical order. If you are viewing the electronic version, please use the bookmarks feature to scroll through the document.

This record of written submissions was compiled by Ben Stiver, Municipal Clerk, on November 1, 2024.

October 31, 2024

Mayor Krausert and Council  
Canmore Civic Centre  
902 7 Avenue  
Canmore Alberta T1W 3K1

**Subject: Proposed Business License Fee Hikes Strain Canmore's Small Businesses**

Dear Mayor Krausert and Council:

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the interests of 99,000 small- and medium-sized businesses across Canada, including 10,500 in Alberta and 113 in Canmore. We are reaching out to express concern regarding the proposed updates to Canmore's business registry licence bylaw, specifically the planned 15% increase in the fee schedule.

Business licenses play a crucial role in shaping how municipalities engage with and support the local small business community. However, rising licensing costs add to the financial and administrative pressures that small business owners are already facing. This increase arrives at a difficult time when confidence levels among Alberta's business owners remain low as businesses continue to struggle with the rising cost of doing business and lower consumer demand. In fact, nearly a third (30%) of Alberta's small businesses report weak or critical financial health—more than those reporting strong financial health.

One-third (34%) of Alberta's small business owners report that business licensing is among the most burdensome municipal regulations, second only to building permits and property taxes in terms of time and money spent on compliance. Over two-thirds (67%) of owners emphasize that eliminating municipal red tape, such as business licensing, is critical, yet only 14% express confidence in their municipality's commitment to reducing these barriers. This action by Canmore's municipal government will only exacerbate this cost burden, adding another unnecessary hurdle that current and prospective business owners must overcome to start or maintain a business in the municipality.

By freezing business license fees, the Town of Canmore can signal its support for small businesses, reinforcing a message that the municipality values its local businesses and the community they create. Other municipalities offer alternative approaches. For example, Winnipeg has removed the licensing requirement for most businesses, reducing administrative and financial burdens. Edmonton also offers biannual licensing at a lower cost, saving small businesses both time and money. We urge Canmore to consider similar approaches to lessen the impact on local small businesses.

We hope that we can work together with the Town of Canmore on this matter to ensure an environment where small local businesses thrive. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us at by email at [emily.peden@cfib.ca](mailto:emily.peden@cfib.ca).

Sincerely,



Bradlee Whidden  
Policy Analyst, Western Canada



Emily Peden  
Policy Analyst, Alberta

Town of Canmore

Mayor and Council

Amending Bylaw for Business Registry Bylaw of 2015

Public Hearing November 5, 2024

I am in support of this bylaw amendment. However, I ask that you consider making a change based on my experience of the Visitor Accommodation units at 160 Kananaskis Way.

Please consider amending 5.9 to include Visitor Accommodation where all Visitor Accommodation units at a location are not managed by one business. Also please consider replacing 'vacation rentals' with, and separately define per the LUB, Visitor Accommodation.

The visitor accommodation units at the above referenced address are individually owned, are not managed by one overall management group and have not been for about four years.

As a result, they are also unlikely to be included under a Business Umbrella Rider.

The above is based on my understanding of the operation of the VAs at 160 Kananaskis Way.

Sincerely,

Audrey Rogers

[REDACTED]

**VIA email:** [REDACTED]