

Hill Office
549 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A0A6
613.992.0718



Riding Office
48 Alliance Boulevard, Unit 104
Barrie, ON L4M5K3
705.728.2596
alex.nuttall@parl.gc.ca

Alex Nuttall, MP
Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte

To: Councillor Michael Prowse
CC: Members of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee

Subject: Uber & the New Sharing Economy

Throughout the world and across our country, municipal, provincial, and federal governments have struggled to manage the unprecedented growth in the new sharing economy, also known as the collaborative economy.

Municipalities across Canada are making efforts to adapt to or deny the disruptive innovation that has evolved over the last decade. With competition from companies like Uber, AirBnB, Jiffy.com, traditional industries are feeling the weight of a regulatory structure that inhibits their business.

At the same time, these innovations have reduced costs to consumers, developed internal quality controls through the collection and release of data and reviews, and amassed a large market share in the process.

There have been some positive and negative experiences on the municipal level, where governments have struggled to properly balance a shift in policy. I urge Barrie City Council to consider the successes and the pitfalls experienced in other places and to develop policies to ensure a free and fair market prevails, regulation is reduced, and costs for consumers are cut.

Decisions by municipalities have included banning open market economics, reducing regulations and costs of traditional industries, and legalizing the operation of these new platforms. Great Britain and the United States have gone so far as to name Sharing Cities and deliver municipal services through the retention of new platforms.

The decision on this matter is in your hands, and I request that it be made with careful thought and thorough research. As always, I ask that you deliver policies that are most beneficial to our consumers and entrepreneurs, as they are also our tax-payers and citizens.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Nuttall'.

Alex Nuttall, M.P.

Barrie - Springwater - Oro-Medonte

Official Opposition Critic for the New Sharing Economy, FEDDEV, Deputy-Critic for Innovation, Technology, and Economic Development