

BEING A BY-LAW OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN WITH RESPECT TO THE REGISTRATION OF SECONDARY AND GARDEN SUITES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE *MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, CAP. M-12.1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN AS FOLLOWS:

1 TITLE AND AUTHORITY

- 1.1.1 This by-law may be cited as the *City of Charlottetown Secondary and Garden Suites Registration By-law (By-law PH-SSB.1-000)* and may also be referred to as the ‘*Secondary Suites By-law*’ or ‘the by-law’ within the context of this document.
- 1.1.2 This by-law is enacted under the authority of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. M-12.1.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1.1 This by-law applies to all lands, buildings, structures and Developments within the City on which a Secondary or Garden Suite has been established.
- 2.1.2 Every person who establishes, operates or permits the occupancy of a legally existing or new Secondary or Garden Suite shall register the Secondary or Garden Suite in accordance with this by-law.
- 2.1.3 This by-law prescribes the:
- a. Provisions for the registration of a Secondary or Garden Suite; and
 - b. Provisions for revoking the registration of a Secondary or Garden Suite.
- 2.1.4 Nothing in this by-law shall relieve any person from the obligation to comply with the requirements of any other by-law of the City in force from time to time, or the obligation to obtain any license, permit, authority, or approval required under any by-law of the City, or statute or regulation of the Province of Prince Edward Island or the Government of Canada.

3 ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1.1 Council shall appoint a Registrar who shall administer this by-law.
- 3.1.2 The Registrar has the authority to register, to refuse to register or to revoke a registration of a Secondary or Garden Suite.
- 3.1.3 The Registrar may delegate any responsibilities conferred to the Registrar to a designee according to this by-law.

4 EXISTING DWELLING UNITS

4.1 IN-LAW SUITES

- 4.1.1 An In-law Suite which is lawfully in existence on the effective date of this by-law and which may not conform to the regulations pertaining to the Development, use, or occupancy of a Secondary Suite, may continue to exist.
- 4.1.2 All conditions as stated on the Building and/or Development Permit, and in the In-law Suite Agreement shall remain in effect and the In-law Suite shall be removed from the Dwelling when the named resident of the In-law Suite ceases to live there.
- 4.1.3 In-law Suites will not be included in the Registry of Secondary Suites unless an application is made and approved to register the In-law Suite as a Secondary Suite.

4.2 LEGAL NON-CONFORMING UNITS IN A SINGLE-DETACHED DWELLING

- 4.2.1 A subordinate Dwelling unit which is lawfully in existence on the effective date of this by-law and which may not conform to the regulations pertaining to the Development, use or occupancy of a Secondary Suite, may continue to exist.
- 4.2.2 Legal non-conforming units will not be included in the City's Registry of Secondary Suites unless an application is made and approved to register the unit as a Secondary Suite.

5 REGISTRATION APPLICATION

5.1 THE APPLICANT

- 5.1.1 An application to register a Secondary or Garden Suite shall be made by the Owner of the property using the appropriate form provided by the Registrar.
- 5.1.2 If the Owner is not the Principle Resident of the Principle Unit or of the Secondary Suite:
 - a. Both the Owner and Principle Resident shall be required to authorize the application to register the Secondary or Garden Suite; and
 - b. The Principle Resident shall be responsible for overseeing the use and occupancy of the Secondary or Garden Suite and shall be identified as the primary contact on the property in relation to the Registry.

5.2 REGISTRATION OF EXISTING DWELLING UNITS

- 5.2.1 An In-law Suite in a Single-Detached Dwelling, for which a Building and/or Development Permit and Occupancy Permit has been issued since July 10 2011, may be registered as a Secondary Suite based on the previously approved Building and/or Development Permit and Occupancy Permit.

- 5.2.2 An In-law Suite or legal non-conforming unit, which was lawfully in existence prior to July 10 2011, may be registered as a Secondary Suite through the same application process as described for a new Secondary Suite.
- 5.2.3 An application to register an In-law Suite or Legal Non-Conforming Unit for which a Building and/or Development Permit and Occupancy Permit has been issued since July 10 2011, shall be submitted with the following information:
 - a. A completed Secondary Suite Registration Form;
 - b. A copy of the previously approved Building and/or Development Permit and Occupancy Permit verifying the date of the permit approval for the In-law Suite or Legal Non-conforming Unit;
 - c. Payment of all required fees.
- 5.2.4 Where copies of the previously approved Building and/or Development Permit and Occupancy Permit for the In-law Suite or legal non-conforming unit are not available, the Owner may make application to the City of Charlottetown Planning and Heritage Department for a records search and additional fee shall apply accordingly.

5.3 NEW SECONDARY OR GARDEN SUITES

- 5.3.1 An application to register a new Secondary or Garden Suite shall be made at the same time as the Building and/or Development Permit application and shall be submitted with the following:
 - a. A completed Secondary Suite Registration Form;
 - b. Payment of all required fees.
- 5.3.2 The new Secondary or Garden Suite will be registered upon approval of the Building and/or Development Permit and issuance of the Occupancy Permit.

5.4 APPLICATION REVIEW

- 5.4.1 The Registrar or their designate shall receive, process and review all applications to register a Secondary or Garden Suite.
- 5.4.2 The Registrar or their designate shall maintain a record showing all applications received, pending, approved, and registrations renewed or revoked, in order to create and maintain the Registry.
- 5.4.3 The Registrar shall refuse to register a Secondary or Garden Suite if:
 - a. The application to register an Secondary Suite is not compliant with the requirements of this by-law; or
 - b. An application form or any other document provided by the Owner contains a false statement or false information.
- 5.4.4 The Owner bears the onus of proving that a Secondary or Garden Suite meets the requirements of this by-law to the Registrar's satisfaction.

- 5.4.5 The Registrar may deem an application abandoned if all requirements of the registration pursuant to this by-law have not been fulfilled to the Registrar's satisfaction three (3) months from the date that the Registrar receives the application.
- 5.4.6 An Owner may re-apply for registration when an application has been deemed abandoned.
- 5.4.7 All notices with regards to the status of the application and revoking of a registration of a Secondary or Garden Suite shall be sent to both the Owner and the Principle Resident of the Principle Unit if they are not the same person, as identified on the application form.

6 REVOKING A REGISTRATION

- 6.1.1 The Owner bears the onus of providing updated information as necessary to maintain the registration of the Secondary Suite in good standings to the Registrar's satisfaction.
- 6.1.2 The Registrar shall revoke the registration of a Secondary or Garden Suite if:
 - a. A Secondary or Garden Suite is found to be in violation of this or any other by-law;
 - b. An Owner fails to renew the registration of a Secondary Suite after taking ownership of the property;
 - c. An Owner fails to renew the registration when there is a change in the Principle Resident, if they are not the same person;
 - d. If the Secondary or Garden Suite is being used as a short-term rental; or
 - e. The information contained in the application or any other document provided by the Owner is found to contain a false statement, false information or the information previously provided is no longer accurate.
- 6.1.3 If the registration of a Secondary or Garden Suite is revoked, the Registrar may order that the Secondary or Garden Suite shall not be occupied as a secondary suite, in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act (MGA – Part 9 Section 238)* until the renewal application is approved.

7 REGISTRATION RENEWAL

- 7.1.1 Once a Secondary or Garden Suite has been registered according to this by-law, the Suite shall remain registered unless:
 - a. The registration is revoked;
 - b. The Property Ownership changes; or
 - c. The Principle Resident changes.
- 7.1.2 If the registration of a Secondary Suite has been revoked due to non-compliance with regards to a violation in the *Zoning and Development By-law* and/or *Building Code By-law*, the registration renewal shall also require a copy of a new Occupancy Permit to confirm the violation has been addressed prior to the renewal being approved.

8 FEES

8.1 REGISTRATION, INSPECTION AND RENEWAL FEES

8.1.1 The City shall collect registration fees for the administration of the application process and ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Registry as follows:

a.	Registration of an existing In-law Suite or Legal Non-conforming Unit approved since July 10, 2011	\$100 (waived until Dec 31, 2020)
b.	Registration of a new Secondary Suite	\$ 100 (does not include fees pursuant to the <i>Zoning and Development By-law Fee Schedule</i>)
c.	Building and/or Development Permit and Residential Inspection	As per <i>Zoning and Development By-law Fee Schedule</i>
d.	Registration Renewal	\$50
e.	Re-inspection of Secondary Suite	\$200

9 BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES AND APPEAL

9.1.1 By-law enforcement may be undertaken by the City in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act. (MGA – Part 9)*

9.1.2 A person who, being the Owner or occupant of any land, Building, or Structure to which this by-law applies:

- a. Fails to register a Secondary or Garden Suite;
- b. Permits an unregistered Secondary or Garden Suite to be occupied; or
- c. Alters a Secondary or Garden Suite in any way that violates this or any other by-law without first seeking the necessary permit approvals and a registration renewal;
- d. Uses the Secondary or Garden Suite as a short-term rental.

is guilty of an offence of this by-law.

City of Charlottetown Secondary & Garden Suites Registration Bylaw

- 9.1.3 A person who is guilty of an offence of this by-law is liable on summary conviction to:
- a. a fine in an amount
 - i. not less than \$200 and not more than \$10000, and
 - ii. an additional fine in an amount not less than \$500 and not more than \$2,500 for each day or part of a day on which the offence continues after the first day;
 - b. imprisonment for up to one year; or
 - c. both a fine in accordance with clause (a) and imprisonment in accordance with clause (b).
(MGA – Section 234)
- 9.1.4 When an offence under this by-law is committed or continued for more than one (1) day, the person who committed the offence is liable to be convicted for a separate offence for each day on which the offence is committed or continued. *(MGA – Section 234 (3))*
- 9.1.5 A person who is dissatisfied with the administration or an order issued by an employee of the City under this by-law may appeal the decision or order to council. *(MGA – Section 239)*
- 9.1.6 A person who is appealing a decision to council made under this by-law must submit a written statement outlining the reason for appeal. *(MGA – Section 239 (2))*

10 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

10.1.1 For the purposes of this by-law:

- a. **Building and/or Development Permit** means an official document giving authorization to proceed with a proposed action as regulated under the Zoning and Development By-law (2018-11) and/or Building Code By-law.
- b. **Building Code By-law** means the *City of Charlottetown Building Code By-law (2018-##)*.
- c. **City** means the City of Charlottetown;
- d. **Council** means the duly elected Mayor and Councilors of the City.
- e. **Development** means a change in the use of land, building, structure or sign for any purpose, and shall include the carrying out of any building, engineering, construction, or other operation in, on, over, or under land and water; or the construction, addition, erection or alteration of any building, structure or sign.
- f. **Dwelling** means a building or portion thereof used for residential occupancy.
- g. **Garden Suite** means a self-contained Dwelling Unit that is located in the Rear Yard of a Single-Detached Dwelling.
- h. **In-law Suite** means a legal non-conforming use, similar to a Secondary Suite but with specific regulations pertaining to who is permitted to live within the subordinate Dwelling Unit and a requirement that it is to be removed from the Single Detached Dwelling when the named individual no longer lives there.
- i. **MGA** means the *Municipal Government Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. M-12.1* of the Province of Prince Edward Island.
- j. **Occupancy Permit** means an Occupancy Permit as required and/or obtained pursuant to the *City's Zoning and Development By-law*.
- k. **Owner** means a person who legally owns a lot and is a registered land Owner; or an executor, administrator, trustee, agent, or other person managing the subject lot or building for the registered land Owner.
- l. **Principle Resident** means the individual who resides within a Dwelling and who lives, makes their home and conducts their daily affairs within this Dwelling, including, without limitation, paying bills and receiving mail, and is generally the Dwelling unit with the residential address used on documentation related to billing, identification, taxation and insurance purposes, including, without limitation, income tax returns, Medical Services Plan documentation, driver's licenses, personal identification, vehicle registration and utility bills.
- m. **Registrar** means the person appointed by Council to administer this by-law and unless otherwise appointed shall be the City's Manager of Planning and Heritage;

- n. **Registry, or Registry of Secondary Suites** means a publically accessible Registry or list of Secondary Suites which have been reviewed by the City and approved based on conformance with the Zoning and Development and Building Code By-law regulations as well as other best practices for supporting safe and affordable housing.
 - o. **Secondary Suite** means a subordinate Dwelling unit located within a Single-Detached Dwelling.
 - p. **Short-term Rental** means the rental of a dwelling unit or a portion of a dwelling unit (including a Secondary Suite within a dwelling) for a period of less than 30 consecutive days. **Single-Detached Dwelling** means a building which is a completely detached Dwelling unit, and whose main walls have a minimum width of not less than 5.5 m (18 ft).
 - q. **Zoning and Development By-law** means the *City of Charlottetown Zoning and Development By-law (2018-11)*.
- 10.1.2 In this by-law words used in the present tense include the future; words in the singular number include the plural and words in the plural number include the singular, all as the context allows; and the word 'shall' is mandatory and is not permissive.

Effective Date

This Secondary and Garden Suite Registration Bylaw #PH-SSB.1-000, shall be effective on the date of approval and adoption noted below.

First Reading:

This Secondary and Garden Suite Registration Bylaw #PH-SSB.1-000, was read a first time and approved by a majority of members present at the Council meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2019

Second Reading:

This Secondary and Garden Suite Registration Bylaw #PH-SSB.1-000, was read a second time and approved by a majority of members present at the Council meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2019

Approval and Adoption by Council:

This Secondary and Garden Suite Registration Bylaw #PH-SSB.1-000, was adopted by a majority of Council members present at the Council meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2019.

Witness the corporate seal of the City.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

This Secondary and Garden Suite Registration Bylaw #PH-SSB.1-000 adopted by the Council of the City of Charlottetown on _____ day of _____, 2019 is certified to be a true copy.

Chief Administrative Officer

Date