

CAN-001 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Travellers and Hosts / Regional Development

Title of motion

Single night Servas stay option

National secretary and national member group proposing motion

Julie Dotsch, National Secretary, Servas Canada

Summary of the motion

Servas Canada moves that a single night Servas stay be recognized as a quality Servas International visit option, as long as hosts and travelers take time for meaningful interactions. This would be an additional option, along with the established two-night visit and the day host visit.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

There are times when travelers know ahead of time that they are not able to stay with a host for two nights. The traveler would then not contact a host, with both host and traveler missing the opportunity for a meaningful visit. The intention is that the one night visit can be positive when:

- hosts and travelers are informed ahead of time of this option
- hosts identify themselves as accepting one night stays
- the traveler asks the host ahead of time if they would like a one night stay
- the host agrees ahead of time to that particular one-night visit
- the traveler and host both make time for meaningful interaction
- the traveler does not use Servas like a hotel

The two night stay would still be the "norm" but our option would allow for shorter visits too. It would be even more important for the traveler and host to make enough time for a good visit. The intention is, that if passed, hosts would be asked to indicate their willingness to accept travelers for one day visits and it would be coded on their host list entry.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

We feel this flexibility could be excellent for hosts as well as travelers. In Canada there are long distances and a more flexible approach to the visits might encourage more visits. The flexibility of this Servas option may become more enticing for travellers and allow for more successful availability of hosts. It may be more useful for those travelling greater distances.

This flexibility may encourage more visits and open up discussion of other flexible options. It might attract more travellers to join Servas.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

The national Host List Coordinators would need to ask their hosts to indicate if they are willing to accept one day travelers. In Canada the local host coordinators email or phone hosts every year to update the list. This question could be added.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International and for national groups in the short and longer term?

None

Who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

General Secretary

Would there be implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

No

What is the likely impact if the motion is not passed?

Possible missed Servas visit opportunities. Servas becomes a less attractive option.