WHISTLER'S

VitalSigns

Uncovering Whistler 2016





About Vital Signs

Whistler's Vital Signs



Whistler's Vital Signs® is a community checkup conducted by the Community Foundation of Whistler that measures the vitality of our community. Vital Signs compiles existing data from local, provincial and national sources with feedback from our focus groups, community group meetings, stakeholder meetings and the findings from the Whistler Vital Signs Survey to create a comprehensive look at how our community is doing.

Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada and we are joining 32 other communities across Canada who are participating in the initiative in 2016. For more information visit **vitalsignscanada.ca**



What's Next?

As you read this, we encourage you to think about the links between the issues and how the data presented contributes to this snapshot of Whistler's vitality. Share the report with others and use the report as a starting point for conversation!

The Community Foundation of Whistler invites community members to continue dialogue on the opportunities and challenges identified. We hope to use the data and perceptions presented as the basis for community action planning and, where possible, to develop citizen-led initiatives to work on moving our community to a more healthy collective.

Why do we need a Vital Signs Report for Whistler?

Whistler's Vital Signs aims to give all community members a voice. By presenting facts and residents' perceptions on key areas of community life, we hope to increase community-wide understanding of the different opportunities and challenges encountered in our community.

Ultimately Vital Signs is a tool to engage all residents of our shared community in discussion and dialogue. Vital Signs is a snap shot but also, over time, it tracks community wellness to keep the dialogue going. We encourage everyone to join the conversation about how Whistler can continue on the journey of a thriving community.







Contact Us!

We know the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help: info@whistlerfoundation.com

Issue Areas

The report is arranged by 12 key areas that contribute to our community's vitality

Indicators and Research Findings

The statistics presented in each area represent an effort to reflect the feedback we gathered from community engagement as well as the following characteristics:

- Be understandable and relevant to members of the community
- Reflect public interest
- Arise from a reliable and credible source
- Be objective and valid
- Be available and timely in future years
- · Help readers understand the different issues in Whistler

This report focuses on the community within the boundaries of the Resort Municipality of Whistler. Some figures may refer to the broader region, but local data has been used whenever possible.

Full details of the sources of data can be found in our *Whistler's Vital Signs Sources and Supplemental Information* document available on our website whistlerfoundation.com.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a key part of Vital Signs. Between November 2015 and June 2016, we engaged as many individuals and groups as possible:



11 focus groups run (85 participants)

7 stakeholder meetings (33 participants)



4 other community groups engaged (20+ participants)



Vital Signs Survey (608 responses)

From May 24 to June 18, 2016 community members were invited to complete a survey on the health of their community according to the 12 areas of interest. The idea was to capture people's views on issues within the community and then to include these with available data to compare perceptions.

How your Community Foundation Helps

The Community Foundation of Whistler provides grants to a wide range of community programs and causes. We've included just some of the ways in which we work to improve community vitality.

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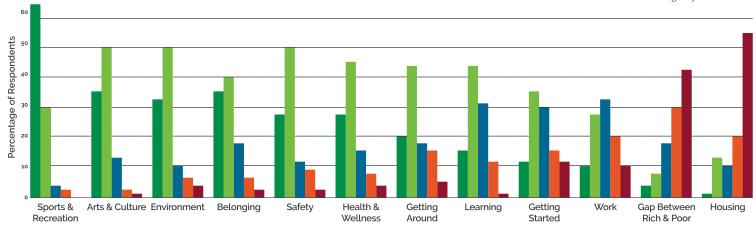
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Community Survey Results

Of 608 responses to the survey:

Ratings by Issue Area



Excellent

Good, but some improvements could be made

Average, more work needed in these areas

There are some concerns

Serious and immediate attention is required

Survey results are not statistically valid, however they represent opinions of a large group of residents. Over 600 people participated by grading community wellness in each issue area. Participants could also identify three priority issue areas for action, and provide comments on the reason for the grade they chose. Comments have been used in the 'Community Voice' section on each page.

Top Three Areas for Action

GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR

Whistler Community Profile

The fresh air, clean lakes, rich forests, and beauty of the Coastal Mountains make Whistler a great place to live and visit. The community of Whistler rests in the overlapping traditional territory of the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations. From its early days as a fishing resort, Whistler grew into a world-class ski resort, but behind the resort there exists a vibrant community of people who call Whistler home

Population



Permanent resident population 10,361 (2015).

Approximately 2.72 million people visit Whistler per year, with 1.082 million winter visitors and 1.638 million summer visitors.



Number of seasonal residents: approximately 2432 (2014-2015).

Population Equivalent

The average daily population of Whistler is 30,444, which is greater than the Statistics Canada census permanent population count. On an average day in Whistler the total population consists of:



Due to the population equivalent, per capita measurements should be interpreted carefully. The difference between census population and the population equivalent can present a challenge to community groups seeking funding when funds are based on census population numbers.

Age Distribution



5% of the permanent resident population in 2011 was 65+, compared with the national average of 14.8%. However, the population over age 65 increased 39.4% from 2006 to 2011.

82.7% of the population in 2011 were working age (15-64), compared to the national percentage of

32.4 was the median age in 2011, compared to the median age in BC of 41.9.

Households



15% of households consist of people living together not as a family. The provincial average is 4.7%

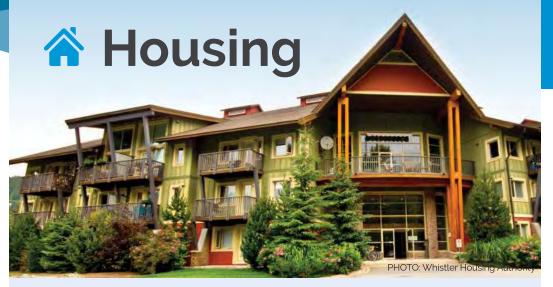
19% of the permanent resident population are immigrants.

Economy



85% of total annual commercial sector spending in Whistler is generated by visitors.

15,051 jobs are supported by the Whistler economy.



Access to stable and affordable housing is critical to our quality of life.

Housing

Prices





Occupancy

58% of all dwellings in Whistler in 2011

were unoccupied, occupied by foreign residents or temporarily occupied. 42% of dwellings were occupied, by usual residents (people who live there permanently). Of those residences that were usually occupied, 36% were by renters.



As of January 2016 \$332,100 was the benchmark price for a condominium in Whistler. 72.3% increase in 5 years.

DID YOU KNOW

13% of businesses provided housing for some employees in the 2014/2015 winter season.



Average Rent

Average market rental cost for a 2-bedroom unit in 2015. Only 10% of individuals are able to afford this rent.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Workforce Living Locally



Rental Housing Index



35 VANCOUVER

The Rental Housing Index estimates that 17% of renters were living in overcrowded conditions in 2011.

Housing Income Ratio

52%

of renters in 2011 were paying more than 30% of their income on housing. This is generally considered to be living in unaffordable conditions.

Living Situations

Of young adults aged 18-30 surveyed in 2016:



71% lived with

lived with

5-13+ others

51% shared a bedroom. 2% had no designated bedroom.



Can afford to purchase a WHA 2-bed unit

Whistler Housing Authority

- Provides 1,916 price controlled rental and ownership units to local employees and retirees.
- 154 more units planned, including 42 senior units.
- 466 households on the Purchase Housing Waitlist, 410 on the Rental Housing Waitlist.



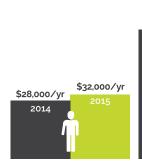
Gap Between Rich and Poor

Being able to engage in all aspects of community life is central to our overall quality of life and well-being. This includes access to meaningful employment, the availability of secure work, as well as the ability to earn a living wage.

Living Income

The living income is the amount of income a single resident or family required in 2015 to afford the cost of a basic basket of goods that includes housing, transportation, food, clothing, recreation and other expenses in

Whistler.





Single person

Family of 4

58% of young adults &

16% of permanent residents reported

making less than the living income

for a single resident living in Whistler.

Food Bank Users



PER HOUR PER ADULT

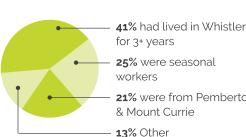
PER HOUR

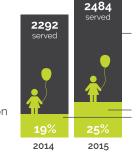
T 40 HOURS/WEEK

or an individual to afford the

basic cost of living.

of users in 2015 said injury, illness, physical health or mental health were the reasons for using the food bank.





Total Food Bank users per year

21% were from Pemberton

13% Other

DID YOU KNOW

Kidsport, KidsArt, Camp Fund and School Lunch Fund, run by Whistler Community Services, provide fee subsidies for low income families.



Students participating in the School Lunch Program run by Whistler Community Services Society.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"There is a myth that everyone in Whistler is wealthy."

How Your Community Foundation Helps

In 2013 and 2014, the Community Foundation of Whistler provided funding to the School Lunch Program at Whistler Community Services, allowing the children of financially restricted families to participate in the hot lunch programs at local schools.



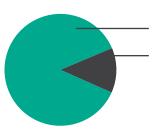
The quality and nature of employment opportunities can contribute to the overall sense of vitality and well-being in a community.



SURVEY RESULTS

#3 area for action

Workforce for the 2014/15 winter season



11,400 full-time positions

1,800 full-time equivalent positions created by part-time workers.

43% were seasonal



The 2015 workforce grew 8% compared to 2014.



Staffing Shortages



17% Whistler's employers

were unable to meet their staffing requirements during the 2014-15 winter season and 22% anticipated staffing shortages during the 2015

Jobs in Whistler



are in **Recreation**,

Food & Beverage, **Accommodation** and Retail.

Labour Force Participation Rate

83% of the population

over 15 years of age was working or looking for work in 2011, compared to 65% for BC.

Young Adults Working Situation

79% reported having a post-secondary education yet

58% indicated they made less than the living income

of \$15.40. 36% were working more than 40 hrs/week.

22% of adults aged 18-30 in 2016 reported working more than 1 job.



Whistler Chamber of Commerce

2015 Employer Survey Results:

81% employ Working Holiday Visa Holders.

26% employ Temporary Foreign Workers.

19% report vacancies in management positions.

91% report having lost an employee or potential employee because (housing) rent is too expensive.

2016 Employee Survey Results:

75% participants make above \$15 per hour.

69% said affordable housing would help attract and retain workers.

47% said increased wages would help attract and retain workers.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Both sides of the equation need some work due to the unique conditions and requirements of a resort town."



26% had concerns or serious issues



"Getting Started" looks at how we support the different transitions community members make through their lives. Supports and community connections help people to remain in the community.

U.K., Japan & Philippines

Top 3 countries of immigrant origin 2006-11

28% Japanese, 12% Mexican, 11% Filipino

91 adults accessing settlement services in 2015-16



Immigration

<u></u>

of the 2011 permanent population in Whistler were immigrants.



107% increase

in new permanent residents in Whistler.

265 landed in 2013.

(vs. Squamish: 99 landed in 2013 = 19% increase over 2008.



Seniors





In 2011, the proportion of seniors (65+) had grown by 39% over 2006.

DID YOU KNOW

There is currently no seniors centre or supported independent living opportunity for seniors in Whistler.

"Newcomers from other countries...end up working lower end jobs. If we are willing to work hard, immigrants like me can accomplish and excel at higher end jobs. It just means we have to work twice as hard compared to people whose first language is English.'

How Your Community Foundation Helps

immigrated to Whistler from Mexico in 2007

Mobility

of the permanent resident population in 2011 reported having moved residence within the previous year, and 62.9% within the previous 5 years. (BC equivalent figures are 14.4% and 42.75% respectively.)



Aged 18-30 report arriving to Whistler on their own.

Child Care

Average births/year 2010-15 = 98



32 licensed group child-care spaces for infants and toddlers.

There are child-care spaces for 14% of Whistler children aged 12-36 months

18 months to 2+ years = waiting list time for infant and toddler day-care spaces in Whistler.

\$61 = Average cost per day for day care.

DID YOU KNOW



The Whistler Public Library is the main place where newcomers can meet others and access free internet. 36,776 free library computer sessions were accessed in 2015.

The Whistler Multicultural Welcome Centre at the Whistler Public Library, offers settlement services supporting individuals and families with information, ESL and other support, and connections as they make the adjustment to life in Canada.

The Mama Baby Connection Prenatal Program at the Whistler Women's Centre, funded by the Community Foundation of Whistler, brings expectant mothers together to learn and prepare for their babies. The program helps women build a village of support, resulting in healthier moms, healthier babies and stronger community connections.

W Health & Wellness

General health status plays an important role in an overall sense of vitality and well-being. Health can include both physical and mental health as well as healthy lifestyle choices.

Community Outreach

71% increase in visits to Whistler Community Services Society Outreach workers in 2015 over 2009.

Of **1,949 visits**, in 2015, 38% were for mental health

concerns.

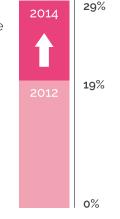
COMMUNITY VOICES

"We need more discussion about mental health in this town and alcohol and drug dependencies.

So many people are away from their families and don't have the support they require when things get bad."

Stress

29% of residents in the North Shore Coast Garibaldi area aged 15 and over reported in 2014 that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful. This is up from



ER Visits

19% in 2012.

20,769 visits to the ER in 2015

187

16% increase

2010-2015

SURVEY RESULTS

45% good, but some improvements could be made

Medical Services



81% of Whistler residents report having a family doctor.

Specialists per capita:

17 (per 100,000)*

94 (per 100,000) (BC AVERAGE)

Supplementary practitioners:

(physiotherapists, chiropractors, massage therapists etc)

> 278 (per 100,000) 133 (per 100,000)

*In the Howe Sound Local Health Area which includes Whistler, Pemberton, and Squamish.

Wellness

2011 population that bikes or walks to work

42% of young adults aged 18-30 consume enough alcohol to be at, or above, the weekly amount that is considered to be a risk for long-term health.



187 Whistler individuals accessed the YouthinBC.com distress phone service and online chat service to receive support in times of distress in 2015.

How Your Community Foundation Helps

Whistler residents have an average of 142 bedstays per year at Easter Seals House Vancouver, where they can access affordable accommodation near BC Children's Hospital. The Community Foundation of Whistler has granted to Easter Seals House Vancouver for the past 5 years in support of local families who stay at the house.



49% good, but some improvements could be made

Biodiversity



3790

Known species inventoried in Whistler.

58

26 17 2014 2016 2014 2

Red-listed species Blue-listed species Squamish Forest District

Red-listed species have been designated as endangered, threatened, are extirpated (none left locally) or are candidates for such designation. Blue-listed species are of concern

due to human activities or natural events.



171 Invasive

plant species have been found in Whistler



DID YOU KNOW

Whistler has 90 outdoor community garden boxes & 4 neighbourhood greenhouses.

Environment



The land, air, water, and ecosystems that surround us are what sustain us, providing us with physical, social, and spiritual health.

Conservation of our natural surroundings is also critical to Whistler's culture, economy and brand.

Air Quality

This is within the low risk range. However, in July of 2015 the max AQHI reached 33.7 due to smoke from wildfires. A rating over 10 is considered a very high health risk.

1.8 MEAN
AIR QUALITY
HEALTH INDEX
in 2015

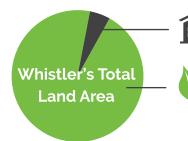
5.3 micrograms per cubic metre

Annual average fine particulate matter measured in the air at Cheakamus Crossing in 2014, well below the BC Ambient Air Quality Objective of less than 8 micrograms per cubic metre.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"Our parks, lakes and streams are well maintained, but with more people coming to the resort, their impact is noticeable."

Developed Footprint



5% (1,139 hectares)

Developed or zoned for development

95% (23,020 hectares)

Identified as sensitive ecosystems

(Wetlands, riparian areas, old growth and mature forest, high mountain ecosystems. Sensitive ecosystems are not necessarily protected from development.)

DID YOU KNOW

?

Over 70% of the wetlands that originally covered Whistler's valley bottom have been lost.

Water Use

Whistler's total water consumption

TARGET = 400 litres (per person, per day)

2015 = 519 litres (per person, per day)

519

51%

Waste

of materials

were diverted from the landfill in 2015, a decrease compared to 53% in 2014.

Annual waste production in 2015 was approximately 500 kg per person.

?

DID YOU KNOW

In 2014, Whistler grocery stores introduced a 5¢ charge for plastic bags following calls for a ban from a local environmental charity, AWARE, and local youth. Since then, the uptake of plastic bags has halved.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions



of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in 2015 were from passenger vehicle transportation within the municipal boundaries.

Year over year, GHG gas emissions in Whistler have increased despite the reduction in energy consumption.

Energy Use

Energy consumed in 2015 came from:



42% Electricity **35**% Vehicle fuels

23% Natural gas

Community-wide energy consumption has continued to decrease over the last 4 years.

?

DID YOU KNOW

1 in **5** bears in Whistler are killed every year as a result of preventable conflict.

Despite this, Whistler is a leader in mitigating human-bear conflict. As a Bear Smart community we can use non-lethal tactics to minimize the number of bears killed.

Do you know how to tell the difference?

Black bears are not our only bears. Grizzly bears live in close proximity to Whistler. Learn the differences and what to do in bear encounters:

www.bearsmart.com

How Your Community Foundation Helps

The Community Foundation of Whistler's Environmental Legacy Fund has granted out \$1,077,710 to local environmental community organizations since 2004.

The Discover Whistler nature interpretive station at Lost Lake Park is an initiative of the Whistler Museum and Archives Society and the Whistler Naturalists Society. The station educates visitors and locals about Whistler's natural world. This project is funded by the Community Foundation of Whistler and the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation.

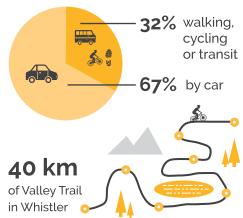
10



44% good, but some improvements could be made

Getting to Work

Trips to work made in 2011 by Whistler residents



COMMUNITY VOICES

"The valley trail is a great way of getting around Whistler and one that promotes and encourages walking and cycling as a means of transport."



7600 registered passenger vehicles in Whistler in 2014. Passenger vehicle use within Whistler produces the largest share of the community's overall emission footprint at 58% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Highway Traffic

12

The estimated average number of vehicles per day that travel up and down Highway 99 in Whistler in 2015, up from 20,417 in 2014



How we get around is increasingly important to communities as they begin to look at the impact of climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Transit in Whistler



Adult fare in Whistler

(Adult fare in Squamish is \$1.75.) The system cost per ride in Whistler is \$4.06.

hour

40 passenger rides/hour on Whistler Transit, one of the highest productivities in the province.

Free shuttles carry | FREE 40% of all riders.



2,404,139

Rides in 2014/15

2,368,692 rides in 2013/14



Average # of Weekday Passengers: 2,449 Summer 2014 6,787 Winter 2014/15

DID YOU KNOW

There were 8 crashes in Whistler involving pedestrians, between 2009 and 2013.

Regional Transit



roundtrips a day operate between the Village of Pemberton & Whistler Village.

Annual ridership on the Pemberton Commuter is 29,234. The Greyhound is required to operate 4 round trips per day between Vancouver & Whistler.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"Commuter transportation from Pemberton and Squamish is sadly lacking, leaving Whistler workers from those communities with few options other than using their personal vehicles."



What you can do

4theLoveofBears, I need a lift! Facebook page connects car-free Whistlerites with neighBEARhood heroes who can give them a lift to the garbage and recycling depots.

Safety

Crime Rates 2010 2014 2013 2015 Criminal Drug Total Property Impaired Code Violations Crime Driving

COMMUNITY VOICES "Greatest concern is a wildfire emergency."

Domestic Violence 49 incidents reported in 2014, 40 in 2013



Bike Theft

2013-14 80 reported bike thefts in 2014

Workplace Injuries

24 mobilizations for Whistler Search and Rescue (WSAR) in 2014-15.

Snowmobiling is the most common activity triggering SAR mobilization at 33%.



Search

& Rescue

31 volunteers spent 524 hours in 2014-15 rescuing people.



COMMUNITY VOICES

"My overall impression is that this is a safe community and people look out for each other." 1070

11 in 2014

15 in 2015

workplace related injuries were treated by the Whistler **Health Care** Centre in 2015.

Sexual Assaults

Reported to the Whistler RCMP:

(10 reported to Squamish RCMP in 2015)

Only about one in 10 sexual assaults in

Whistler Women's Center

referred 14 women to Howe

Sound Women's Centre safe

support for 8 women in 2015.

housing & provided sexual assault

Canada are reported to police.

Emergency

Preparedness



27% of people in the Howe Sound Local Health Area report having emergency supplies for 3+ days.

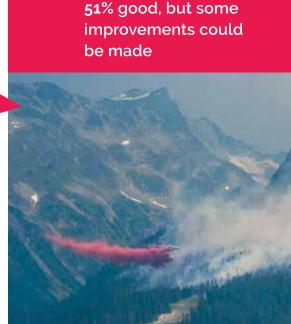
DID YOU KNOW

Top 3 Hazards in Whistler:

- Earthquake
- Flood
- Wildfire

How Your Community Foundation Helps

The Emergency Fund at the Community Foundation of Whistler provides emergency financial assistance to individuals living in the Whistler or Pemberton area who have experienced loss due to an emergency. Grants from the fund helped 14 people who were displaced by the fire in Alpine on November 10, 2015 to get back on their feet.



SURVEY RESULTS



Building a strong sense of safety and

security is central to our success in



43% good, but some improvements could be made

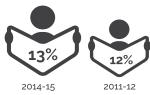


Learning

The knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals and groups contribute to overall creativity, vitality and well-being. These are important assets from which to build resilient communities.

Literacy & ESL

Elementary school ESL Students:











Child Development



23% of Whistler's kindergarten age children were vulnerable in at least one aspect of their development in 2011-13.

The provincial child vulnerability rate was 33%. Howe Sound School District rate = 31%.

Library Usage

256,511 visits to Whistler Public Library in 2015, a 4.6% increase over 2014.

The Library enjoys the second highest visitor rates in BC.



Secondary schools ESL Students:



2011-12

(BC average in 2014-15 - 11%)

Students with special needs:

7% of Whistler students vs. provincial average of 9% (2014-15).



Literacy and ESL available through the Whistler Community Learning Program and

support for adults is Whistler Settlement **Services** run by Capilano University.

DID YOU KNOW

The Learning for Life 2016 report on Whistler literacy highlights:



ENABLING FACTORS:

- Many free learning programs in Whistler
- Many organizational partnerships make programs work
- · The Library plays a key role

- Difficult for working parents to participate in programs
- · Lack of affordable space for programs
- · Programs are in scattered locations
- · Transportation challenges such as lack of regular bus service to the Whistler Blackcomb Spring Creek Social Service Building

Schools





2015-16

\$50,900 awarded in scholarships

in 2016, comprising 79 different scholarships.



Whistler Secondary School **Graduation Rate:**





2016



Average



COMMUNITY VOICES

"We have a highly educated population, both full-time and seasonal."



of the permanent population between the ages of 25 and 64 years had completed post-secondary education in 2011.

Funding for the Arts \$3.160.000 the

Arts & Culture



municipality's 2016 Festivals, Events & Animation budget.



\$618,000 per year in fee-for-service to **Arts Whistler** for the period 2015-17



\$165,000 per year in fee-for-service to the Whistler Museum for the period 2015-17



\$28,718 funding for arts, culture and events in 2015 from the Community Foundation of Whistler

DID YOU KNOW



There are approximately 14 community cultural organizations in Whistler.

Support for Local **Artists**



75% of all artist fees paid by Arts Whistler in 2015 went to local artists.



97% artists showcased in The Gallery at Maury Young Arts Centre were local.

72% of Whistler Street Entertainment performers were local.



691 individuals participated in community programming in 2015.

Arts Whistler operated 27 creative classes and workshops in fall 2015.

SURVEY RESULTS

85% excellent, or aood

Cultural capital includes the myriad of relationships, activities, artistic expressions and social/cultural events that contribute to the diversity and richness of community life.

"The focus of arts, culture, and heritage strategies has been to attract more visitors. While Whistler residents benefit from the cultural tourism strategies, there has been little development of community cultural arts, culture and heritage."

- Whistler Community Cultural Plan 2013

Volunteer Support



120 Hours

The average hours per year a cultural volunteer works in Whistler.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"Whistler does a great job of celebrating the arts. but when it comes to "the opportunity for diverse groups to celebrate their cultures and values", Whistler, an incredibly multicultural community, falls very short."

15

How Your Community Foundation Helps

The Kathy Barnett Memorial Fund was created in 2008 in memory of Kathy Barnett, co-founder of Pique Newsmagazine. The fund has granted out more than \$30,700 to local women to support their professional development and work with nonprofits for the betterment of the community.

How Your Community Foundation Helps

The Arts and Culture Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation of Whistler supports the operations of Arts Whistler. The Whistler Museum and Archives Endowment Fund supports the operations of the Whistler Museum and Archives Society. Youth combining art with education about local heritage: The Community Foundation of Whistler provided a grant to the Whistler Museum & Archives Society to work with Whistler Secondary School students on a project where students used local historical photographs as inspiration for their own art creations.

14



66% excellent rating

Culture and recreation contribute immeasurably to the health of individuals and of communities by keeping them alive - and well.

(Caledon Institute of Social Policy 2004)



Municipal Programs

Children and Teens



13 municipal afterschool initiatives for 2015-16

11 municipal sports programs in 2015-16



9 summer camps in 2016

Adults and Seniors



17 on going programs at Meadow Park Recreation Centre in 2015-16

14 summer programs

Meadow Park Drop-In Rate



\$8.50 Adult & Seniors

Brennan Park in Squamish admission is \$5 for adults, \$3.81 for seniors and youth, effective June 1, 2016



Sports Groups

47 community sports & recreation groups listed in the municipal Recreation Guide.

503 youth registered in The Whistler Youth Soccer Club in 2015-16. The WYSC has 70 volunteer coaches.



"What other small village can boast golf, boating, skiing, walking, biking, swimming, hockey,

COMMUNITY VOICES

ice skating, exercise, yoga to name a few of the facilities we have available."



1500 members of the Whistler Off Road Cycling Association. WORCA's Monday Night Rides provide a fun and social allages weekly event.

Financial Assistance

4 sports & recreation financial assistance programs available in the community:





Grade 5/10 Get Active Program



Programs and Leisure Activities for You (P.L.A.Y.)



Jumpstart

KidSport (40 recipients received KidSport grants in 2015.)

165 municipal subsidies were provided to families for sports & recreation in 2015.

DID YOU KNOW

The KidSport program enables children of financially restricted families to participate in organized sports programs. The program is administered by Whistler Community Services Society and supported by the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation.



Belonging



SURVEY RESULTS

75% excellent, or good

Belonging is about how much we believe we 'fit' in a place or group, and how much that place or group welcomes and includes us.

Volunteering



of permanent residents in 2014 volunteered for at least one hour per month.

Over 90 nonprofit groups are active in Whistler, many of them relying on volunteers. 2015 volunteer numbers include:

- Whistler Arts Council
- Whistler Public Library
- **Village Hosts**
- Whistler Blackcomb 2015-16 winter season

Whistler Community Services averages 4,500 volunteer hours per year.



COMMUNITY VOICES

"We still don't have a community centre, especially for new residents, families & seniors."

COMMUNITY VOICES

"Whistler has a great community life. People are caring of their town and have a great sense of belonging. People are always willing to donate their time to help out."

Voter **Turnout**

74% of eligible voters

in the West Vancouver Sea to Sky riding cast a ballot in the 2015 federal election, against a national average of 68%.

Voter turnout in the 2014 municipal election was 27% of eligible voters, a decrease of 55% from 2011.



Sense of Belonging

"Within a week of my Spinal Cord Injury. I was lucky to receive a beautiful quilt from Whistler Valley Quilters Guild. This gift of love and healing truly represents the fiber of cohesiveness and togetherness of the Whistler community and the concern and thoughtfulness of its residents for one another."

- Sandy Hawkshaw



"The church is vital, especially when you're away from family."

Katherine Limsipson came to Whistler as a caregiver in 2011. She recently gained permanent residence and her husband and children were able to join her here in 2016.

More than 200 Filipinos regularly gather and worship at Our Lady of the Mountains, a central part of their local community and support system.

How Your Community Foundation Helps

The Community Foundation of Whistler funded training of guides for WORCA's Monday Night Ride program. Monday Night Rides provide a fun and social all-ages weekly event that encourages physical activity, and fosters a sense of belonging among community members.

How Your Community Foundation Helps

The Community Foundation of Whistler, together with the Whistler Nonprofit Network, has a monthly volunteer opportunities newsletter. Community members can sign up for the newsletter and follow the Volunteer Whistler Facebook page.

Highlights & Trends

Acknowledgements



Connections

There are strong connections between the 12 areas of community vitality, and they cannot be considered in isolation. For example, as housing costs rise, those who are struggling are more challenged and the gap between rich and poor widens. In some cases, we have made the decision to place an indicator in a certain area though it may address several other areas as well. Together, we hope this report paints an informative picture of community vitality.

A HOUSING

The cost and lack of availability of suitable housing is a serious concern for residents. Housing issues are closely related to wages, cost of living and the gap between the rich and the poor.

The high cost of living is a real challenge for many. Realities of Whistler life such as seasonal work, limited ability to save, injuries, or illness can push struggling families and individuals over the edge. Coping can be especially difficult for those living far from their families and support networks.

WORK

There are many jobs, but many employees don't make a living income. Many have to work more than one job or more than full-time to afford the cost of living. Employers struggle to find staff as result of the housing issues and high cost of living. Whistler can present career opportunities for those who manage despite the challenges.

★ GETTING STARTED

Seasonal workers come and go, young families are starting and staying, the number of immigrants is increasing, the population is starting to age as seniors choose to stay and retirees are moving in.

W HEALTH & WELLNESS

Whistler residents are generally very active and healthy with good access to medical services. However, people are concerned about the level of drug and alcohol use, as well as access to mental health supports.

GETTING AROUND

The Valley Trail helps residents get around without cars. However, there is still concern about the level of car use. Travel by transit within Whistler can be time-consuming and the lack of regular service to some areas can be a challenge. The cost and poor availability of regional transit options for commuters and for those who must travel to Vancouver for medical or other services is a concern.

☞ ENVIRONMENT

Whistler residents respect the natural environment. Locals do well with waste reduction and recycling and are concerned about climate change. Residents would like to improve efforts to educate visitors about waste reduction and stewardship of natural areas.

SAFETY

Residents feel mostly safe in Whistler. Residents are concerned about the personal safety of young adults using drugs and alcohol. Community members are also concerned about the danger of wildfires.

LEARNING

Whistler scores well on child development and supporting youth learning in our schools. Residents and workers are generally well educated. There are many learning programs in the community but residents usually must leave for formal education programs or to obtain specific workplace skills training.

ARTS & CULTURE

Great opportunities to participate in arts, festivals, and events exist in Whistler. Residents would like more support for local arts, opportunities for youth in art, and enhanced exposure to First Nations culture and the many diverse cultures that exist in our community.

₹ SPORTS & RECREATION

Opportunities for sporting activities in Whistler are plentiful, but some families often need to choose which sports their children are able to participate in.

BELONGING

There is a healthy culture of volunteering, but some are concerned about large scale events, reducing the time and energy that people give to local organizations. While there are many opportunities to participate in community life, it can be difficult for individuals to make meaningful connections and develop a sense of belonging. Once newcomers find their community, the level of acceptance and support received is very high. Many express a need for more places for locals to gather and affordable places for groups and community programs.

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About the Community Foundation of Whistler

The Community Foundation of Whistler is a charitable public foundation, serving the communities of Whistler and Pemberton, and operated by members of our local community who live, work and raise their families here in the Sea to Sky region.

Our vision is a thriving local community where all members are engaged and informed, and where strong connections create a resilient and caring community.

The Community Foundation of Whistler:

- invests in the future of our community by managing permanent endowment funds
- provides grants to local charitable organizations to create impact in all areas of community
- offers donors the opportunity to establish charitable funds, endowed in perpetuity, for the ongoing benefit of the local community.
- · promotes community knowledge, volunteerism, and community leadership

We bring people together to create opportunities for dialogue, learning, and partnership. Our knowledge of the community helps us to create maximum impact with our grant programs.

Growing a thriving community





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Vital Signs ® is a community checkup conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada and with special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept. vitalsignscanada.ca





