

WHISTLER'S

# VitalSigns



**Connect + Engage**  
2018





## About Vital Signs®

First launched in 2016, Whistler's Vital Signs is an ongoing program of the Community Foundation of Whistler. We aim to:

- **inform** all members of our community on aspects of community health, bringing together key statistics and community updates in an easy and accessible way
- **encourage** dialogue with and between local individuals, organizations and stakeholders
- **connect** in new ways to facilitate inclusion for members of the community that find it hard to participate

The goal of the Community Foundation of Whistler Vital Signs initiative is to offer an objective look at the community through statistics and local perspectives. Knowledge is the first step toward action, and Vital Signs aims to gather and share information vital to our community's health. We hope this information will help community members understand local strengths and issues, and encourage constructive and respectful dialogue that builds our shared understanding of our community and our vision for the future.



## 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](mailto:info@whistlerfoundation.com)



## Tracking Community Health and Vitality

This 2018 report is the first full update of the initial 2016 Vital Signs report on community health and vitality and we look at how some indicators have changed in that period. It is also an extension of our focus on the impact of change on our sense of belonging. Two years on, change and growth in Whistler continues, and we continued to explore the impact on our sense of belonging through our 2018 Connect and Engage survey.



## What's Next

We hope this report sparks curiosity, creates conversations and stimulates action. The Community Foundation of Whistler will use this report and research to guide our decisions in granting, partnering and building community development projects. We aim to support initiatives that encourage and support dialogue and participation to grow inclusiveness and effect change in our community. We will also keep listening, and want to know how you would like us to help Whistler become more connected and engaged.



## Quality of Life Indicators

This 2018 report examines 12 key areas of community life.

### Indicator Updating and Research Findings

The quality of life indicators presented in each key area were identified by our engagement with community members in 2016. Vital Signs 2018 includes those indicators which have changed significantly from 2016, and a comparison of indicators to illustrate change from 2016 to 2018. The 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.

### We aim for the statistics presented to:

- be easy to understand 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

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](http://whistlerfoundation.com)

## Community Engagement & Partnerships

In 2018, our community engagement work explored how residents connect and engage. It included:

- **Vital Partners:** individuals, organizations and community groups were invited to have conversations with friends and peers that explored how they connect and engage with others in the community.
- **Online Connect and Engage survey:** this survey explores how people make and keep personal, neighbourhood and community connections, as well as how they participate. We hope this will give us a tool to map connections and engagement over time.
- **Vital Conversations** with Whistler's Nonprofit Network and other local community service organizations.
- **Post-survey focus group** of Vital Partners and survey participants for a deeper exploration of personal, neighbourhood and community connections and engagement.
- **Partnership** between the Community Foundation of Whistler and the Whistler Centre for Sustainability. We paired Vital Signs with the Resilient Streets program which invited participants to turn ideas into action with small grants.

Results from the Connect and Engage survey are included on each key area page as well as in a separate section.

## Table of Contents

2	Whistler's Vital Signs
3	Introduction to the 2018 Vital Signs report
5	Getting Started in our Community
6	Gap Between Rich & Poor
7	Housing
8	Work
9	Health & Wellness
10	Connect and Engage survey: Highlights and Trends
12	Environment
13	Getting Around
14	Learning
15	Safety
16	Arts & Culture
17	Sports & Recreation
18	Belonging and Focus Group Feedback
19	Acknowledgments



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA



Community  
Foundation  
of Whistler

The Community Foundation of Whistler acknowledges that our community is located within the unceded territory of the Lílwat and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.





## Connect and Engage Survey 2018

Growth and change impact the way we all relate to our community. This year, the Community Foundation of Whistler asked the community about how they connect and engage locally.

### Why are connections and engagement important?

The stronger the connections we have, the stronger and more resilient our community. When some experience fewer connections, or weaker connections, then the whole community is impacted. Even those who feel well connected can benefit when everyone's sense of belonging is enhanced.

### Connect and Engage Survey

Developed by the Vancouver Foundation, and used in Whistler with their permission, the Connect and Engage survey explores

- Personal Connections
- Neighbourhood Connections
- Community Connections

During April and May 2018, 422 community members responded to the survey.

## What did we learn?

Much of Whistler's population is doing well, feels well-connected and is managing financially, but there is a significant proportion of community members experiencing challenges and struggles. In general, it is younger adults, those newer to town, and those earning lower incomes who are more likely to have difficulty making friends, managing financially, and finding the time to make the social connections to build a strong sense of belonging.

The full tabulated results can be accessed at [whistlerfoundation.com](http://whistlerfoundation.com).



## Community Profile

Located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations, Whistler has a rich history and has evolved into a culturally interesting community and a special place for the adventurous spirits who live here. Whistler has recently experienced year-over-year growth in winter and summer business, record visitation numbers and the disappearance of shoulder seasons. Our core economy is based not just on recreational activities, but festivals, events, arts, and cultural activities.

### Population

**11,854**

**2016 Permanent resident population**

an increase of 20.7% over 2011, where Squamish increased by 13.7% and BC by 5.6%.



### Population Equivalent

Average daily population equivalent



**32,544 (2015) → 33,631 (2016) → 36,306 (2017)**

Whistler's population equivalent includes permanent residents, seasonal residents and the average number of visitors in Whistler on any given day.

Due to the population equivalent, per capita measurements should be interpreted carefully.

### Economy

**3,480,136 visitors** came to Whistler in 2016/17, a **new record high** for year-round visitation. The Whistler economy generates \$1.44 billion in annual consumer spending (2014-2015) and 25% of BC's tourism export economy.

### Households and Income



**13.7% of households** consist of people **living together not as a family**.

The provincial average is 4.7%

### 2015 median total income of:

people aged 15+ **\$35,491**

households **\$79,752**

families (couples) with children **\$113,579**

lone-parent families **\$52,565**

### Age Distribution

**67.7%**



**increase in the number of seniors** aged 65+ from 2011 to 2016. **Seniors made up 7% of the permanent population** in 2016 compared to the national average of 18.3%

**24%**



**increase in the number of children** aged 0-14 from 2011 to 2016. **Children made up 12.5 of the permanent population** in 2016.

**80.4%** of the population in 2016 were **working age (15-64)**, compared to the national percentage of 66.5%

**34.2** was the **median age in 2016**, compared to the median age in BC of 43 and up from 32.4 years in 2011.

### Diversity

**21.8%** of the permanent resident population are **immigrants**, compared to the average for Canada of 21.9%

**1.2%** of Whistler's permanent population in 2016 **identified as Aboriginal**. Compared to 12.2% in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and the Canadian average is 4.9%

**0.22%** reported **Aboriginal ancestry**.





# GETTING STARTED

It's hard to get started in Whistler. Superficial connections are easy to develop, while deeper relationships and support are harder to find. Challenges are even greater for newcomers who are developing English skills and starting a new chapter in life.

## DID YOU KNOW

From March 2019, Whistler residents will have access to a **4-bed hospice facility**. This means Sea to Sky residents will not have to travel to Vancouver but will be able to remain in the Sea to Sky Corridor for end-of-life care.



## Immigration



**10%** of Whistler's permanent population

### ARE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS.

**Temporary foreign workers** (work visas, international students and refugee claimants and their families) represent 2% of the population in Squamish, and 1% in Canada.

## Childcare

### Average births/year:

2008-2012 Average = 89  
2013-2017 Average = 106



**32** licensed group child-care spaces for infants and toddlers – **There has been no increase from 2016.**

It is estimated that there are **licensed group child care spaces for only 10% of Whistler children** aged 12-36 months.

**18 months to more than 2 years** is the **waiting list** time for infant and toddler day care spaces in Whistler. This has not changed from 2016.

There are **54** licensed **after-school childcare spaces**.

**\$45/day** Average cost for full-time day care at Whistler Children's Centre, which has opted into the Provincial Child Care Fee Reduction Program. With this program the average cost decreased from \$61 in 2016.



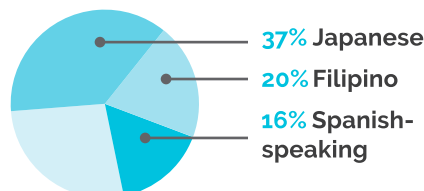
## INCREASE

in new permanent residents landing in Whistler 2011-16 over 2006-11.

**40% of immigrants**, equivalent to **8% of the permanent population** of Whistler, arrived between **2011 and 2016**. In Squamish the percentage of the population arriving as immigrants in the same period was 3%, in Canada it was 3.1%.

Top 3 countries of immigrant origin 2011-16:  
**U.K., Philippines & Australia**

**183 adults** accessed settlement services in 2017-18



## CONNECT & ENGAGE



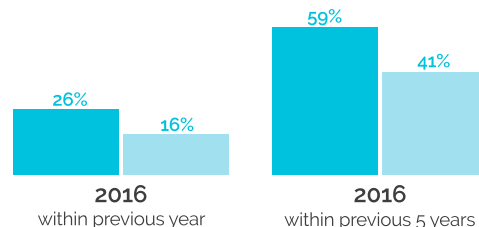
**34%** of respondents said they found it **somewhat or very difficult** to make friends in Whistler.

## Mobility

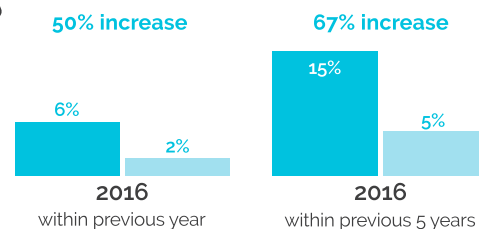
Whistler residents remain more mobile than the BC average.

■ WHISTLER ■ BC

### Moved Residence



### Moved from outside Canada



### Moved within Whistler

In 2016, **13%** of Whistler residents had **moved locally** within the previous year, compared to 2% in BC, and down 7% on 2011. 24% had moved locally in the previous 5 years, compared to 5% in BC, down 4% on 2011.



Community  
Foundation  
of Whistler

Parenting Across Cultures at the Whistler Welcome Centre, funded by the Community Foundation of Whistler, brings immigrant mothers of young children together to build understanding of how to adapt to parenting in Canada and create a support network to help newcomer parents participate in the wider community and to access local family-centred programs.

# GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR



## CONNECT & ENGAGE

**25%** of respondents say they are 'just getting by' financially, and a further **12%** saying they are finding it **difficult or very difficult**.

## Food Bank Users

In 2017,

- 20%** of users accessed the foodbank because of **injury or illness**
- 24%** had **lived in Whistler for more than 10 years**
- 30%** were from **Pemberton**
- 57%** were **male**, and **66%** were aged **30 years and above**

## Increased numbers of children

accessing the foodbank, from 19% in 2014 to **28% in 2017**.



**28%**



## School Lunch Program



Average number of students **participating in the School Lunch Program** run by Whistler Community Services Society 2013-2018.

## Living Wage

### Family of 4 in 2017

**\$111,820**

is the total before-tax household income needed by a family of 4 to make ends meet, where both parents are working 40 hours/week, one child is in school and one child is in full-time daycare.

**10.4% OVER 2015**



**\$26.88**

**PER HOUR, PER PARENT AT 40 HOURS/WEEK**

a family of four to make ends meet in 2017.

**\$24.35 IN 2015**

**\$25.25 IN 2016**

**\$14.37 PER HOUR AT 40 HOURS/WEEK**

an individual/seasonal worker to meet the cost of basic needs in 2017.

The 'Living Wage' is an estimate of what a **family of four** needs to earn in order to **meet basic needs** and participate in the civic and social life of their community.

It includes costs for Shelter, Food, Mobility, Clothing, Childcare, a basic education course, a small contingency fund and other furnishings, toiletries, health products, recreation etc.

**39%** In 2016, **39% of permanent residents** surveyed reported incomes below 'Living Costs' levels. Compared to 16% in 2015.

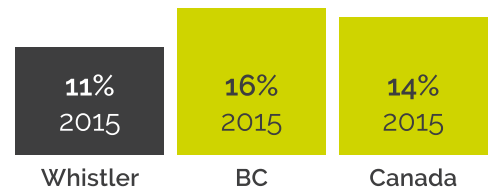
## DID YOU KNOW

Many males over age 30 are more vulnerable because there are not as many services for them. Injury and illness is often when people lose connections with others because they are not able to participate in activities like skiing or biking or work. (WCSS Outreach)



## Poverty

Percentage of Whistler residents living in poverty, based on the Low Income Measure after-tax (LIM-AT)



## 10.7% OF CHILDREN

and **6.6% of elderly people** were living in poverty based on the LIM-AT in 2015 in Whistler.

**24.6%** of people in **lone-parent families** were considered **low income**.

**20.5%** of those **aged 20-24** in Whistler are **low income**.

## Gender Gap



**2.2%**

**10.5%**

Median after-tax **income for women** **increased 10.5%** from 2010 to 2015 versus a **2.2% increase** for men.



# HOUSING

Insecure housing reduces our sense of belonging as connections are harder to make and keep.

## Average Monthly Rent



The average amount spent on rent and utilities in 2016 was **44% higher in Whistler** compared to BC.

## DID YOU KNOW

Whistler needs **445 more bedrooms** to house all renters suitably, almost double the 235 needed in 2011.

## Housing Income Ratio

# 21% RENTER households

in 2016 **spent over 50% of income on rent and utilities**. This is unchanged from 2011 and is equivalent to the provincial rate. 44% of renters in 2016 were paying more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities, down from 52% in 2011.

## Occupancy



**56%**  
are not normally occupied.



**44%**  
occupied.

**44% of dwellings are occupied by usual residents**  
(people who live there permanently).

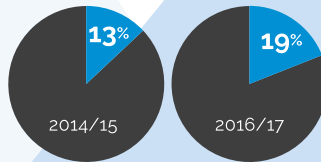
Of those, 61% are owner households and 40% renters.



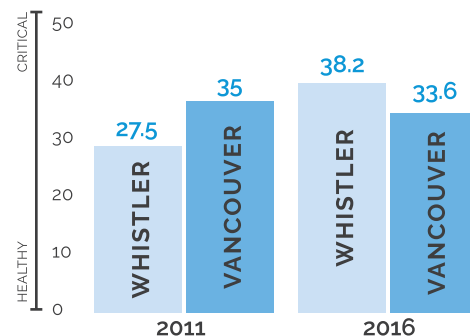
## Workforce Living Locally

While there has been **no change** in the percentage of employees living locally from 2011 to 2016, an increase in the workforce during this period means an **18% increase** in the number of employees housed within Whistler.

Number of businesses providing some housing for staff



## Rental Housing Index



Whistler is rated the **4<sup>th</sup> most critical municipality in BC** after Burnaby (43.7), Richmond (40.8) & Coquitlam (38.3).

**17% of renters** in 2016 were living in **overcrowded conditions**. This represents no change from 2011.

## Whistler Housing Authority

### Purchase Housing Waitlist



466 in 2016, 731 in 2018

### Rental Housing Waitlist



410 in 2016, 658 in 2018

**↑ 57%**

**↑ 60%**



**Up 6%**  
since 2016

# WHA  
Housing Units

- As of 2017, WHA provides 2,034 (6,500 beds) price-controlled rental and ownership units to local employees and retirees. 1087 ownership units, 946 rental units.
- 111 more units planned, including 20 seniors rental units.



## CONNECT & ENGAGE



**63%** of respondents have a close friend or family member that has moved away due to affordability reasons. **25% know more than 5 households** who left Whistler for this reason.

## Housing Prices



5 year change:

**Condo** ↑ **145%**  
**Townhouse** ↑ **128.4%**  
**Single-Family detached** ↑ **83.3%**

As of February 2018 **\$547,200 was the benchmark price** for a condominium in Whistler.

**15.5%** of Whistler's residential properties are **owned by non-residents of Canada**. This is the second highest in the province, behind Sun Peaks 16.5%. Vancouver is 7%, and BC 3.5%.





# WORK



## CONNECT & ENGAGE

**53%** of respondents said **work or school obligations** get in the way of them seeing friends.

### Labour Force Participation Rate

**85%** of the population over 15 years of age was **working or looking for work** in 2016 (83% in 2011) compared to 63.9% for B.C.

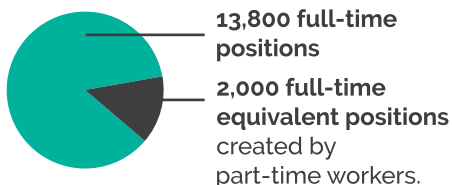
#### DID YOU KNOW

In 2016, in Whistler the proportion of **women in managerial positions** was 44.4%, an **increase of 28.9%** from 2011.

Demanding work schedules and work stress are diminishing our ability to spend time connecting with friends, family and neighbours. But, workplaces are also important places of belonging. Workplaces that are fair, inclusive, and supportive make significant contributions to resident wellness.

### Workforce

Workforce for the 2016/17 winter season:



Whistler's estimated total workforce required in **2017** was **15,800**:

- 13,200 full time positions
- 1,500 full-time equivalent positions

**8% INCREASE** compared to 2016.

The highest number of employees recorded.

*"...the living wage clearly focuses on the role of employers in taking their fair share of responsibility for the well-being of their workforce"*

- 2017 Living Wage Final Report

#### DID YOU KNOW

In 2016, in Whistler the **number of self-employed** individuals in the labour force was 1,350, an **increase of 45.9%** from 2011.

### Staffing Shortages

**30% of Whistler's employers** were **unable to meet their staffing requirements** during the 2016/17 winter season.

This meant a **shortage of 740 full-time equivalent positions**.

This is a decrease from 35% in the 2015-2016 winter season but is still much higher than the 17% who were not able to meet their staffing needs in the 2014/2015 winter season.



## Whistler Chamber of Commerce - Employer and Employee Surveys 2018

#### The biggest challenges for employers in the winter of 2017-18 were:

- recruiting qualified employees
- housing employees
- recruiting enough employees
- paying higher wages, providing more attractive benefits

#### The top 5 most difficult positions to fill (winter 2017-18)

1. Culinary staff - All position levels
2. Trades people - Intermediate, supervisor, top level management
3. Night Audit - Entry, intermediate, supervisor level
4. Maintenance - Entry and intermediate levels
5. Labourer - Intermediate and supervisor level

#### How long do seasonal staff stay?

33% up to 6 months, 67% up to 12 months, 4% return for 2 or more years

What employers said about winter season 2017-2018:

#### Employees scored Whistler positively as a place to work for its

- mountain lifestyle
- work-life balance
- small community

#### Employees scored Whistler negatively for

- access to appropriate or affordable housing
- wage level
- career and employment opportunities/ advancement

#### What would attract and retain more employees?

- better wages, benefits, and perks, including transit and immigration support
- cheaper housing
- more/better training
- promoting Whistler as a caring community

What employees said in 2018:

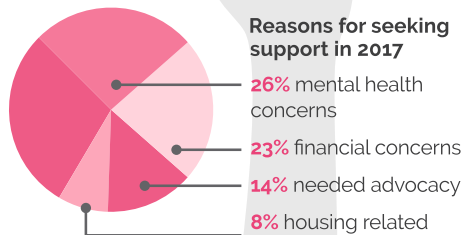


# HEALTH & WELLNESS

Illness and injury can be isolating in Whistler because connecting through physical activity is a strong part of our local culture. When unable to work or play, many residents become vulnerable to diminishing mental wellness as a result of a lack of supportive networks.

## Community Outreach

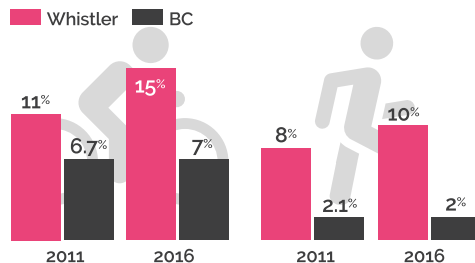
Visits to Whistler Community Services Society outreach workers:



## Wellness

Increase of **36% for cycling**, and **25% for walking** to work in Whistler (2011 to 2016).

% walking or biking to work



Binge Drinking rate in grade 6-12



**Experimentation with marijuana** in the **12th grade jumped from 52% in 2013 to 74% in 2017.**

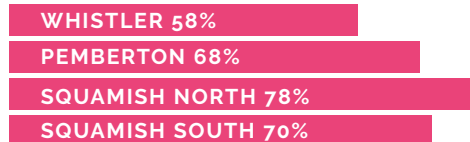
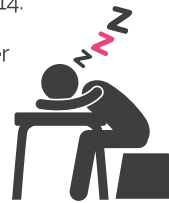
**68% of grade 12 students** said there was **"no risk"** or only a **"slight risk"** from trying marijuana once or twice. 26% of students believe that regular marijuana use poses the same lack of adverse effects.



## Stress

**23.3 % of population aged 15 and over** in the North Shore Coast Garibaldi area reported that most days in their life were **quite a bit or extremely stressful** in 2015-16. This is down from 29% in 2014.

**Grade 4 students** in Whistler (2017-18) scored quality of **nutrition** and **sleep** in their lives lower than in other Sea to Sky communities.

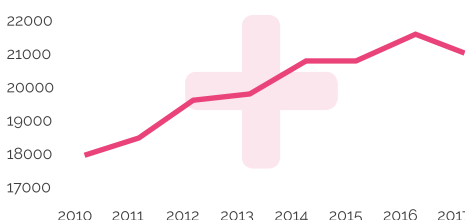


**277** calls and online chats from Whistler individuals to the **YouthinBC.com** distress phone service and online chat service, up 48% from 2015.

**DID YOU KNOW** The Canadian Red Cross' Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) provides **free, by donation, loans of basic medical equipment** by referral for those recovering from illness, injury or surgery. In 2017-2018, 35 unique Whistler clients accessed equipment from the Squamish HELP office.

## ER Visits

**21,066 visits** to the ER in **2017**. **17% increase** in ER visits 2010-2017.



## CONNECT & ENGAGE



**85%** of respondents say they have **at least one close friend** they can talk to about what is on their mind, or call on for help.

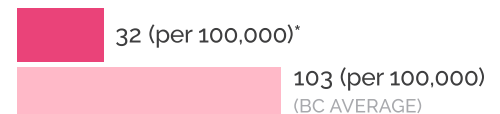
## Medical Services

*'There is [...] a concern over a shortage of medical practitioners serving the resort community.'*



- Draft Whistler OCP, June 2018

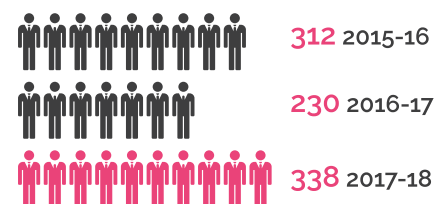
**2014-15 Specialists per capita:**



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



The Community Foundation of Whistler funds youth wellness workshops at local schools to provide youth with mental wellness practices that support suicide prevention.



Youth reached (Whistler and Pemberton)

# CONNECT & ENGAGE

*Strong social connectedness makes strong communities.*

## How well are we connected?

### PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

People with lower income tend to spend more time alone than they would like relative to people with higher income.

People with no relatives nearby tend to spend more time alone than they would like relative to people with relatives nearby.

Younger adults tend to feel lonely more often than older adults.

Somewhat newer residents to their neighbourhoods tend to feel lonely more often than longer-term residents.

**14%**

report experiencing loneliness almost always or often.

**71%**

don't have relatives that live close by or any living relatives in the Sea to Sky area.

**57%**

most commonly connect using technology and **41%** usually in person. **65%** would prefer to connect in person. **20%** say they use technology too much.

**27%**

spend more time alone than they would like.

**89%**

have close relationships that provide a sense of emotional security.

**93%**

agree they have people they can depend on in times of need.

## Can we count on our neighbours?

### NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS

Younger adults and people with lower income tend to know fewer people well enough to ask for help.

Newer Canadian residents and newer residents to the neighbourhood tend to want to get to know their neighbours better.

Older adults, those with higher incomes and people who have lived in Canada more than 10 years tend to feel more welcome in their neighbourhood.

People who know more of their neighbours' names tend to feel a stronger sense of belonging.

**94%**

of people who have lived in Canada for less than 10 years want to get to know their neighbours better

**62%**

want to get to know their neighbours better

**75%**

agree that they feel welcome in their neighbourhood and feel they belong there

**97%**

know at least one neighbour by name

**93%**

know at least one neighbour well enough to ask for help

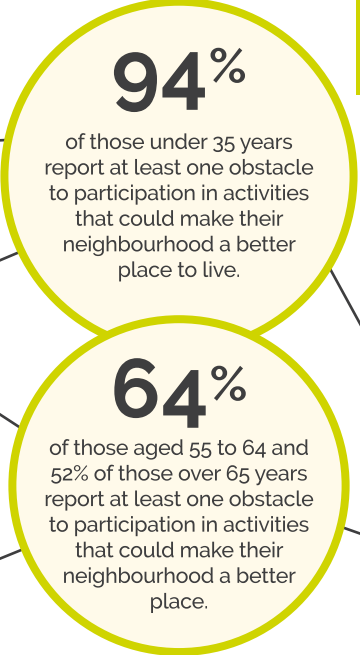




## What prevents us from getting involved in our neighbourhood?



## Who has more difficulty getting involved?

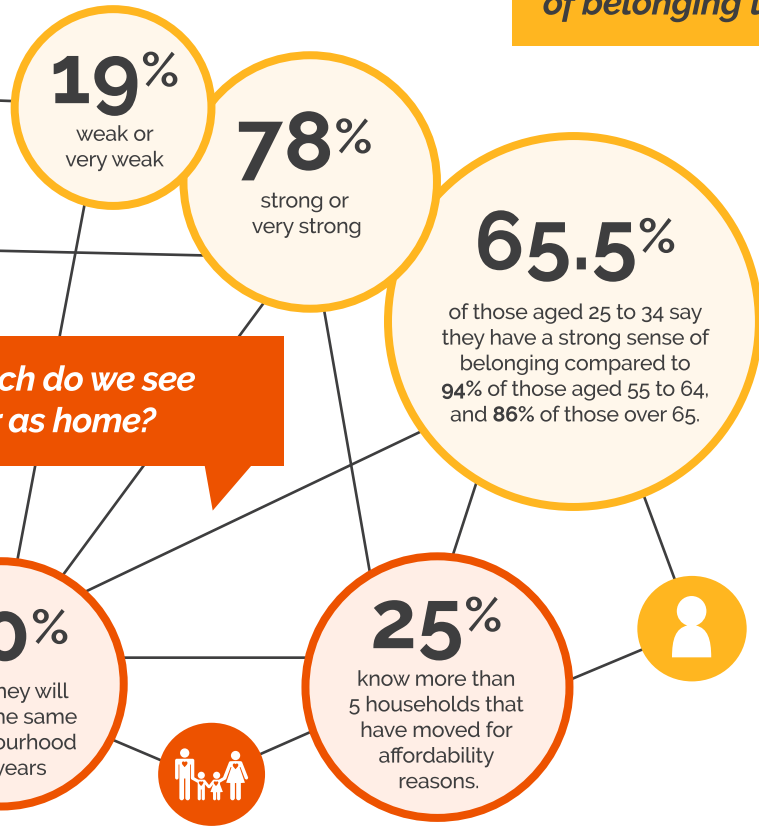


Overall, obstacles to participating are most felt by younger adults, and are slightly more felt by people with lower income and who have difficult managing financially.

Those who chose 'not having enough time' as an obstacle tend to be younger and to have lived in their neighbourhood for fewer years.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## How would you describe your sense of belonging to Whistler?



## How much do we see Whistler as home?

People who have lived in Canada for longer tend to feel a stronger sense of belonging than those newer to Canada.

People who have lived in Canada for more than 10 years tend to feel more welcome in their neighbourhood. 20% of those in Canada for less than 10 years do not feel welcome.

Younger adults tend to know someone who has moved away due to affordability slightly more than older adults.

People who know someone who has moved away due to affordability tend to feel a slightly weaker sense of belonging to Whistler.

42% of those who said they expect to move said the reason is because they can no longer afford to stay.

### SENSE OF BELONGING

# ENVIRONMENT



## CONNECT & ENGAGE

**56%** of respondents said they feel a strong sense of connection or **belonging** in nature.

## Biodiversity



**>4000**

**Known species** inventoried in Whistler.

The total number of confirmed to occur species at risk in Whistler is 69.

**Species at risk in Whistler:**



**Among the species at risk are:** coastal tailed frog, northern red-legged frog, western toad, great blue heron, bull trout, grizzly bear, whitebark pine

## Invasive species

**172 Invasive plant species**

**7 Invasive animal species**

have been found in Whistler.



**Community Foundation of Whistler**

An Environmental Legacy Grant from the Community Foundation of Whistler helped to build the Outdoor Classroom and food gardens at Myrtle Philip Community School. The classroom connects students to nature and they learn about growing food. Students and their families came together to harvest, cook and eat at the Harvest Soup Celebration.

Many Whistler residents find their sense of belonging by connecting to nature. It is important, though, to balance our access to nature with the need to preserve the integrity of our natural environment.

## Water Use

Whistler has seen a decrease in per capita water use from 2015-2017. However total water consumption in 2017 was at its highest level ever.

**2017 = 5.86 billion litres**

**2016 = 5.64 billion litres**

**TARGET = 425 litres (per person, per day)**

**ACTUALS = 2015 519 litres: 2017 440 litres (per person per day)**

5.64 BILLION

5.86 BILLION



## COMMUNITY VOICES

*"We have already taken so much of the valley for our own purposes and we need to have discussion about how [much] more we take."*

Focus group participant, May 2018

## Energy Use

Total community energy consumption in 2017 was up 5.5% over 2016. This is the highest level ever recorded in Whistler. However, energy consumption per population equivalent decreased in 2017 by 2.6% from 2016.



**Energy consumed in 2017 came from:**

**40% Electricity**  
**34% Vehicle fuels**  
**26% Natural gas**

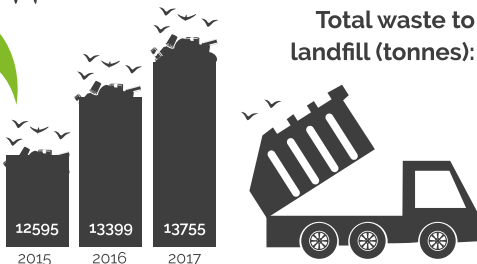
## Waste



**379 kg PER PERSON**

annual waste production in 2017 - down 24% from 500 kg/person in 2015.

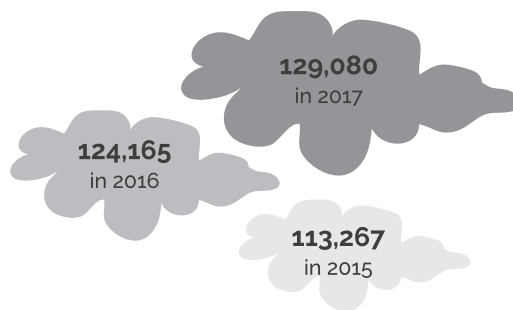
**Total waste to landfill (tonnes):**



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Total community **GHG emissions in 2017 were 129,080 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**. This is **4% above 2016 levels**.

Estimated GHG emissions per population equivalent decreased 4% from 2016 levels.



tCO<sub>2</sub>e GHG Emissions

## DID YOU KNOW

Whistler's Karl Ricker has been monitoring the Wedgemount Glacier for 45 years. Over a period of 117 years, the glacier has shown **549 meters of recession**. The Foundation now funds the cost of a helicopter to take 80-year-old Karl and his team of successors to measure the glacier.



# GETTING AROUND

Most of us still want to connect with others in person. Transportation challenges in Whistler can make connecting more difficult, forcing us to use technology to connect, sometimes more than we would like.

## DID YOU KNOW

The Valley Trail is part of the Sea to Sky Trail and the Trans Canada Trail. The Trans Canada Trail is the longest trail in the world and links 15,000 communities along 24,000 kilometres of trail.

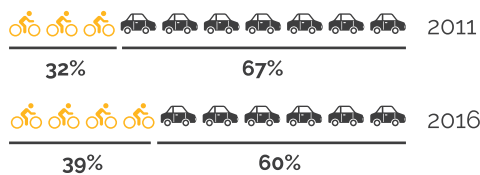


## Getting to Work

**7% MORE TRIPS TO WORK**

by Whistler residents, in 2016 were by walking, cycling or transit over 2011.

% of trips made to work in Whistler



In 2016 in Canada, 79% of trips were by car and 19% were by walking, cycling or transit.

■ Walking, cycling or transit ■ By Car



## DID YOU KNOW

On November 18, 2017, a pilot project started allowing compost, recyclables or garbage to be taken on the bus.

## Transit in Whistler



**2.50** Adult fare in Whistler

Adult fare in Squamish is \$2.00.  
The system cost per ride in Whistler is \$3.42.

From July 2017 a monthly pass = \$50 (adult) and \$40 (students & seniors).



From July 14, 2018 the Squamish monthly pass = \$39.00. Senior pass = \$20.00

**↑ 16% increase** in ridership on Whistler Transit from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

Whistler had **60,500 annual service hours** in 2013/2014 and 62,500 annual service hours in 2016/2017, a **3% increase** in service.

## Regional Transit

**4 roundtrips a day** operate between the Village of Pemberton & Whistler Village. Annual ridership on the Pemberton commuter **grew 47%** from **26,000 rides in 2013/2014** to **38,100 rides in 2016/17**.



The 'Sea to Sky Corridor Regional Transit Study' Oct. 2017 recommended a **regional transportation plan** to include:

- 6 round trips per day between Whistler and Squamish
- An additional 2 daily round trips between Whistler and Pemberton

The RMOW has signed a Memorandum of Understanding approving this regional transit plan. With funding from the Provincial government, this plan could be implemented in 2019/2020.

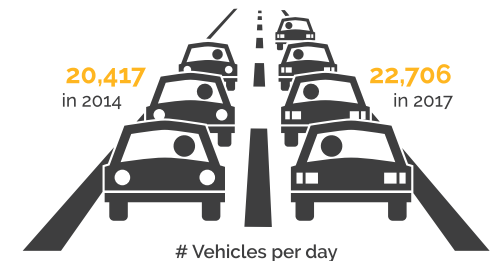
## CONNECT & ENGAGE



**72%** of respondents said they **use a car, truck or van** to complete errands such as grocery shopping.

## Highway Traffic

Estimated annual average daily traffic on **Highway 99** in Whistler.



## Passenger Vehicles

**REGISTERED PASSENGER VEHICLES INCREASED BY 4%**

in Whistler 2011 to 2015.

In 2017 passenger vehicle use accounted for 55% of greenhouse gas emissions.





# LEARNING



## CONNECT & ENGAGE

**85%** of respondents had visited the local library, community centre or recreation centre in the last year.

## Literacy & ESL

**3 free community literacy programs available in Whistler in 2017/2018**

**48 learners enrolled in the Whistler Community Learning Program:** one-to-one and group literacy support for all adults including reading, writing, computers, math, communication skills.

**73 learners enrolled in Whistler Settlement Services:** English language support for newcomers and immigrants.

**61 families enrolled in FACES Family Literacy program:** parents and children learning together.



In 2017-2018 the Community Foundation of Whistler supported the Technology Literacy Series at the Whistler Public Library. The program provides free classes to community members on using social media, spreadsheets, desktop publishing and other technologies.

Opportunities for learning are important to ensure community members can continue developing the literacy skills needed to participate fully in our community.

## Schools

### Public School Enrolments (K-12)

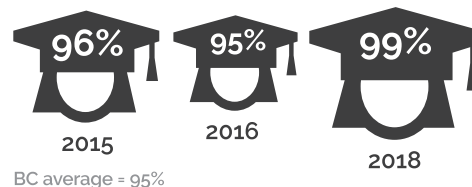


### 2018 Scholarships:

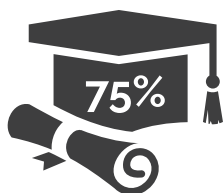
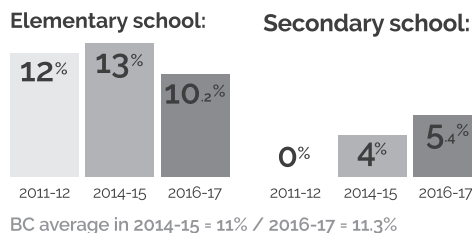
77 scholarships  
54% of grads received scholarships  
\$112,000 total value  
55 organizations provided awards



### Whistler Secondary School Graduation Rate:



### ESL Students:



of the permanent population aged 25 to 64 had **completed post-secondary education** in 2016, no change from 2011 and compared to BC at 64%, Squamish at 69%.

## DID YOU KNOW

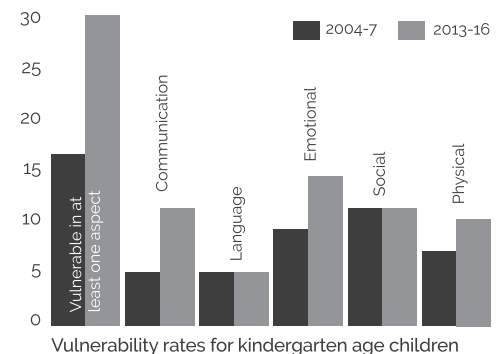
**Family literacy** - Learning as a family supports basic literacy and helps in the development of new skills.

**Adult literacy** - Learning is a lifelong process; adults and seniors must continue to learn to keep up with the pace of change.

**Workforce Literacy** - Improving workers' literacy skills creates a more productive workforce, a more competitive economy, and an improved bottom line.

## Child Development

**29% of kindergarten age children** in Whistler were rated vulnerable in at least one aspect of their development in 2013-16. This is up from 16% in 2004-2007.



**46% of grade 4 Whistler students** in 2017/18 rated their well-being at levels considered to be thriving and 29% were at levels considered to be low well-being.

## COMMUNITY VOICES

"It provides a safe space for people new to Whistler, people that might not have much of their own safe space and also space for anyone who needs it to read, study, tune out, relax etc."

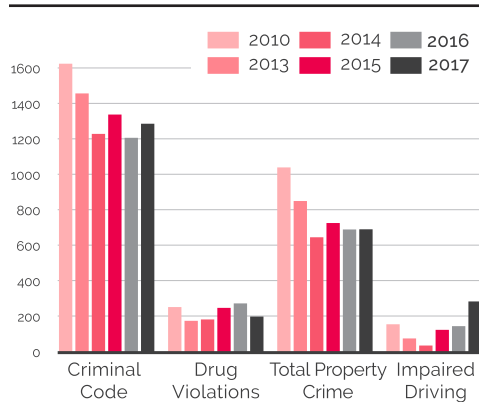
- WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY VISION SURVEY AUGUST 2017



# SAFETY

It is how a community cares for those who are the most vulnerable due to social, economic, health or other risks that determines the strength of a community. While Whistler residents generally report feeling safe, there are concerns around emergency preparedness as well as the increase in the number of visitors and recreationalists.

## Crime Rates



The large increase in impaired driving violations is likely a result of an increase in enforcement efforts by the Whistler RCMP.

### All assaults

143 incidents reported in 2017, 112 in 2016



RCMP suggested that this could largely be due to alcohol-related incidents outside the nightclubs.

### Bike Theft

74 reported in 2017, 80 in 2014

7.5%

## Children and Youth Safety

In 2017, Whistler teens (Grades 6 to 12) exhibited more risk than the national norm in 3 areas:

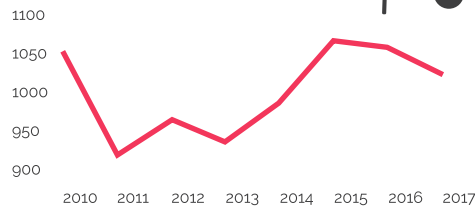
- parent attitudes favor drug use
- perceived risk of drug use
- rewards for antisocial behavior

### 81% OF GRADE 4 STUDENTS

(2017-18) said there are safe places in their neighbourhood/community where they feel comfortable to hang out with friends.

## Workplace Injuries

1034 workplace injuries were treated in 2017 by the Whistler Health Care Centre



## DID YOU KNOW

In 2017, there were **8 fentanyl-related deaths** in the Sea to Sky corridor.



## Search & Rescue

Whistler Search and Rescue (WSAR):

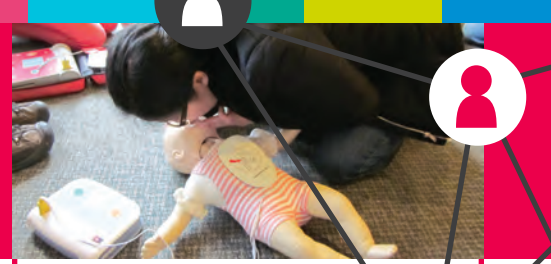
- **20% increase in responses** from 2015/16 to 2016/17.
- **12% more female** subjects from 2014/15 to 2016/2017.



The age of individuals assisted by WSAR is trending up. 55% of responses in 2016/17 involved subjects aged 26-40, up from 36% in 2014/15.



Volunteers spent **1115 hours** in 2017-18 rescuing people, up 113% from 2016.



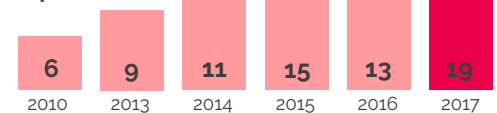
## CONNECT & ENGAGE



**79%** of respondents think that if they lost a wallet or purse containing \$100, it would definitely or probably **be returned with the money inside.**

## Sexual Assaults & Domestic Violence

Sexual assaults reported:



**40 incidents of domestic violence** reported to the RCMP in 2017.



**Whistler Women's Centre** referred **8 women** to Howe Sound Women's Centre safe housing for 131 nights in 2017 (2016 = 14 women for 181 nights).

There were **950 drop-in visits** to the Centre in 2017, 1131 in 2016.



Community Foundation of Whistler

Through the Emerald Fund, the Community Foundation of Whistler provided a grant to WSAR to purchase a new snowmobile. The Foundation also gave a grant to the Whistler Disaster Management Volunteer Team for the purchase of tents, heaters, laptops and generators to support those affected by disasters.



## COMMUNITY VOICES

*"In Whistler there is a particular risk to vulnerable persons - that may be transient workers that are here, away from family and friends, or new Canadians that come into the community."*

—RCMP Inspector, Jeff Christie

# ARTS & CULTURE

## CONNECT & ENGAGE

**42%** had participated in a sports or recreational club or group (team sports, recreation club, cycling group or hiking club) in the last 12 months.

## Funding for the Arts

**\$3,756,159** the municipality's 2018 Festivals, Events & Animation budget

**19%** over 2016

**6%** over 2017

**\$656,569** fee-for-service to Arts Whistler for 2018

**\$175,099** fee-for-service to the Whistler Museum for 2018

**Canada Council for the Arts Grant funding:** \$27,500 in grants from the Canada Council for the Arts to 4 local recipients in 2016/2017.

**Community Foundation of Whistler funding** for arts, culture and events:

**2015** **\$28,718**

**2017** **\$41,799**

**2018** **\$42,035**



**Employment in occupations related to arts, culture, recreation and sport in 2016:** 6.7% of total labour force 15 years and over, up from 4.7% in 2006.

Expressing and experiencing arts and culture contributes to residents' sense of identity and belonging. Equitable access for local residents is equally important to build bridges within the community by reflecting diversity and sharing understanding.

## Support for Local Artists

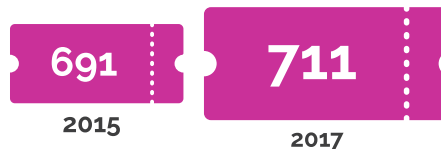
**72% of all artist fees** paid by Arts Whistler went to local artists.

**90%** of community programming art instructors were local.

**95% artists showcased** in The Gallery at Maury Young Arts Centre were local.

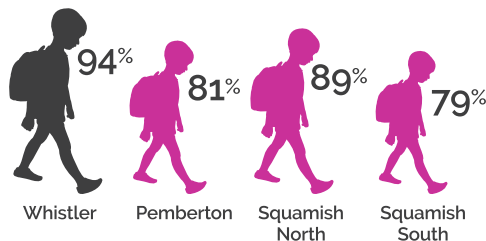
**73%** of Whistler Street Entertainment performers were local.

**Individuals participating** in Arts Whistler community programming:



## After School Activities

**Grade 4 (aged 10-11) students** in Whistler (2017-18) reported an **extremely high level of participation in after school activities.**



While 71% of children said they are already doing what they want to do for after school activities, 34% said they are not.

## DID YOU KNOW

KidsArt provides financial assistance for arts education to children aged 5 to 18 of financially restricted families. Patterned after the National KidSport program, KidsArt is a collaboration between Whistler Community Services Society, the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and Arts Whistler.

**Kids Art grants in Whistler:**



As we work towards communities where everyone belongs, Community Foundations across Canada are committed to reconciliation for Indigenous peoples, which includes listening and learning.

In 2017, the Community Foundation of Whistler provided a grant to the Sea to Sky Discovery Storytelling Celebration that invited locals to submit their own writings.

### Birkenhead Pantoum

Winner- Aboriginal Category

By Tressa Peters

*Calm sage current*

*Refreshing alluvium*

*I sit and watch the water*

*Safe meander*

*Refreshing alluvium*

*Fern coloured ripples*

*Safe meander*

*It carries my troubles away downstream*

*Fern coloured ripples*

*I sit and watch the water*

*It carries my troubles away downstream*

*Calm sage current*



A grant from the Emerald Foundation Fund in 2018 helped to ensure that the Whistler Multicultural Festival, one of Whistler's most popular events for the local community, was able to continue.

The Festival showcases Whistler's diversity with free cultural activities, crafts, performances and displays plus an opportunity to try multicultural food cooked by local immigrants.





# SPORTS & RECREATION

In Whistler, too much competition, pressure, and demanding schedules can make sport a negative experience for some, especially youth. It is important to maintain a sports culture of fun and fairness.



## Municipal Programs

### Children and Teens

**9** municipal & **4** afterschool initiatives for **2017-18**.

**14** municipal sports programs in 2017-18.

**10** summer camps in 2018

### Adults and Seniors

**30** ongoing programs for adults,

**11** for seniors, at Meadow Park

Recreation Centre in 2017-18

– **up 141% on 2015-16**.

Also listed in the municipal Recreation Guide are **24 community groups** and **7 arts and culture groups**.

### Meadow Park Drop-In Rate 2018

\$5.25 Youth

\$8.75 Adult & Seniors

**Up 5% and 3% on 2016.**



Squamish's Brennan Park admission rates are \$5.75 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors and youth – **up 15% and 18% on 2016**.

## Sports Groups

**38** sports groups listed in the municipal Recreation Guide.

**451** youth registered in **The Whistler Youth Soccer Club** in 2017 – down 10% on 2016. The WYSC has 70 volunteer coaches.

**The Whistler Tennis** association was formed in 2017. It now has **660 members**.

**Whistler Off Road Cycling Association** now has **1800 members** – up 20% on 2016. **WORCA** runs Toonie Rides, Phat Wednesdays and special events for all ages.



### COMMUNITY VOICES

*"The situation for youth today is completely different from 5 years ago. Youth are dealing with anxiety and sleep issues. There is school stress and stress in the family home. There is pressure to perform in sports at a high level."*

WCSS Outreach worker

## After School Sports Activities

**49%** of Grade 4 students participated in individual sports with a coach or instructor **2+ times a week**.

**30%** participated in a **team sport** with a coach or instructor.



## CONNECT & ENGAGE



**33%** of respondents said they feel a **strong sense of connection or belonging** in a sports or hobby group.

## Financial Assistance

**Sports and recreation financial assistance programs in 2016 & 2017:**

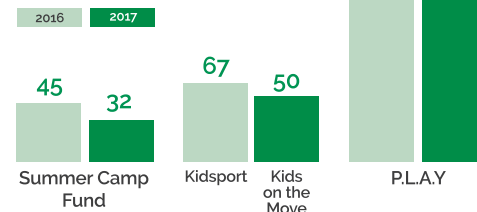
**Summer Camp Fund:** The Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS) Camp Fund helps financially restricted families to send their children to summer camp.

**Kids on the Move Sports Fund:** Grants up to \$400 for sport participation/registration fees in replacement for Kidsport. 70% of applications are for ski school, gymnastics is the second most common activity applied for.

**Programs and Leisure Activities for You (P.L.A.Y.):** Financially restricted Whistler families and individuals can receive a \$131.20 credit per person toward any program offered by the RMOW recreation department.

Credits administered by WCSS.

### Grants in 2016 & 2017:



Community  
Foundation  
of Whistler

The Wendy Thompson Scholarship fund provides bursaries to students in the Outdoor Recreation Leadership Program at Whistler Secondary School. The bursaries primarily go to help those in financial need offset the \$550 program fees.



# BELONGING

## CONNECT & ENGAGE

Where do Whistlerites feel their greatest sense of belonging?

**With friends 63%**  
**In nature 56%**  
**At work/in a group 33%**  
**With family 31%**

## Sense of Belonging

2017-18 Percentage of Grade 4 students who responded **"very much true"** when asked: **In your neighbourhood/ community there are adults who:**



**56%**

Really care about me



**46%**

Believe that I will be a success



**40%**

Listen to me when I have something to say

*"When asked why they decided to apply to be a mentor, the majority included 'because I'm finally at a place where I feel settled in Whistler and can give back to the community.'"*

– Talya Shore, Big Brothers & Sisters

## Charitable Giving



Charitable Donations

2015 2016



Approximately **19.5% of all taxfilers** in B.C. (689,290 people) made a charitable donation in 2016, down from 21% in 2015.

However, the total amount donated by British Columbians increased

**2.1%**

from 2015 to 2016, to almost \$1.5 billion.

Belonging is at the heart of community life and some of our community's most pressing issues, from inclusion of newcomers and immigrants to members' ability to stay living in the community.

## Volunteering

52% of permanent residents in 2017 volunteered for at least **one hour per month**, down 4% from 2014.

**2017/18 volunteer numbers included:**

- 121** Arts Whistler
- 36** Whistler Public Library
- 105** Village Hosts
- 132** 2018 Whistler Multicultural Festival
- 9** Big Brothers & Sisters in school mentors, up 125% on 2016-17
- 12** Literacy and ESL tutors

**75%** of respondents to the Connect and Engage survey said they had volunteered for an organization or group in the previous 12 months.

## Voter Turnout

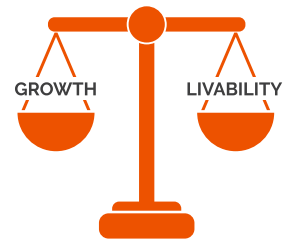
**35%** of registered voters

in Whistler voted in the 2017 provincial election. Turnout in West Vancouver Sea to Sky was 61.09% and the provincial average was 61.18%.



## Belonging and Balance

A major theme that emerged from our community engagement in 2018 is the need for Balance: how to balance community and tourism, and how to maintain the special qualities of this natural place with growth and development. People are also concerned about how we balance the well-being of all members of our community.



*"As I was creating this [sphere], some cracks started happening in my clay sphere and we need to be mindful of the cracks that happen in the community!"*



In 2018, the Community Foundation of Whistler helped fund the Resilient Streets project. Small groups of neighbours were able to apply for \$200 micro-grants to create projects and events to help build a sense of community and a feeling of belonging in their neighbourhood.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**“**“I realised that trees are important to me. We need to balance growth. If you get too many trees they are a hazard. So they need to be controlled. But to me a tree represents wildlife habitat. It's important to me that we share this beautiful place with more than just humanity. We can control growth, just like we can control trees.”

**“**“Volunteering is so important here. We can all reach out to others, even in small ways.”

**“**“I think having community hubs in each neighbourhood would be great.”

## What makes us feel connected in Whistler?

- Families in my neighbourhood
- Volunteering
- Learning
- Trust
- Environment
- Outdoor activities – hiking, golf, tennis, skiing, biking
- Like-minded people
- Wellness
- Fun

Our thanks to the following partners and volunteers who made this possible

### FUNDING PARTNERS:



### PROJECT LEADS:

Carole Stretch & Carol Coffey

### STEERING COMMITTEE:

(steering committee, and data, sponsorship, writing, community engagement and launch teams)

Andrew Ross	Lisa Severn
Anne Townley	Sue Lawther
Jill Dawson	Sue Maxwell

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Carole Stretch	Robin Douglas
Craig Beattie	Scott Pass
Debbie Smythe	Sharon Broatch
John Walker	Shelley Quinn
Karen Williamson	Sue Lawther
Maureen Wale	Executive Director:
Mike Groot	Carol Coffey

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS & STAKEHOLDERS WHO GAVE THEIR TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CONSULTATIONS AND/OR ASSIST WITH THE PROVISION OF DATA:

Barbora Vaneckova, Whistler Welcome Centre  
 Bob Brett, Whistler Biodiversity Project  
 Capri Doucet, Vancouver Coastal Health  
 Caroline Jauvin, Whistler Health Care Centre  
 Cathy Coyle, Whistler Village Hosts  
 Cathy Jewett, Communities That Care  
 Clare Greenberg, Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council  
 Community Foundations of Canada  
 Dan Wilson and Laura Swaffield at the Whistler Centre for Sustainability  
 Elizabeth Tracy, Whistler Public Library  
 Emma DalSanto, Resort Municipality of Whistler  
 Greg Newton, Whistler Search and Rescue  
 Jackie Dickinson, Cheryl Skribe, Sara Jennings and Whistler Community Services Outreach Workers  
 Jay Elliott, St. John Ambulance  
 Jenny Fitzgerald, Capilano University

Kaan Yazman, Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre of BC  
 Kevin Titus, Whistler Secondary School  
 Mo Douglas, Arts Whistler  
 Nicola Bentley, Constituent Assistant to MLA Jordan Sturdy  
 PJ O'Heany, Whistler Youth Soccer Club  
 Resort Municipality of Whistler  
 Talya Shore, Big Brothers Big Sisters Sea to Sky  
 Vancouver Foundation  
 Whistler Chamber of Commerce  
 Whistler Children's Centre  
 Whistler Housing Authority  
 Yamina Bassi, Whistler Women's Centre  
 Thank you to all the community members who participated in the Vital Signs Connect and Engage survey, the Vital Signs focus group and as Vital Partners.  
 Our thanks also to Whistler Creative

### IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:





# 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 life
- 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.

*Investing in a thriving community.*



info@whistlerfoundation.com

whistlerfoundation.com

Vital Signs is a community check-up 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.

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Community foundations taking the pulse of  
Canadian communities.



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FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA

