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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am following up on the response to one of my questions by Councillor De Jong during the 2nd November council meeting. I asked if there was any updated modelling to show what the impact of climate change on our winters in Whistler will be. The Councillor's response was that "We're seeing less impact in winter than summer. We're seeing a temperature increase of 0.5°C in winter but a temperature increase of 2°C in summer."

Subsequently, I reached out to a researcher at the University of British Columbia, who assesses the impact of Climate Change on North American Ski Resorts. The 3 graphs on the following page are from his unpublished research. They show the historical trends of temperature and snowfall for Whistler over the period 1901-2020. It can be read directly from the second graph, that Whistler has experienced a mean winter temperature increase of 2.7°C since 1900.

There are also stars on the graphs which show the latest IPCC AR6 climate model predictions for Whistler in the years 2050 and 2080 for three different climate scenarios as follows:

- ★ SSP1-26 ★ = world achieves Paris agreement, limits global warming to +1.5°C
- ★ SSP2-45 ★ = estimated current trajectory for the world, global warming of +2.5°C
- ★ SSP5-85 ★ = countries fail to achieve the current commitments, global warming of +4°C

The UN has stated we are currently on the ★ SSP2-45 ★ path. Whistler is therefore expected to experience a further winter mean temperature increase of 2.2°C by the year 2080. It is important to note that the winter conditions in Whistler are significantly better in the lower emissions, ★ SSP1-26 ★ scenario. Our winters will be a full degree colder if the world achieves the Paris objectives. And if the world exceeds the Paris objectives, our winters will be better still!

Ithaca, New York this week voted to achieve climate neutrality by 2030¹. This means that the entire city will cease using 'natural' gas in that timeframe, reducing their emissions by 400,000t. This is the sort of climate leadership that Whistler needs to show, if we are to inspire and motivate other jurisdictions to surpass their own climate goals. Bolder action is essential if Whistler is to remain a 'ski town' more than a couple of decades into the future.

Kind Regards,

EDGAR DEARDEN
Sustainable Building Designer
Co-founder & CEO



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¹ <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/06/1052472759/to-fight-climate-change-ithaca-votes-to-decarbonize-its-buildings-by-2030>

APPENDIX A:

