

To the Mayor and Council,

I would like to express my deepest frustration at dealing with the Mayor and Council as well as RMOW staff on climate related issues.

I have made numerous suggestions, through engagement processes, budget consultations, letters and questions to the Mayor and Council, and various other means, and at this point I am aware of very few of these suggestions which have been acted upon.

It appears that there is no effective method for citizen participation in helping Whistler prepare for, or mitigate, the horrific future of catastrophic heat waves, fires, and other unknowable tragedies that humanity will surely face in the future due to our collective inaction at tackling the climate crisis.

I have just been informed that my suggestion that RMOW staff, including mayor and council take Passivehouse training has been rejected. The reason stated is:

"RMOW is focusing on a higher policy level rather than the detailed level that the Passive House training covers. As well, the Building department staff are familiar enough with Passive House buildings to do their job of ensuring the BC Building Code is met"

I would like to note that the BC Building Code minimums that RMOW enforces, represents the very lowest quality house that you are legally allowed to design in British Columbia.

Thus far, I have never encountered a RMOW staff member who has taken any time to teach me any passivehouse principles. The only experience I have with RMOW staff in respect to passivehouse principles, is direction from RMOW staff to take actions that directly contradict passivehouse principles, and thus increase the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of buildings.

It appears to me the RMOW is actively resisting efforts by residents to assist in mitigating and adapting catastrophic climate change. It is incredibly demotivating to have so many suggestions ignored or outright rebuffed.

And I can contrast our experience designing sustainable homes in other municipalities which has been completely different from our treatment in our home jurisdiction of Whistler.

In the Cowichan Valley Regional District, municipal staff recognized that we were designing far above the typical standard, and their staff have frequently toured that property during construction to learn passivehouse and sustainable home design principles.

In the district of Sechelt, where we submitted a rezoning application identical to the 7104 Nancy Greene Drive original proposal, the staff were incredibly receptive and again invited us to meet and discuss how we can bring more high performance to their town. They approved the entire rezoning within 5 months from the date of initial application.

Meanwhile Whistler has requested at every step to bring more 'articulation' or 'interest' into the 7104 Nancy Greene Drive rezoning application, delaying the construction of walkable, affordable rental housing for the community by over 4 years and counting. In the world of high performance building, 'articulation' and 'interest' directly translates into lower airtightness and building performance. I feel that the hubris displayed by RMOW, clinging to 19th century design principles, is contributing to the vulnerability of our community to future climate change.

It appears that Whistler's un-education about passivehouse principles is leading you to force designers and builders to produce lower performing buildings in Whistler at multiple points of the planning, building and inspection processes. These buildings will produce higher greenhouse gas emissions, and provide lower levels of resilience in record heat waves of the future.

And meanwhile, it appears you are planning to spend millions of dollars 'redeveloping' Rainbow Park, not that I am aware what is wrong with the way it is right now.

My request: please can the Mayor and Council of Whistler direct staff to immediately proceed with the enclosed quotation from Passivehouse Canada for \$6,000 to provide a customized one day passivehouse training for all RMOW staff, including the Mayor and Council.

If you undertake this training, you will be preparing Whistler to be significantly more resilient as our planet warms catastrophically.

Kind Regards,

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Sustainable Home Designer

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We gratefully acknowledge the lands, now known as Whistler and Revelstoke, where we live, create and play, in the unceded traditional lands of the Skwxwú7mesh and Lilwat7úl, the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx.