

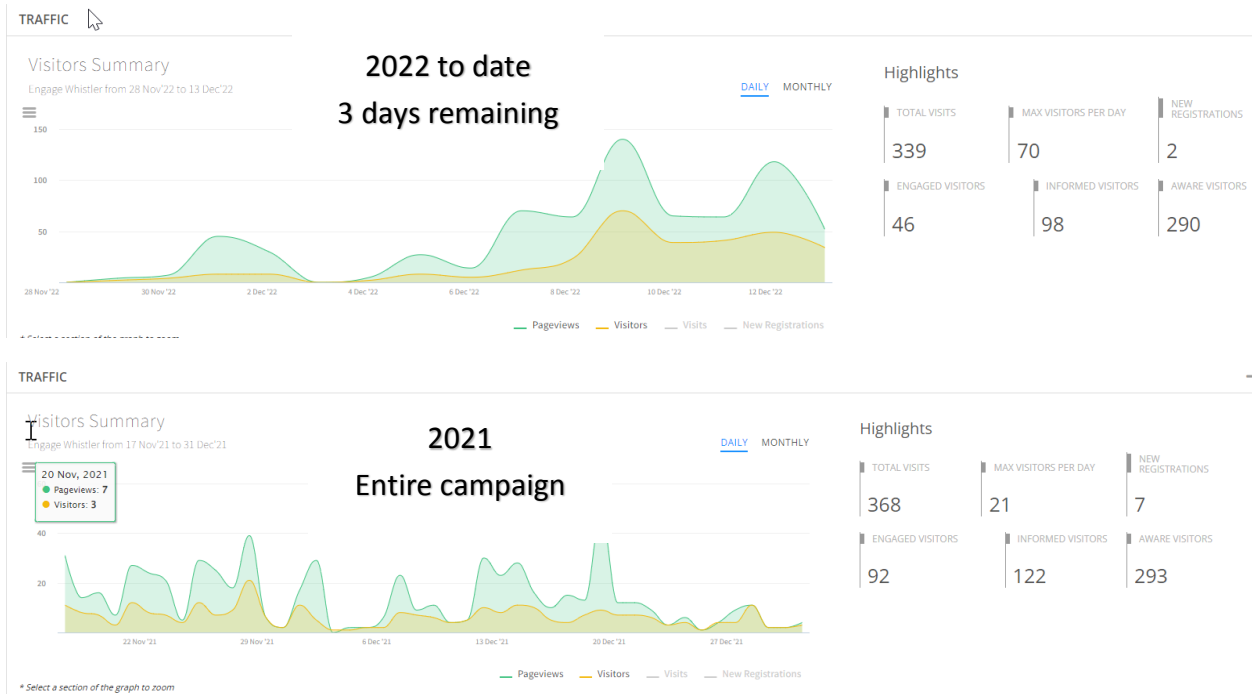
Budget 2023

Interim Online Engagement Summary

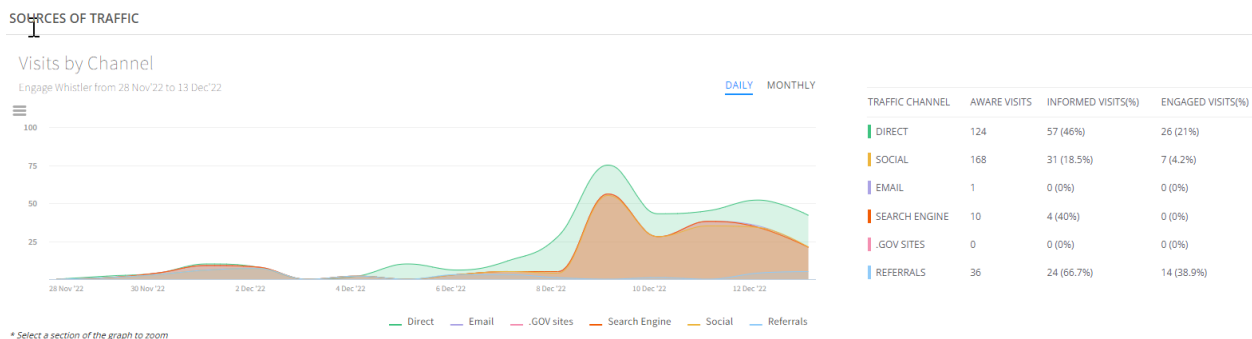
As of December 13, 2022

Reporting as of December 13, 2022 @ 2:30pm

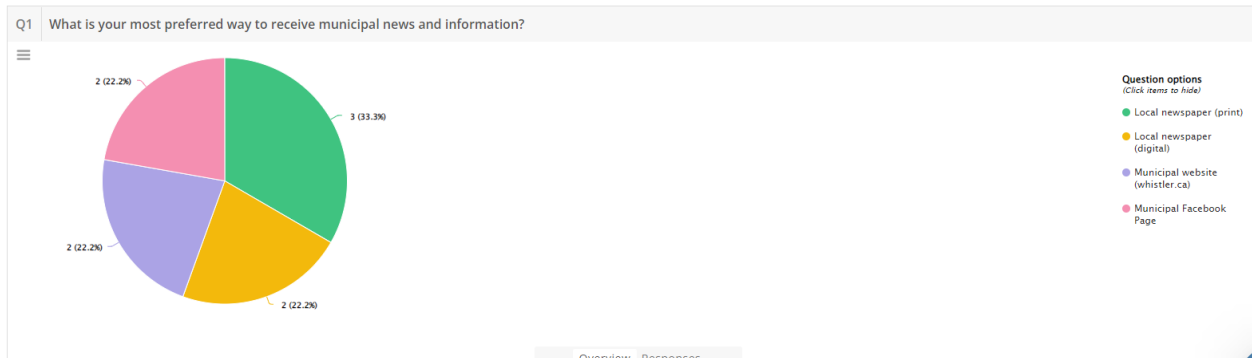
Page Traffic Comparison (2022 vs 2021)



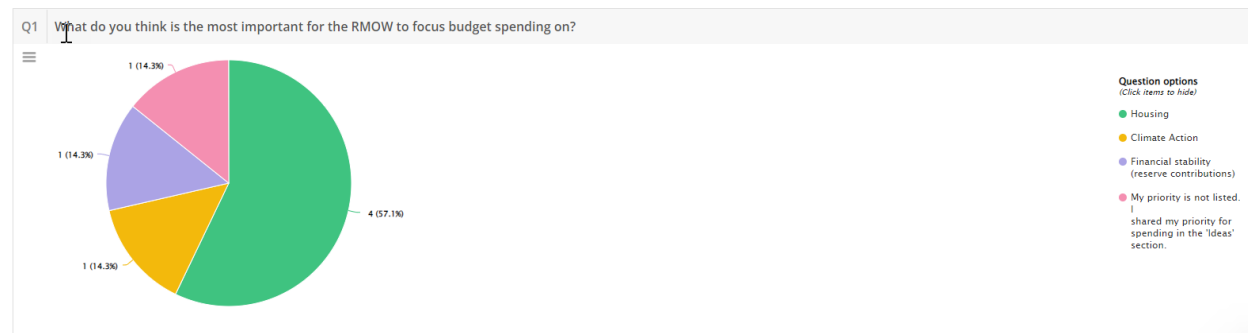
Sources of Traffic



Preference for receiving municipal news



RMOW should focus budget spending on:



Ideas Tool

"Artists in Residence" to create housing for local artists

Whistler Arts Council usually receives ~400k/year in RMOW FFS funding- this in addition to a ~\$3.7 million/year Village Festivities and Animations Budget. That FFS is used primarily for operational costs of [mostly empty] buildings belonging to the Arts Whistler, perhaps instead they could implement an artists in residence program to help pay for those buildings and provide local artists like Kostaman with housing? This might be eligible for provincial/federal grants as well. Imagine if Arts Whistler's buildings were better utilized, if they lived and breathed art. Imagine if these buildings were spaces where local musicians and artists could live, convene, record music, and create art. Instead of depending so heavily on taxpayers and the RMOW for funding, perhaps Arts Whistler could model and consult successful and profitable cooperatives of artists (like Bass Coast and others) to learn how to better monetize the arts to generate revenue? When you see what art is capable of in 2022, it seems Arts Whistler is dated and a big expense for the RMOW- it could use a refresh!

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reduce taxes for people who live in their own house year round, increase taxes greatly for the 1st 2nd home, double it for 2nd 2nd etc

Take from the rich not the poor!

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Whistler council should be exploring alternative sources of funding for the costs of climate impacts, adaptation and mitigation.

Sue Big Oil is a collaboration of ordinary British Columbians concerned about harmful climate change impacts in BC communities, and the skyrocketing costs for BC's local governments and taxpayers. Given the role of the fossil fuel industry in knowingly causing climate change and blocking policies and actions to address climate change, we urge our local governments to take legal action to force the world's largest fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share of climate costs.

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Fairer property taxes based on usage of Municipal Services across the board.

This is an unusual (for Canada) mix of properties in that WHA provides a discount on land value for purchases for local staff. The WHA idea is a brilliant idea that should be applauded!! Currently, all services that the RMOW provides are based on property value - not usage of RMOW services. It is known that WHA pay significantly lower property taxes to fund the Muni, as the land value is lower. And as WHA expands more and more (which is great!!), their use of RMOW resources will climb even more, but their financial contribution will further reduce (as a percentage) for the services we all need. You have a picture in your website showing what an 8.5% increase will do for WHA and non-WHA properties - and it is significant. Being an unusual mix of WHA to 'On-market' properties - a first for BC and Canada - is there any planning changes to the property tax system for the RMOW to align this to a more sustainable financial model for the near and distant future? I question the existing property tax model, being based on land value - obsolete for this specific use-case?

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Austerity not increased taxes

cut costs don't raise taxes!





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I'd like to see reserves rebuilt, with a brake put on new project spending. 8.3% is simply too high... inflation MINUS one percent is the abs





Less spending, more reserves!


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As was discussed in the adoption of our new OCP I still feel unmanaged growth is going to ruin the Whistler we and nature know and love.





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Creating  budget for working on allocation of the Asphalt Plant and making Cheakamus a healthy community for families and for kids.

Asphalt plant





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A cheakamus community recreation facility

Why should we drive all the way north- when we could have a space here with a park, water park, pool, Rec facility. With the growing numbers In cheakamus we would have more than enough interest in this kind of project.

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Questions Tool

Q In the "Proposed Departmental Operating Budgets 2023" document Revenues: I see that Environmental Stewardship revenues is steadily declining o \$142,085 actual in 2020 o \$92,871 actual in 2021 (budgeted \$60,000 in same year) o \$57,938 budgeted in 2022 o \$56,250 budgeted in 2023 □ Why the decrease in revenue? Expenditures: It's great to see that Environmental Stewardship expenditures are slowly rising, but not as much as some of the other departments in Resort Experience. Why the discrepancy? Considering most people come to Whistler to experience our natural wonderland, which is facing more and more pressure from development, would this department qualify for MRDT and/or RMI? If not, why not? In the "2023 Draft Budget" P106 Priority Habitat Management Strategy - Great to see this line item, but where is the money in 2025, 2026 and 2027 to implement it?



Q I see that the Whistler is now a part of the BC Bird Trail. I feel that marketing Whistler as a birding destination comes with responsibilities. Specifically, it would be great to hear how much is budgeted to address: • Patrolling birding areas to ensure o dogs are kept on leash o humans stay out of protected areas and o illegal fires are eliminated/reduced • Ensuring vegetation (bird habitat) in sensitive areas are not illegally removed • Communicating to the community and visitors in general the importance of protecting and conserving natural areas • Ensuring popular birding areas are accessible to all • Minimizing crowds at sensitive birding areas



Q P110 RTS Trails Master Plan - What does RTS stand for? - Has a consultant already been hired to for professional services (50,000 in 2023)? If yes, who is it? - What does 'RTS Limits of Acceptable Change' mean?



Q P115 Alpha Lake Projects - Millar Creek Lands – Professional services (\$30,000 in 2023): what does this refer to? - Millar Creek Lands – Construction (\$221,000 in 2024): What is being planned?



Q P093 Disc Golf Feasibility Study - Just wondering what "Feasibility study and preliminary design" refers to (\$50,000 in 2023) - What improvements are being planned for the Lost Lake Disc Course? (\$115,000 in 2023)



Q Spruce Grove Field House - B008 Other Buildings: I see Spruce Grove Field House is getting \$200,000 in upgrades over 5 years - M00220: Spruce Grove is getting an additional \$75,000 in misc renovations o I understand that Waldorf has exclusive use of the field house Sept – June. Is this correct? o I understand that Waldorf was only to be in the field house temporarily. Is this correct? If yes, when will the field house be a public building again? o How much revenue does the RMOW collect annually from Waldorf?



Q The 2022 revised 5 year plan showed \$23 million going into transfers to reserves, prior to this 8.3% tax increase. What is the current number for these transfers, assuming the 8.3% increase gets approved?



Q What happened to the planned expansion of the Valley trail from HWY 99 / Alta Lake Road to Miller's Creek?



Q I still do not agree with the increase in taxes. A rolling five year cost of living average makes sense. Taxpayers are going to get slammed next year with a recession and economic turn down. Groceries are up significantly. Ask the local food bank how many clients they are seeing now. One only has to look at the bond market and inverted yield curve to see what a mess we are headed towards. Sadly, the muni should be cutting expenses and take a proactive stance before this recession. Increasing our taxes will hurt us. Churches should not be given tax free status. While there is no official statement of separation of church and state in Canada like the USA, it can be argued that there should be. The Canadian Supreme Court ruled, unanimously, in *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay (City)* that the municipal council in the Quebec town of Saguenay could not open its meetings with a Catholic prayer because, as the opinion explains, "When all is said and done, the state's duty to protect every person's freedom of conscience and religion means that it may not use its powers in such a way as to promote the participation of certain believers or non-believers in public life to the detriment of others." <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/15288/index.do> Arguably, Whistler is promoting religious beliefs in this way. By affording Tax free status to churches, the RMOW is arguably promoting religious beliefs and affirming a negative stance towards LGBTQ. Giving the churches in Whistler tax free status is detriment as it is promoting religion to non-believers without consent.



Q I understand Mayor and Council voted to increase their own salaries this past summer (as reported by the Pique), and that this will add \$68,500 (\$23,600 for Mayor and 6 x \$7,500 for Council) to next year's budget. I can see from the budget documents you've shared that total expenses for the department of Mayor & Council are going up \$177,200 for 2023. So where is the extra \$108,700 going? What else have they added to their planned spending in addition to increases in wages? Why is the non-wages portion of their spending more than doubling? And more importantly, are the staff who work for the Whistler getting commensurate increases since they are being asked to do more with less? If not, why? It should not be that only execs, who have other full-time jobs with salaries and work part-time in these roles, get more money and rank and file get little to nothing.



Q How in times of recession can you justify increasing costs for hard working home owners living and working in Whistler, freeze or reduce taxes on houses owned and lived in by locals, and tax the 2nd, 3rd and nth houses ... houses are not a investment, and people should be incentivised to sell because the cost of having multiple houses should be punitive!



When setting and levying municipal tax rates, the Community Charter (the statutory framework all municipalities in BC must follow), only allows municipalities to apply different tax rates to different classes of properties, not to different properties within a single class. In other words, the RMOW is only able to tax residential properties at a different tax rate than business or recreation and non-profit properties, not to differentiate between properties within each of those classes. As such, the RMOW does not have the legislated ability to tax second home owners (or vacant homes) at a different tax rate than homes occupied by Whistler locals.

The Province of BC offers some tax relief to taxpayers living in their home as the principal place of residence via the home owner grant program. There also exists in BC a tax deferment program, for eligible homeowners. The Province and Federal Governments are also reviewing taxing options under the Speculation & Vacancy Taxes and Underused Housing Tax programs, respectively.

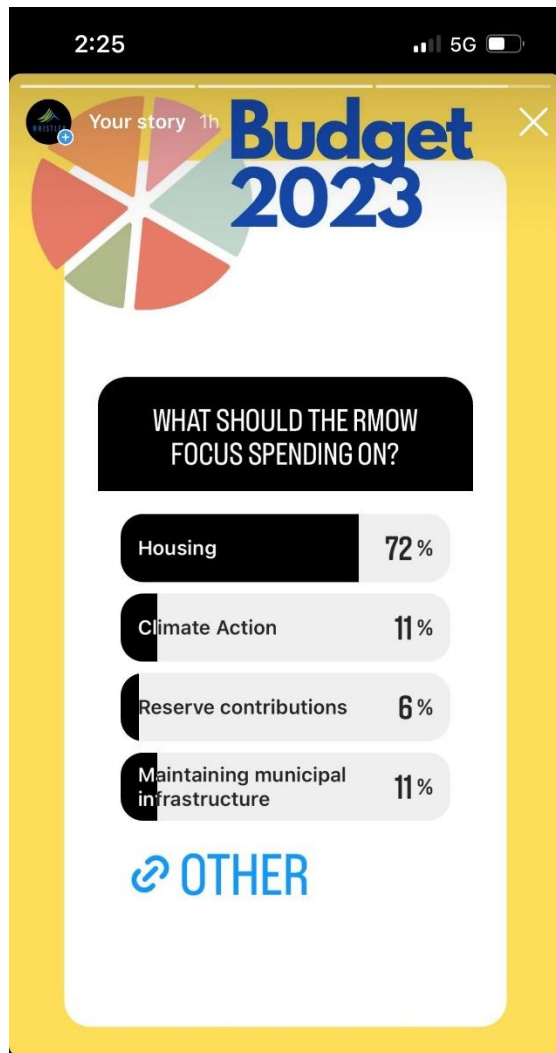
Q RE: Hotel Tax. Why is the RMOW spending more than it is receiving from the hotel tax to ops funded by the hotel tax? 8 in and 9 out.



Thanks for your question! In a given year, the money received from the Province of BC for Hotel Tax is often different than the money spent on tourism-focused projects. The difference is placed in a reserve account for future projects. As at December 31, 2021, the RMOW had \$3.8 million in the Municipal & Regional District Tax ("Hotel Tax") reserve fund, and will be drawing down on this reserve to fund the extra spending on such projects.

#Rmi #Mrdt #Reserves #Hotel Tax

Informal Instagram Story Poll



Objective:

Meet the public where they are online

Provide quick option to provide high level feedback

Drive visits to online engagement page

Outcomes so far:

106 Views after 5 hours

Note: Updated results to be provided once story expires on December 14.

'Other' link drives public to online engagement page to add ideas to the 'Ideas' board.