

Good afternoon Mayor & Council.

I hear you have some transit transportation reliability problems in Whistler this ski season! I am not surprised at all.

This past November, I was in Whistler doing my driver training - orientation with Whistler Transit anticipating full time work through the winter while living ideally within walking distance of the Whistler Transit yard. During my month of training and orientation, I stayed in local hotels (The Alpenglow, the Whistler Pinnacle and the Summit Lodge at best shoulder season rates), which were still too high for the money I had earned at Whistler Transit. They pay an OK starting wage but all is relative! During that month in Whistler, I spent almost equal time trying to locate affordable housing in Whistler as I did working my eight hours shift per day while heading back to Vancouver on my weekends. I could not obtain affordable seasonal accommodation and had found only one affordable 1 bedroom suite listed by Mountain Country Property Management in Rainbow over the month for about \$1750.00 per month. It had over 75 applicants. I approached numerous real estate companies, property managers, hotel managers and responded to numerous advertisements. I reached out to my Facebook network and to my families networks and even asked Mrs Durlocher if she had seasonal space at a reasonable cost. No good luck or fortune in Whistler for 2022!

I had lived previously in the Athletes Village in a studio for \$775.00 per month plus hydro from 2010 to 2012 while serving the community via taxi service. In Nov 2022 that cost was \$860 per month. In 2017 and 2018 I worked again serving Whistler and its many visitors via Pacific Coach Lines Ltd., driving motor coaches and I would overnight at the Aava Hotel when on a two or three day block assignments serving YVR - Whistler. That hotel accommodation cost was picked up by our company. I have resubmitted applications to WHA for affordable housing requesting a studio or one bedroom and ideally walking distance to Whistler Transit. The Dulacher Hof and Blackcomb Condos at Nesters or suites reserved at The Alpen Glo would be ideal for Whistler Transit drivers. All walking distance to the yard which would ensure you have available transit drivers if priced at reasonable rates. Reasonable being no more than 40 percent of one's net income while working full time 38 to 40 hours per week which is a drivers weekly work block.

If you wish to resolve the problem of a transit bus driver labour shortage, then you will need to resolve the problem first of affordable accommodations, be it via WHA or otherwise. You should not expect transit bus drivers to make it to Whistler and back home in snow storms from Squamish or Pemberton and then expect them to work eight hour shifts safely. If you are sincerely interested in looking out for the best interests of your community you will prioritize transit bus drivers for WHA housing or make sure they can obtain local accommodations at a reasonable cost in the Main Village or Nesters.

I have skied in Whistler for many years! Unfortunately I could no longer stay in Whistler to work my new winter block of 38 hours because of the too high cost associated with staying in hotels beyond Dec 01/22. It simply was not feasible based on my Whistler Transit work block and income. I hope the Mayor and Council will take this all into consideration for the benefit of your community and those that visit Whistler in the future.

Kind Regards:

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