

Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Johanna Aldred and I have been a Whistler resident for 13 years now. I have had my family here and am eagerly awaiting a place to live on the WHA program. We currently reside at 2704 Cheakamus Way (unit 41) which is also a WHA property. Thank goodness for these!

The reason why I am writing to you is to present my sincere disappointment at the hikes in parking prices in the village. Please forgive my lack of eloquence or succinctness, communicating in this fashion is not my forte, but I felt so compelled to email, I have put those insecurities aside. Firstly, I am not against paid parking, I am just really upset with the cost right now, specifically the day lots 4 and 5 during the "quiet" season now being paid and the library going up from \$1 an hour to \$2.50 an hour or more if you pay by the app. This is a direct hit to locals, not tourists. Firstly, I will address the day lots. My son loves the pump track, it is one of our favourite places to go in spring and early summer before it gets too busy. We have not gone once this season as I cannot afford to pay the parking prices ever time. We would go 3 times a week last year, this year, I have told him it's closed. It is such a great facility, I feel there should be at least some of the year where this can be accessed for free - especially to locals. I do not work in the village, so I cannot speak to the locals that have to pay or how they are feeling. However, there are those coming from Squamish or Pemberton who just can no take a bus and often times, cannot carpool, this is surely a big hit to their wages and may encourage them to seek employment closer to home. I know that's what I'd be doing if it were me. Surely, we can't afford to lose any more staff? Anyway, I went off topic a bit! My apologies.

The library parking prices are where my disappointment really sits. This is something that is used by locals, we need it. It is a great source of comfort for many. The elderly, the new to towners, those that are lonely, studying or just need a safe/quiet space to "just be". I know this to be true, especially for those with small children parenting in a place where many don't have family nearby or even in the same country. It is a lifeline, I know this personally and I know my mental health would have been much worse if I had found it hard to access it as I do now. My family and I know nearly all the librarians, we go to a lot of their programs and my children love it in there and have real relationships with the staff. Now, I have to think twice about signing up to things, can I afford the \$2.50 an hour plus as the children will want to read books, maybe check out a game or two? No, I cannot, not with the frequency and length of time in which I would normally visit. So now, we barely go, if we do, I put books on hold, tear in and out and park in a questionable spot.. I was in there the other day and was so stressed checking the time for parking I was barely present for my children. I just could not afford another \$2.50. No one enjoyed that visit as the children were aware of my anxiety. However, I did go to put another 30 minutes on as I really didn't want to rush my children, only to find out I had to put a whole hour on.. Come on, this was and is soul destroying.. I already beginning to feel like I am not wanted in this community due to our lack of dollars in our bank account and this just adds another nail in the coffin. We are now talking about moving out of Whistler which breaks my heart, truly. It feels like the Muni doesn't care about the locals anymore unless they are spending money. You

are slowly but surely driving us out. Our parks are already half taken from us with the parking prices, now this, a heart in the community..

So, *please* do something about this parking situation. Not everyone can take a bus even if they wanted to. A locals parking pass, an app where we pay less if we prove every 6 months that we are locals. I don't know, but something, please and soon.. I miss the library as do my children and I know the librarians are missing us and others like me. I'd also like to go to the parks this summer, I'm just not sure how I will be able to afford it.

Yours Sincerely,

Johanna Aldred and Family

Address: 41 - 2704 Cheakamus Way, Whistler, BC , V8E 0L9

