

2022-07-11

Dear Mayor and Council

I am writing today in hopes to raise more awareness regarding the housing situation in Whistler BC. For the non elite and humble families of Whistler its more than difficult to find permanent housing. I would be as bold to say that its near impossible to find a home. My family and I moved to Whistler from Squamish BC. Our church, places of employment and elementary school are all located here. My spouse [REDACTED] I work [REDACTED] these are modestly paying jobs but needed jobs within our community. We don't want to move our children from their school and sporting activities however the living situation we face, and many others face is dire. My family [REDACTED] is living in a place smaller [REDACTED] with a fixed lease of April-December, this means that we have to move our children out and find a home in the Winter from January-April. There is nowhere for us to [REDACTED] and this is considered cheap rent. We [REDACTED] cannot get into the market due to the level of inflation. The Whistler housing authority seems to be a great fix for creating affordable housing however the waitlist for buying is between 5-10 years and the rental program within WHA is approximately 2 years. WHA has claimed they have housed a family within 6 months before however these statistics are not your average. I believe I can speak for many struggling families when I say that more needs to be done to avoid homelessness from happening. Its unfortunate that a beautiful and bright town with a universal appreciation can have such a dark underbelly. Many places are available within Whistler as seasonal rent only and the places that are available are not within an average family's budget. Its great that this town can offer so much for the tourists however it seems to be at the expense of the employees who are striving to survive.

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