

To Mayor and Council,

I am writing as a female professional in the hotel industry, as well as a mother of two, here in Whistler. I am asking you, on behalf of myself, my family, and my fellow community of new mothers, to prioritize and strongly advocate for more childcare options in Whistler.

I have lived here since 2009, enjoying the lifestyle and opportunity this special place brings. I hope to continue to grow my family and raise my children here.

It is no secret that finding childcare in Whistler is a monstrous and stressful task. My eldest is almost 2.5 years old and still has not received steady care. When asking the daycare centers in town of the status of my application, there is no response. From my understanding, the daycares are also in a very difficult situation due to the lack of a living wage for ECE workers, lack of transferability of the ECE qualification from other jurisdictions, inadequate funding for daycare programs and insufficient infrastructure for daycare centers to be housed in.

This is incredibly discouraging to working women, as the problem mainly impacts us.

As I approach the end of my second maternity leave with my youngest, I do not want to be put in a position where I am having to consider resigning from my career. I would be forced to resign if I either haven't received the placement call from a daycare or it doesn't end up making economic sense to give a large portion of my pay check to a cash-pay nanny. It would hurt me and my employer (a wonderful Whistler business) deeply if I was no longer able to work.

This community needs working women.

Thank you,
Barbara Fraser
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