



**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** December 19, 2023      **REPORT:** 23-124  
**FROM:** Legislative Services      **FILE:** 1850-20-2023  
**SUBJECT:** 2023 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FINAL REPORT

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**That** Council receive Information Report No. 23-124, which includes all the 2023 Community Enrichment Program Grant Reporting Forms, attached as Appendix A.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to share how the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) 2023 Community Enrichment Program (CEP) grant recipients used their CEP funds, and to present to Council the Grant Reporting Forms received from each organization.

Information Report       Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

### DISCUSSION

#### **Background**

The RMOW provides financial support to local not-for-profit organizations and associations since 2004, when *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program* (CEP Policy) was adopted.

The aim of the CEP is to support public benefit organizations that contribute to the growth and development of the local community.

To qualify for a CEP grant, applicants must operate in one of the following categories:

1. Environment,
2. Social Service,
3. Community Service,
4. Recreation and Sport, or
5. Arts and Culture.

The amount given to each selected organization varies but cannot exceed 50 per cent of the organization's total budget for the year.

This year Council announced the CEP grant awards at the Regular Council meeting on April 18, 2023 ([Administrative Report No. 23-048](#)). The allocated CEP grant funds were as follows:

1	Whistler Community Foundation	\$3,000
2	Howe Sound Women Centre - PEACE	\$8,000
3	Howe Sound Women Centre - Whistler Women's Centre - Drop-in	\$13,000
4	Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society	\$5,000
5	Sea to Sky Community Services Society - Whistler Playgroup	\$5,000
6	Whistler Community Services Society - Counselling Assistance Program	\$15,400
7	Girls Guides of Canada	\$1,000
8	Whistler Institute of Learning Society	\$2,500
9	Whistler Multicultural Society - Multicultural Community Kitchen	\$5,000
10	Whistler Multicultural Society - Resilience Whistler	\$3,500
11	Zero Ceiling Society of Canada	\$6,000
12	Whistler Farmers Market	\$3,500
13	School District 48	\$5,000
14	Whistler Independent Supported Housing Society	\$1,000
15	Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE)	\$3,300
16	Whistler Naturalists Society	\$3,913
17	Whistler Lakes Conservation Association	\$2,000
18	BC Luge Association	\$2,000
19	Sea to Sky Nordics	\$3,000
20	Whistler Adaptive Sports Program	\$7,000
21	Whistler Blackcomb Freestyle Ski Club	\$2,000
22	Whistler Gymnastics Club	\$3,000
23	Whistler Minor Hockey Association	\$4,500
24	Whistler Mountain Ski Club	\$3,000
25	Whistler Nordics Ski Club	\$4,000
26	Whistler Sailing Association	\$3,000
27	Whistler Sea Wolves Swim Club	\$3,000
28	Whistler Skating Club	\$4,000
29	Whistler Slo-Pitch Association	\$3,000
30	Whistler Sport Legacies Society- Active After School Club	\$10,000
31	Whistler Youth Soccer Club	\$5,000
32	Axemen Rugby	\$1,500
33	Whistler Field Hockey Club	\$3,000
34	Yoga Buggy	\$1,500
35	The Point Artist-Run Centre Society	\$4,000
36	The Whistler Writing Society	\$2,500
37	Whistler Singers	\$1,500
38	Whistler Valley Quilters' Guild Society	\$2,500
39	Whistler Chamber Music Society	\$2,000
40	Whistler Secondary School Scholarship* (Annual amount)	\$6,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$167,113</b>

Based on the CEP Policy, beneficiaries are required to submit their Grant Reporting Form and required documentation (financial breakdown and copies of receipts showing how the CEP grant money was spent) by December 1, 2023. The reporting forms with supporting documentation are attached to this

report as Appendix A. To adhere to the *Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act*, some personal information has been redacted.

Three organizations, Howe Sound Women Centre/Pearl Centre, Whistler Community Services Society and Whistler Sport Legacies, received over \$10,000 in CEP grant money. Therefore, as per the CEP Policy, each are presenting to Council at the December 19, 2023 Regular Council Meeting to report back on how the CEP funds were used and to answer any questions Council may have in regard to the grant use, including the impact on the organization and the community.

Included in the CEP budget of \$167,113, as part of the CEP Policy, was \$6,000 awarded as scholarships to Whistler Secondary School graduating students. These awards were announced by Mayor Crompton at the Whistler Secondary School graduation ceremony and recipients are not required to provide any subsequent related reporting.

### **Analysis**

The 2023 CEP recipients have demonstrated a high level of dedication in providing programs and/or services that supports and contribute to the growth of the Whistler community. Most organizations utilized their grant funds on equipment, supplies, general operations, advertising or salaries for counsellors, experts, and additional fund coordinators.

Two organizations haven't spent the full amount of the awarded grant yet, but they have documented how and when they will be spending the remaining grant funds.

The majority of the 2023 CEP beneficiaries expressed gratitude and appreciation for the support provided by RMOW. The recipients emphasized that the grant funds made a significant contribution to the successful implementation of their program's objectives.

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## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

The CEP is guided by *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program*.

April 18, 2023 – [Administrative Report No. 23-048](#): 2023 Community Enrichment Program Grant Funding Report

### **2023-2026 Strategic Plan**

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

#### **Strategic Priorities**

Housing

*Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing*

Climate Action

*Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan*

Community Engagement

*Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW*

Smart Tourism

*Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure*

Not Applicable

*Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs.*

### **Community Vision and Official Community Plan**

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

The CEP is compatible with Whistler's Vision and OCP. The vision statement highlights that Whistler is "[a] place where our community thrives", and through the CEP process, Council awards funding to not-for-profit organizations and societies that benefit the community and help it grow.

Given the broad nature of the sectors in which CEP candidates must operate, this program supports many of the goals, policies and objectives outlined in the OCP.

Chapter 7 "Natural Environment" is about protecting, monitoring and restoring the natural environment in Whistler. Chapter 10 "Climate Action and Energy" speaks to confirming the community's belief that climate change is real, that reducing GHG emissions is beneficial to our broader well-being and that governments should act promptly to mitigate negative impacts of climate change. Both are supported by the CEP funds awarded to non-for-profit organizations falling into the environment category.

Chapter 8 "Health, Safety and Well-being" is about ensuring Whistler has strong community connections and social fabric, is inclusive and affordable, and enjoys high levels of trust, community engagement and good governance. The provision of funding to the organizations within the social and community services categories support the following goals:

- Goal 8.10: Promote, encourage and support initiatives that strengthen the community's sense of place and sense of belonging.
- Goal 8.2: Promote efforts to enhance the quality of life for all residents and employees.
- Goal 8.3: Strengthen opportunities for social cohesion and connectedness for residents and visitors.
- Goal 8.4: Encourage and strengthen a culture of inclusion and diversity.

Part of Chapter 9 "Learning, Culture and Recreation" focuses on recreation and leisure, which include outdoor and indoor recreation and programs. The following goal and objectives are supported by the recreation organizations recipients of the CEP grant:

- Goal 9.6: Continue to work collaboratively with partner organizations to provide quality recreation and leisure amenities and experiences.
  - Objective 9.6.2: Non-profit third-party recreation service providers thrive, complement resort offerings and contribute to the social well-being of residents and visitors.

Chapter 9 also focuses on “Arts, Nature and Heritage” (ANH) and how to enrich community life and the visitor experience by nurturing this sector. The provision of funding to arts and culture organizations supports the objective below and associated policies:

- Objective 9.2.2: Increase opportunities for education, participation and enjoyment of ANH for residents and visitors.
  - 9.2.2.1 Policy: Support non-profit and private sector efforts to increase opportunities for individuals to learn about and participate in ANH.
  - 9.2.2.2 Policy: Collaborate with the appropriate agencies and stakeholders to showcase local ANH initiatives.

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## BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW awarded successful applicants a total of \$167,113 in 2023.

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## LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

Whistler Naturalist provided details on how the CEP grant promoted these relationships during the last year's programming by presenting classes of the "Fungus Among Us" program at the Xetólacw Community School in Mount Currie. (Appendix A- Page 507)

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform     Consult     Involve     Collaborate     Empower

The CEP application period and process was advertised on the RMOW website and published in the Pique Newsmagazine for three consecutive weeks in January 2023. As it is an annual funding opportunity, many organizations are routinely aware of the application period.

The grant recipients and amounts awarded were announced at the Regular Council meeting on April 18, 2023 and on the CEP webpage of the [whistler.ca](http://whistler.ca) website.

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## REFERENCES

Appendix A – 2023 Community Enrichment Program Grant Reporting Forms

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## **SUMMARY**

The report provides the annually required reporting from all 2023 CEP recipients forms in order to demonstrate to Council how the respective grant funds were utilized in each organization's programming.

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## **SIGN-OFFS**

### **Written by:**

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