


GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	Sea To Sky Community Services
Name of the program (if applicable):	Whistler Playgroup (formly known as Whistler Parent-tot)
Society Registration Number:	S14102
Organization Mailing Address:	PO Box 949, Squamish, BC V8B 0A9
Contact Name & Title:	Julie Van Eesteren
Organization Phone Number:	
Organization Email Address:	julie.vaneesteren@sscs.ca
Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence.)</i>	SSCS is a valued social service provider for individuals and families living in BC's Sea to Sky Corridor. We create healthy, connected and diverse communities where everyone has the opportunity to grow, develop and lead meaningful lives.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Service, Community Service, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Social Service

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	since 1978
How many active members/participants does the organization have in the current year? <i>(e.g. how many athletes have signed up for this year)</i>	6946
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	530
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	174
Age range of participants in the organization:	birth to seniors

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	www.sscs.ca https://www.facebook.com/Sea.to.Sky.Community.Services instagram@Sea.to.Sky.Community.Services
What are the membership and participation requirements?	none
Does the organization have any outstanding debts or other means of funding from the RMOW? If yes, please state the amount and reason. <u>Note:</u> Please include any Value In Kind support that you receive from the RMOW (eg. reduced rent, utilities in RMOW buildings)	no

GRANT INFORMATION

1. Purpose of Grant	<i>Explain in detail how the funding will be spent. Please refer to Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program, available at www.whistler.ca/cep for funding criteria and eligibility. Please be as concise as possible using the space below.</i>
<p>This grant would help pay the wages of the facilitator of this program. The plan for the year is to offer a 2.5 hour playgroup three times a week (Tuesday and Thursday) year round. Cooler months the playgroup runs in the Millar Room at Myrtle Phillip Community Centre and in the warm summer months, the playgroup moves outdoors in one of the local parks. This would equate to approximately 250 hours of playgroup time for Whistler families with young children. We sometimes have guest speakers from other community services attending program and connecting with families.</p> <p>Playgroups provide parents with an opportunity to learn from one another, to improve their parenting skills and knowledge about their children's needs, and to develop a strong social support network that they can draw on for emotional and practical support when needed. It really is the modern day 'village'. Children who attend playgroups during early childhood have significantly better child development when they start school. The benefits of playgroup are seen across all domains of child development: physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive development, and communication. This is why these programs are so important.</p> <p>Early childhood experiences profoundly affect later health, education, and employment outcomes. There is a window of opportunity from 0 to 6 when we can get children on a trajectory towards health, education, and employment. Adverse experiences, like low income, poverty, neglect, and food insecurity, cause developmental delays in children and lead to poor future outcomes. The biggest determining factors on a child's early experiences are their parents or primary caregivers. Many Canadian parents don't have the skills, resources, or knowledge they need to provide those nurturing early experiences. This is an upstream program that reduces the need for more expensive interventions. The purpose of this grant is to support the operation of a playgroup in Whistler for families of young children.</p> <p>This playgroup is run as part of our Child Care Resource and Referral program (CCRR). The Whistler CCRR consultant is the facilitator of the playgroup.</p> <p>https://www.sscs.ca/child-care/child-care-resource-and-referral/ccrr-playgroups/</p> <p>The Child Care Resource and Referral Program provides an amazing service for the community:</p> <p>--For parents, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize playgroups a great way to spend a morning. Connect parents to childcare providers, and other resources and services they might need Run a lending library with toys, resource boxes, equipment and books Help you access the provincial government's Affordable Child Care Benefit and other funding opportunities to support families <p>--Provide monthly workshops for parents and educators</p> <p>For childcare providers, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help you in your decision to become a Registered License Not Required (RLNR) Care Provider (caring for up to two children other than your own) or a Licensed Family Daycare through Vancouver Coastal Health Provide monthly workshops for parents and educators Provide bi-monthly network meetings Publish a quarterly newsletter 	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
<p>The Whistler Playgroup is not a new activity but it has changed and developed from what it has been in the past. It is now called the CCRR Whistler Playgroup (formerly known as The Whistler Parent-tot Program). CCRR (Child Care Resource and Referral) is a provincial program that The Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCRR) is here to help all parents/guardians and childcare providers in the Corridor. We are making an effort to have a bigger presence in Whistler to offer our services to families.</p>	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p>There are not many places or opportunities in Whistler for your families to get together regularly like this long-standing program.</p> <p>Here are some quotes from our participants from this past year's survey:</p> <p>██████ is welcoming, knowledgeable and approachable. She provided a different toys and is always interesting in how she can help us and do more.</p> <p>I appreciate the openness and helpful nature of ██████ She is always asking if we need anything or what we would like, and acting upon this.</p> <p>Your staff is beyond supportive, caring, passionate, nurturing and very knowledgeable</p> <p>In a town struggling to keep up with its growing population of young families, these programs are a vital source of support, connection and education.</p>	

4. Existing Funding and Grant Applications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>List the specific grants, funding and fundraising planned, approved or pending for the existing year, and</i> <i>Please also list rejected or non-approved funding (with reasons).</i>
<p>The existing funding is through the Child Care Resource and Referral program which is a Ministry of Education program and Sea to Sky Community Services. We are hoping to continue to expand our services and supports to Whistler families and are seeking financial support to do so.</p>	

GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):

5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown:			
<i>Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents your provide in your application</i>			
	Annual Operating Budget	Grant Requested	<i>Provide a brief description of the specific amount requested. (Ex: Products, services, staffing roles, advertising, etc.)</i>
Salaries/contracts:	13923.84	5000	CCRR consultant wages and benefits for playgroup operation only
General operations:	2500		admin, toys and craft supplies, cell,coffee
One-time project / program:			
Physical assets:			
Rent (RMOW facilities):	4500	N/A	
Rent (other facilities):			
Other:			
Total	20923.84 \$	5000 \$	24 % <i>(Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)</i>
Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.			

6. Additional Information:	<i>Please list any additional information, details or explanations regarding your grant request that you would like to be considered by Council.</i>
	<p>/Canadian children have increasingly delayed development. One measure of child development is the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The instrument measures five core areas of early child development that are known to be good predictors of adult health, education, and social outcomes. Recent figures estimate that the 28% of Canadian children are vulnerable in one or more areas of development when tested in Kindergarten (CIHI, 2022), up from 26% in 2014 (CIHI, 2014). In BC, rates of vulnerability are higher with 34.6% of children starting school with vulnerabilities in one or more areas that are critical to their health and that trend is increasing (HELP, 2016).</p> <p>In fact, in Whistler specifically we have seen an increase recently in the percentage of vulnerable children entering the Whistler school system. For more information about this, please visit the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the UBC and their EDI dashboard.</p> <p>https://dashboard.earlylearning.ubc.ca</p> <p>Many children are also facing adverse childhood events that we know lead to developmental delays and poor health. Nearly one in five Canadian children live in poverty (First Call, 2021), with food bank usage even before the pandemic in some parts of the country at its all-time highest with a disproportionate number of users being children (Ghoussoub, 2016). One in three Canadian children experiences physical abuse, sexual abuse, exposure to intimate violence, or a combination of these (Boesveld, 2014). The rates of neglect are likely even higher than that (Trocmé, 2005).</p> <p>Child Care Resource and referral (CCRR) through playgroups responds to these issues and others by supporting the most vulnerable families to provide the best environments for their children.</p>

7. Attachments:	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i>
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- Financial Statement (audited preferred) or Organization Budget **(Required)**
- Proof (copy) of registered not-for-profit society status or registered charity status **(Required)**
- **Other:**

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

8. Please list how your organization may improve Community Performance Indicators:	<p><i>Please visit https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/strategies-and-plans/strategic-plan/ to learn about the four priority areas of RMOW 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Housing</i> 2. <i>Climate Action</i> 3. <i>Community Engagement</i> 4. <i>Smart Tourism</i> <p><i>Please determine how your grant (or organization) can contribute to fulfilling any priorities described in the four areas listed above. Each priority has numerous specifications to choose from while describing how your grant (or organization) may help to improve Strategic Plan.</i></p>
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Example: This grant addresses the priority of "Community Engagement" because it strives to connect locals to each other. Specifically, this is because...

The CCRR Whistler Playgroup aligns with the "Enriching Community Life" priority. Playgroups are instrumental and effective in supporting children and their families by helping them feel connected in their community, connecting to resources and services which in turn can support their overall physical, mental and social health.

SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

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

9. How has your organization considered truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous Nations?

Sea to Sky Community Services' employees, management and Board have, over the life of the organization, contributed by individual or program-based means to the current organizational culture of meaningful intent to pursue Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at all levels of operation. In the fall of 2020, the organization moved beyond intent, beyond these clusters of action, by forming the Diversity Committee. The Committee's first action was to plan monthly meetings to discuss ideas, issues, and most importantly, actions. This committee reviewed and updated the Cultural Diversity Plan, which has evolved into the Cultural Competency, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan. This review led the committee to determine priorities and actions for the coming year. The first phase involved focusing on internal and external communications tools and resources. We began by updating of intake and referral forms, job descriptions, postings and other documentation, making sure that the language in these forms is inclusive. We then shifted the language in our policies and in our external communications (social media, website, etc). This task is still an ongoing process. The committee also began creating and posting inclusive signage on all points of entry: for example, rainbow flags and way-finding for all-gender washrooms.

One year ago, on May 28, 2021, our entire country experienced a reckoning when the T'Kemlups to Secwepemc band in Kamloops, BC was able to present proof, through ground-penetration radar, of the hidden burial of 215 children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. An increasing number of additional nations and communities across Canada are using this technology and uncovering this evidence of the harm done to indigenous children, and the very large scale of that harm. This prompted the Committee to work with Senior Leadership and the Board of Directors on the implementation of several actions:

- The practice of an Indigenous land acknowledgement was integrated into the beginning of all meetings at SSCS.
- Team building days held at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, connecting with nations on whose land we work.
- Research was done and guidance was sought to create and implement an agency wide email acknowledgement.
- Orange "Every Child Matters" t-shirts were purchased for every single employee of the organization. Thursday is now orange t-shirt day in the organization.
- Board members and management team held a planning session to review and update the agency Strategic Plan. A collective decision to add a pillar to "build greater diversity and inclusion across the organization" with a specific operational goals to develop an overall agency strategy for this work based on research and best and promising practices in the non-profit environment.
- On September 30th 2021, Truth and Reconciliation Day, we held a virtual ceremony with a moment of silence, and guest speakers from our indigenous communities, We shared resources and information in an email to the entire organization.
- The Executive Director, Associate Director of Service Delivery and the Co-chair of the Diversity Committee enrolled into a year long training called "Transformative Reconciliation" through the Federation of Community Social Services of BC. This training will be complete in October 2022.

While this is difficult work to reckon with, we are glad to report that staff engagement with these initiatives has been impressive. We are encouraged to continue in this work together.

Very soon after the revelation of the childrens' burial site, three of our organizational representatives [REDACTED] attended a previously booked meeting with three respected community leaders from the Squamish Nation [REDACTED]. The intention of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of running a youth program around the carving of a totem pole, which would stand as a welcoming beacon to youth approaching the Foundry Youth Services building. This project, and the learning that it has provided to all involved, has become central to our work in right relations with First Nations partners. [REDACTED] was hired in September of 2022, to take on the Stewardship Officer role. Since joining the SSCS, [REDACTED] has played a key role in guiding relationships with First Nations partners. She has coordinated the Totem Pole project, from the practicality of procuring tools, materials, contracts and locations, to the ceremonial aspects of community engagement with an object of spiritual and symbolic importance. She has worked with the Foundry Indigenous Advisory Committee, building on the strong existing relationship with [REDACTED] (Operations manager of Squamish Valley Operations for Squamish Nation). The ongoing work with this advisory council is giving rise to conversations and planning around future carving programs, an elder-in-support program, indigenous safety planning in our programs and services, and also joining forces when it comes to celebrating successes together.

[REDACTED] also took on the coordination of the Pemberton Food Hub community: a range of organizations and individuals who are all invested in strengthening food security in the northern regions of the Sea to Sky Corridor. Since [REDACTED] joined the SSCS in the fall, in the role of Outreach Manager in Pemberton, the two have worked closely together on strengthening relations with Southern St'at'imx First Nations partners in this region. This work is ongoing, and is happening in parallel with the work that [REDACTED] have been doing in connecting with Lil'wat Nation at the leadership level.

In February 2022, the Diversity Committee received a grant for training all staff on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. An in-house training was created and in May this training began to be delivered to different teams in the organization. This has become an opportunity for team building in addition to training. This grant covers the cost of wages for the staff and Board members to attend the one-hour session and snacks are provided. The goal is to have all employees take this training by fall 2022.

In May of 2022, the Stewardship Officer, [REDACTED] who is also the Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee, attended the Katz Amsterdam Convening conference in Boulder, Colorado, on Racial Justice in Community Organizations serving in mountain resort communities. It was fascinating to meet others from across the American Continent, and to share thoughts on some very familiar circumstances relating to housing and transportation insecurity, immigration status and how that impacts access to services, and other barriers including language and, of course, racism.

In the early Spring of 2022, Jody began to incorporate a new project into her role: the coordinating of the organization's work in Cultural Competency, Diversity and Inclusion. This has helped to guide the work of the Diversity Committee, especially in the design and development of the in-house Diversity training modules. [REDACTED] also took on the work of coordinating Foundry Sea to Sky's Indigenous Advisory Committee. This committee is working on the formulation of an Elders-in-Support program for youth, which will become a model for cultivating Indigenous consultation and right relations throughout the organization. The Stewardship Officer will be working on the development of an organizational audit of key initiatives, activities, relationships, identifying gaps and areas of growth or relationships to restore. Specific to indigenous work rather than the global work of diversity. To do with right relations with FN. I will work with [REDACTED] to make recommendations for the board to consider.

Statement of Diversity
Sea to Sky Community Services Society acknowledges and respects the value of a diverse community. This recognition includes gender, community, language race/ethnicity, culture, family status, age, mental/physical abilities, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual beliefs, socio-economic status and occupational focus. Our mandate is to maintain an environment that is supportive of these elements by promoting inclusion within the organization and the communities we serve. We understand that embracing diversity in the workplace makes for better creativity, acceptance, tolerance, and innovation. It also broadens the range of knowledge, skills, and abilities of our staff members. Better decisions can be made based on culturally diverse perspectives. Our focus on cultural competency and diversity will enable us to improve our ability to provide culturally sensitive services to the individuals we serve.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Julie Van Eesteren
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	julie.vaneesteren@sscs.ca
Acknowledgement:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that the information provided in this CEP Grant Application Form is true; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that a representative is required to present this grant request at a future Council Meeting; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that if any amount is granted that the Grant Reporting Form is due by December 1 of this year; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that if any amount is granted, it will be used only for its intended purpose unless otherwise approved by Council.
Signature:	[REDACTED]

Funding decisions will be announced during a Regular Council Meeting in April 2024.

Please contact the Legislative Services Department at corporate@whistler.ca if you require any assistance.

Personal and third party information provided in this application form is collected under the authority of Section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Should you have any questions regarding the collection, use and disclosure of this information please contact the Legislative and Privacy Coordinator at 604-935-8118 or at 4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler.