

**CANADIAN
HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION
SEA TO SKY**

July 15, 2020

Mayor Crompton and Council
Resort Municipality of Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, B.C.
V8E 0X5

Dear Mayor and Council,

It has been quite some time since we (The RMOW and Sea to Sky CHBA) have formally collaborated on a regular basis to tackle issues affecting our local community. In the not so distant past, we worked together to identify industry specific problems needing attention in our community and to implement solutions that help address issues affecting property owners, the community at large, the local construction industry and the Municipal Building and Planning functions.

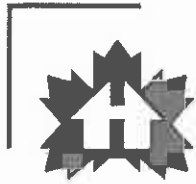
At the time, one of the mechanisms utilized for our collaboration was the "Illegal Spaces Task Force" whose efforts were viewed as a win/win for the community whereby we (the RMOW and Sea to Sky CHBA) sat at the table and agreed to work together in the communities best interest to first of all acknowledge there were issues needing attention and then collaborating to brainstorm solutions to the topics at hand. The net result, although not perfect, at least moved us all forward, united, in a positive direction.

From 2012 through 2016, with the support of Mayor and Council, this committee met to identify and address the topic of the day, illegal spaces, but we also identified many other topics of interest where the community could benefit from our combined efforts to address the real day to day issues that impact our municipality and its citizens.

The most recent meeting agenda I have record of is dated May 16, 2016. During that meeting we referenced the minutes of our May 11, 2015 meeting where several "housekeeping items" were identified as requiring attention. Namely the task force terms of reference, meeting scheduling, change of the committee's name to more accurately reflect a broader scope of address, etc. The intention indicated during our most recent meetings was to address the misnomer of the "Illegal Spaces Task Force" with a more representative name, one that would communicate the intention for the task force to consider community issues that would benefit from the collaborative efforts of the RMOW Administration, Planning, Building Depts. and the local CHBA.

Please understand that although we are a "tourism based" community, we as a community are in fact very dependent on a vibrant, healthy, and efficient construction industry. In a typical Whistler economy, construction is the second largest economic sector in the local community. Recently, with the downturn in tourism, we have become the largest economic engine. Hopefully that will be short lived with a much-needed rebound in tourism. The health of this industry is very much dependent on a strong working relationship with the local authority having jurisdiction, the administrative function within the RMOW, and the specific departments we interact with daily. Of late, that relationship has languished.

Understandably, other priorities over the last couple of years have redirected the limited resources of the municipality to other more urgent matters. That is expected and supported. And recognizing this reality, we have been patient and not raised issue with the lack of attention to the needs of our industry over the recent past. We understand that municipal staff have been stretched thin over the last many months and are empathetic in this regard. The hard work of the RMOW has not gone unnoticed and is demonstrated by such accomplishments as the recent approval of the OCP.



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The more recent impacts of the pandemic on the municipal operations have also not gone unnoticed. However, the needs of the municipal homeowners and the local construction industry are now more urgent than ever. Important issues requiring attention that the RMOW is focusing on such as housing, reducing energy consumption, and associated carbon emissions, should be viewed as opportunities to collaborate on, to utilize the expertise and experience our membership possesses that can be leveraged to help implement practical solutions to achieve desired end results. We believe it is time to resurrect a newly named task force to collaborate with the RMOW Mayor and Council, the authority having jurisdiction, and the municipal departments that are instrumental in a well-functioning development and construction economy.

We respectfully request that the ISTFC be resurrected to address the outstanding housekeeping issues and continue with the important work needing attention.

Respectfully,



David Girard, Director
Canadian Home Builders Association – Sea to Sky