

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing this email to express my concern over the increase in illegal camping. There are now four illegal campers living on the Cheakamus Lake Road. This has increased from one camper last summer. One of these units, a trailer, has a hose hooked up to drain their grey water onto the ground. I have to wonder where all of these people are going to the bathroom, dumping wastewater, food scraps, etc?

Allowing these people to live there normalizes living in these locations and encourages others to move there as well. With another dry summer forecast do we really want people camping and living throughout the forest? While many of these people are responsible, it only takes one person who is careless with their BBQ or building an illegal fire to cause a catastrophe. Accidental fires also happen as campers and RV's do catch fire. I have spent many summers working in campgrounds and this happens more often than you think.

The short-term solution is to move these people out of this location. However, I realize they are likely to just relocate to a similar location and create similar problems. This doesn't mean they shouldn't be moved as this is a poor place for them to be.

However, the real solution is to give these people somewhere to go. This location can be a hardened parking lot with access to a bathroom. The parking lot at the junction between Highway 99 and Cheakamus Lake Road was serving this purpose until the campers were moved out a few years ago.

It is obvious that people are going to continue to live in campers, vans etc. Part of this is due to high rents and the difficulty in finding places to live. Another component is the normalization of the "van life." Regardless of the reasons, it is going to continue to happen. It is time for this community to address this issue head on by giving these people somewhere to go unless the municipality has another strategy in mind?

Thanks for your consideration and your continued service to the community.

Regards,

Chris Kaipio
12-1380 Cloudburst Drive
Whistler, BC
Email: 