

To the Mayor and Council,

On the same day as our previous Council meeting, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the Swiss government had violated the human rights of its citizens by failing to adequately address climate change.

This landmark decision establishes a precedent for future climate litigation, emphasizing that missing climate targets constitutes a violation of the rights of both current and future generations. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the global mandate has been clear. Failure to implement policies that advance these goals is increasingly viewed as a dereliction of duty.

Given the severe impacts of climate change experienced in our region, including droughts, wildfires, and atmospheric rivers, it is reasonable for courts to hold accountable those whose decisions exacerbate these crises. People deserve the right to challenge inadequate actions that threaten their environment and well-being.

We stand at a crossroads. The future will be radical either way. Shaped by our BOLD actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, or by the catastrophic changes that will ensue from inaction.

As Whistler strives to be recognized as a climate leader on the global stage, it is imperative that we lead by example. Since the Paris Agreement, our efforts to reduce emissions have been insufficient. Meanwhile, Paris has undergone a cycling revolution that is being hailed around the world. It is time for Whistler to be known for its proactive stance on climate action.

Here are some simple actions that we can immediately implement:

- 1) **Eliminate as many 'required' parking spaces as possible across Whistler.** With over 100,000 'required' parking spaces in Whistler and vacant real estate priced at \$280/sqft, the 1,000 sqft per parking space translates to a total land value of approximately \$28 billion, an enormous subsidy to the automotive and fossil industries.
- 2) **Invest heavily and rapidly in micro-mobility, such as electric bikes.** Residents are significantly outpacing the Municipality in adopting ebikes. Meanwhile, I observed a Municipal fossil truck on the Valley Trail performing maintenance yesterday. It is conceivable the task could have been accomplished using an ebike and a trailer.
- 3) **Explore every avenue possible to finance the removal of fossil gas from existing buildings.** Fossil gas is responsible for the majority of our emissions, when considering the planet warming methane that leaks everywhere. Other communities have used public-private partnerships and have raised over \$100 million to completely decarbonize their buildings by 2030.
- 4) **Significantly more community climate and ecological engagement, education and participatory decision-making** to ensure widespread support and understanding of our climate actions, and the risks that lay ahead.
- 5) **Include our scope 3 emissions from the transportation of our visitors in our greenhouse gas accounting.** We must have an open discussion about how our economy will transform as these emissions are rapidly reduced.

It is crucial that we act now to safeguard our environment for the future (and present!) generations while leading the way in climate responsibility.

Kind Regards,



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We gratefully acknowledge the land, now known as Whistler and Revelstoke, where we live create and play, in the unceded traditional lands of the Skwxwú7mesh and Lilwat7úl, the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx