

Hello Council,

I am writing a follow up to my previous letter to council that was presented at the May 14, 2024 council meeting. In that letter I brought to council's attention the increasing numbers of illegal campers around Whistler and I highlighted some of the problems this brings.

In my letter, I cautioned that by allowing these campers to essentially live in place it would signal that this is acceptable and would encourage others to do so.

Over the weekend there were a number of campers tenting along Cheakamus Lake Road, some with aggressive dogs. With the number of bikers and hikers that use this road this is becoming increasingly problematic. After my letter I spoke with a resident in Cheakamus Crossing who told me they no longer felt safe walking the trails along the FSR due to the number of illegal campers.

As noted in this week's article in the Pique, illegal camping and squatting represents an unnecessary and real fire risk. It also contributes to the improper disposal of human and potentially food waste.

As I noted in my letter to council, allowing these people to live in the forest is not healthy for them or the community.

For this reason, I am surprised that no action seems to have been taken since then. I recommended that council look to create a legal place for these people to go. Allowing these people to live in these areas is not acceptable. It is also not realistic to think that telling them to move - should that actually happen - will not simply result in them just moving to a different illegal location.

I encourage council to address this problem with more speed as it continues to grow with inaction.

Regards,

Chris Kaipio

Cheakamus Crossing

Sent from my iPhone