

To: Lil'wat Nation Chief and Council
Squamish Nation Chief and Council
RMOW Mayor and Council
Board of Directors, SLRD
Board of Directors, Whistler Sports Legacies

Re: 2010 Whistler Spoiled Legacy

Twenty-six years ago, I was summoned into the, then Mayor Hugh O'Reilly's office, to meet with [REDACTED] and two [REDACTED] businessmen wishing to initiate a bid for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. What followed over the next ten years was an incredible journey as we literally built the winning bids and moved on to the Games preparation. Along the way, I worked with some truly visionary persons whose focused mission it was to expand public Nordic skiing participation in Western Canada.

Much compromise was required from all of the stakeholders including both First Nations and the people of BC. The common bond that glued the consensus together was the Olympic ideal of good sportsmanship and fair competition. In fact, all of the land tenure that Whistler Olympic Park now sits on was graciously forfeited by the pre-existing cross-country operator with the understanding that together, in a Post Games environment, that the two entities would co-operate in building North America's most comprehensive Nordic ski facility.

For seventeen years the two entities operated SKI Callaghan as a joint venture agreement. During that time, we built visitation from 35,000 to almost 1 million skier visits. For seventeen years, a common, one price admission ticket provided access to 112 km of groomed cross country and snowshoe trails. By all measures, the people of BC had been rewarded in their trust of the operators to fulfill this vision.

So..... what happened? I was shaken by the recent Whistler Olympic Park press release that stated this year's season pass offering (and day tickets) would only provide access to their own facilities including a much-reduced trail system of 55 km. Has petty bureaucracy and empire building suffocated the notions of fair play?

Of late, Whistler Olympic Park's focus appears to have shifted to more of a private sector management philosophy with increasingly more emphasis being placed on commercial film locations and RV Campgrounds. This, despite an on-going substantial annual stipend from the provincially funded Legacy fund and an enduring exemption from paying property taxes, provided on an annual basis by both the Regional District and the RMOW taxpayers.

Its time someone sat the WLS Management team down and reminded them that they exist only at the community's will. They are not a private corporation and must answer to the public's expectations for co-operation in delivering service and access on lands belonging to all of us.

More important , they should adhere to their own mandate to Grow Sport or lose the support our governments provide to them in the form of tax relief and funding.

Brad Sills

Founder, SKI CALLAGHAN (ret)

[REDACTED]

Whistler , BC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]