

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	Sea to Sky Fire & Ice Geopark Society dba Fire & Ice GeoRegion
Name of the program(s) (if applicable):	N/A
Society Registration Number:	S0076107
Organization Mailing Address:	Unit 4 – 6320 Lorimer Road, Whistler BC V8E 0W8
Contact Name & Title:	John Rae Executive Director
Organization Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Organization Email Address:	john@fireandicegeoregion.ca
Organization Purpose or Mandate: (Please provide this answer in one sentence)	Generate awareness of and interest in the geology of the Sea to Sky region of British Columbia, and how biodiversity and human heritage are shaped by geology, and to do so through stimulating educational programs, distinctive curatorial consistency, and compelling marketing, thereby strengthening sense of pride among residents and attracting purposeful, respectful visitors to the region.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Environment

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	Founded 2018; Registered BC Society 2022
How many active members/participants does the organization have in the current year? (e.g. how many athletes have signed up for this year)	The information on the Fire & Ice GeoRegion website and mobile app is available to residents and visitors of all ages. Therefore, even though we have not yet established membership categories, when we are in a position to actively promote the website and the mobile app we anticipate significant engagement.
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	N/A
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	N/A
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	Four (4) volunteer Board members.
Age range of participants in the organization:	open to all ages.

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	Website: www.fireandicegeoregion.ca Mobile app: Fire & Ice Geopark Instagram: @fireandicegeoregion
What are the membership and participation requirements?	The Fire & Ice GeoRegion website and mobile app are available at no cost.
Does the organization have any outstanding debts or other means of funding from the RMOW? If yes, please state the amount and reason. <u>Note:</u> Please include any Value In Kind support that you receive from the RMOW (eg. reduced rent, utilities in RMOW buildings)	No.

GRANT INFORMATION

1. Purpose of Grant	<i>Explain in detail how the funding will be spent. Please refer to Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program, available at www.whistler.ca/cep for funding criteria and eligibility. Please be as concise as possible using the space below.</i>
<p>Funds to enable the ongoing maintenance, updates, and operation of the Fire & Ice GeoRegion website and mobile app.</p> <p>If the RMOW CEP provides funds for the website maintenance & development and for the Digital Field Guide, the entire GeoRegion initiative will flourish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need the funds identified in this grant application to increase the visibility of the GeoRegion. • Increased visibility will enhance the credibility of the initiative. • visibility + credibility will increase the likelihood of achieving UNESCO designation which, in turn, will attract corporate funds and federal funds to ensure financial sustainability. <p>If we are not successful with this grant application, our volunteer Board will need to make a decision regarding the future of the Fire & Ice GeoRegion endeavour.</p> <p>The Sea to Sky Region is already a major tourism destination; by achieving UNESCO designation, the Fire & Ice Aspiring GeoRegion (FIAG) will contribute to positioning the Sea to Sky as a global model for 21st century sustainable tourism. With a desire to travel deeper, more sustainably, and with greater humility, 21st century tourists are increasingly attracted by the ethos of UNESCO, including respectful and responsible visitation.</p>	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
No	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Whistler Museum to provide content and training for the geology component of Discover Nature which occurs in Lost Lake Park during July & August. • Ongoing education and engagement through the website and digital app. 	

4. Existing Funding and Grant Applications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>List the specific grants, funding and fundraising planned, approved or pending for the existing year, and</i> 2. <i>Please also list rejected or non-approved funding (with reasons).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resort Municipality of Whistler Community Enrichment Program: \$9,722 pending. • Whistler Blackcomb Foundation: \$126,129 for capital investment in a mobile geological exhibit including truck & trailer. Pending. 	

GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):

5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown:			
<i>Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents you provide in your application</i>			
	Annual Operating Budget	Grant Requested	<i>Provide a brief description of the specific amount requested. (Ex: Products, services, staffing roles, advertising, etc.)</i>
Salaries/contracts:	\$18000	N/A	
General operations:	\$5500	\$5500	Website & mobile app annual costs
One-time project / program:	\$0	\$4222	Additional digital content development to increase website and mobile app usefulness.
Physical assets:	N/A	N/A	
Rent (RMOW facilities):	N/A	N/A	
Rent (other facilities):	N/A	N/A	
Other:	\$250	N/A	
Total	\$ 23970	\$ 9722	40 % (Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)
Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.			

6. Additional Information:	<i>Please list any additional information, details or explanations regarding your grant request that you would like to be considered by Council.</i>
	<p>The Sea to Sky Fire & Ice GeoRegion (GeoRegion) is seeking status as a UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GeoRegion is a 'thematic umbrella' encompassing 70 'geosites' – sites of international geological significance – many of which are accessible by Hwy. 99 and the Sea to Sky Trail. • The GeoRegion includes sites within Provincial Parks, and overlaps Átl'ka7tsem Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region with which the GeoRegion works closely. • The purpose of the GeoRegion is to generate knowledge of and interest in the geology and geohazards of the region and how biodiversity and human heritage are shaped by these • To do so through stimulating educational programs, interpretation, and regional partnerships that strengthen stewardship among residents and promote sustainable, purposeful, respectful visitation. • We do that through www.fireandicegeoregion.ca and a Digital Field Guide app ('Fire & Ice Geopark') free download from all app stores.

7. Attachments:	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i>
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- Financial Statement (audited preferred) or Organization Budget (**Required**)
- Proof (copy) of registered not-for-profit society status or registered charity status (**Required**)
- Other:**

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<p>8. Please describe how your organization can contribute to the RMOW Strategic Plan:</p>	<p>Please visit https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/strategies-and-plans/strategic-plan/ to learn about the four priority areas of RMOW 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing 2. Climate Action 3. Community Engagement 4. Smart Tourism <p>Please determine how your grant (or organization) can contribute to fulfilling any priorities described in the four areas listed above. Each priority has numerous specifications to choose from while describing how your grant (or organization) may help to improve Strategic Plan.</p>
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Example: This grant addresses the priority of “Community Engagement” because it strives to connect locals to each other. Specifically, this is because...

Housing N/A
Climate action N/A
Community Engagement
RMOW Goal with which the Fire & Ice GeoRegion aligns:
• Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW
RMOW Action with which the Fire & Ice GeoRegion aligns:
• Innovate on engagement channels and increase community engagement opportunities
Smart Tourism
RMOW Goal with which the Fire & Ice GeoRegion aligns:
• Preserve and protect Whistler’s unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure
RMOW Actions with which the Fire & Ice GeoRegion aligns:
• Design parks infrastructure, programming and transportation options to encourage dispersion
• Provide opportunities for visitors to contribute, participate and learn about Whistler’s culture
CEP funds will increase the likelihood of the GeoRegion achieving UNESCO designation which, in turn, will accelerate regional cooperation on several major initiatives:
Reconciliation.
• Providing residents and visitors opportunities to learn about Indigenous culture and history.
• UNESCO is an agency of the United Nations and UNDRIP is incorporated into the principles & practices of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, UNESCO World Biosphere Regions, and UNESCO Global Geoparks.
Education.
• The GeoRegion will provide curatorial consistency about geological sites thereby increasing understanding of how biodiversity and human heritage – led by Indigenous heritage – are shaped by geology.
Stewardship of natural assets and promotion of natural values which will help mitigate disrespectful use of natural assets.
A global model for sustainable tourism.
Heighten awareness of outdoor activities – hiking, kayaking, cycling, skiing, climbing – that involve geosites.
Greater interest in the environment, geohazards mitigation, and Climate Change.
Marketing by leveraging UNESCO’s global cachet to heighten awareness of the entire region.
In addition, the GeoRegion aligns with the New Federal Tourism Growth Strategy: “Canada’s UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks will be positioned as key destinations for sustainable tourism, and local communities will be supported in their collective efforts to achieve and maintain these prestigious designations”.

SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lil'wat People, known in their language as L'il'wat7úl and the Squamish People, known in their language as the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for planning on unceded territories, as currently managed by the provincial government; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

9. How has your organization considered truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous Nations?

UNESCO is an agency of the United Nations and UNDRIP is incorporated into the principles & practices of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, UNESCO World Biosphere Regions, and UNESCO Global Geoparks*.

*PLEASE NOTE: UNESCO is aware that FIAG is pursuing UNESCO designation as a 'GeoRegion' (not 'Geopark') for three reasons:

a) FIAG is a regional initiative covering ~10,000 km² and 'GeoRegion' helps position the FIAG as an aggregator of the many Provincial & Municipal parks under Fire & Ice Aspiring GeoRegion 'thematic umbrella'.

b) UNESCO's approval of the At'l'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere 'Region'; all other UNESCO Biospheres are referred to as 'Reserves'.

c) Many Indigenous peoples feel that national and provincial parks are a continuation of the process of settler colonialism; the creation and maintenance of parks often required the forcible exclusion of Indigenous peoples; thus the suffix 'park' is inflammatory to Indigenous people.

The Fire & Ice Aspiring GeoRegion; i.e. 'aspiring' to achieve UNESCO designation.

A. We have been working on the initiative since 2018.

-We have broad support throughout the corridor and beyond.

B. Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation have been consulted and discussions continue.

-There have been ups and downs in the process, misunderstandings and learning; hopefully on both sides.

- The current situation is mixed:

-Squamish Nation supports the initiative without opposition.

-FYI: Squamish Nation played a central role in securing UNESCO designation for the At'l'ka7tsem Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region (AHSUBR) and sits on the AHSUBR Board.

-Lil'wat Nation is not currently supportive.

-Their main concern is that UNESCO designation will exacerbate disrespectful use of sensitive and sacred geosites located in Lil'wat territory; e.g. Joffre Lakes; Keyhole Hot Springs.

C. Subsequent to numerous meetings with staff and Council of both First Nations, we made significant changes to and challenged UNESCO to do the same including (but not limited to):

-Change Geopark to GeoRegion.

-Forego the UNESCO requirement to have a clearly defined border within which geosites are located.

-Removing sacred and sensitive sites from the list of Geosites.

D. We see the website and digital app as 'no impact' initiatives that will demonstrate why geodiversity and geoheritage are the foundations of biodiversity and human heritage beginning with First Nations.

-Essentially, we envision the GeoRegion as having a central role in building trust with Lil'wat Nation.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Leslie Anthony
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Acknowledgement:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I confirm that the information provided in this CEP Grant Application Form is true; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I confirm that a representative is required to present this grant request at a future Council Meeting; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I confirm that if any amount is granted that the Grant Reporting Form is due by December 1 of this year; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I confirm that if any amount is granted, it will be used only for its intended purpose unless otherwise approved by Council.
Signature:	[REDACTED]

Funding decisions will be announced during a Regular Council Meeting in April 2025.

Please contact the Legislative Services Department at corporate@whistler.ca if you require any assistance.

Personal and third party information provided in this application form is collected under the authority of Section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Should you have any questions regarding the collection, use and disclosure of this information please contact the Legislative and Privacy Coordinator at 604-935-8118 or at 4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler.