

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services [Community Development & Outreach; Capilano University]
Name of the program(s) (if applicable):	Play to Connect
Society Registration Number:	<b>106871361 RR 0001</b>
Organization Mailing Address:	2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver, BC, V7J 3H5
Contact Name & Title:	Andrea Dunne, Regional Program Manager
Organization Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Organization Email Address:	wpnewcomers@capilanou.ca
Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence)</i>	Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services delivers frontline services, social connection programming and language classes to immigrants, refugees and other newcomers who live in Whistler and Pemberton - more than 90% of total clients reside in Whistler.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Community Services

## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	<b>12 years</b>
How many active members/participants does the organization have in the current year? <i>(e.g. how many athletes have signed up for this year)</i>	204 unique clients to date since April 1st 2024. We track Pemberton clients separately. Play to Connect specifically reported 463 engagements with activities since April 1st 2024 to date.
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	Staff: 2 - 1 FT, 1PT Program Management :1 PT Instructor: 1 PT
Age range of participants in the organization:	<b>18-72</b>

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	<a href="https://wpnewcomers.ca/">https://wpnewcomers.ca/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wpnewcomers/">https://www.facebook.com/wpnewcomers/</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/wpnewcomers/">https://www.instagram.com/wpnewcomers/</a>
What are the membership and participation requirements?	Eligibility criteria for the core services and programs are set by our other funders. Immigrants who hold permanent residence, naturalized citizenship and work/study permits are eligible. Receiving this funding means we could open up the eligibility criteria to those with other statuses.
<p>Does the organization have any outstanding debts or other means of funding from the RMOW? If yes, please state the amount and reason.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Please include any Value In Kind support that you receive from the RMOW (eg. reduced rent, utilities in RMOW buildings)</p>	No

## GRANT INFORMATION

<b>1. Purpose of Grant</b>	<i>Explain in detail how the funding will be spent. Please refer to Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program, available at <a href="http://www.whistler.ca/cep">www.whistler.ca/cep</a> for funding criteria and eligibility. Please be as concise as possible using the space below.</i>
	<p>The funding will be used to support salaries for coordinating year-round programming, transportation to bring participants to parks or trails for organized activities, program supplies for refreshments and necessary equipment, and modest marketing costs to promote the program in the community.</p> <p>Due to recent funding reductions from our core funders, we are streamlining our programming in Whistler. As Play to Connect has been impactful for participants, we would like to continue it for at least one year as we transition to a smaller overall program.</p> <p>Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services, part of Capilano University's Community Development &amp; Outreach Department, has delivered settlement and outreach services, social connection programming, and English language classes in Whistler since 2013. All services and programming are no cost to program participants.</p> <p>Our core funders are the Ministry for Post-Secondary and Future Skills and Immigration (MPSFS) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). These funds support our delivery of provincially and federally directed settlement and integration services to immigrants, refugees and other newcomers who live in Whistler.</p> <p>Two years ago, we identified the need to innovate our approach to connecting with hard-to-reach clients. At the same time, we recognized that many of our participants face barriers to accessing local recreation and activities. In response, we developed Play to Connect, which uses social determinants of health to guide its implementation. This program helps newcomers, immigrants, and refugees overcome barriers like cost, equipment, isolation, and accessibility, while fostering social connections, improving mental health, and reducing social isolation.</p> <p>Through activities like weekly drop-in soccer (May–October), annual camping trips, Bear Smart/Conservation information sessions, hiking, frisbee golf, and cross-country skiing, Play to Connect promotes physical activity, mental health, and community connections for individuals who might otherwise be reluctant to engage due to stigma, lack of awareness, or cultural variations.</p>

<b>2. Is This a New Program or Activity?</b>	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
<p>The "Play to Connect" program is not a new initiative, it began in 2023 within our regular Whistler programming. This project was designed to bridge the gap for vulnerable residents in our community, specifically newcomers and other immigrants, by connecting them to essential services in a non-intimidating and supportive way. A key challenge that some immigrants face is overcoming stigma associated with accessing community services. Additionally, it's difficult to raise awareness about our services using common approaches as the message may not reach those who are navigating a new country &amp; culture without their usual support/family system.</p> <p>"Play to Connect" tackles this issue by creating an inviting and approachable space where participants can access services in a culturally responsive setting. The activities we coordinate generate an environment that facilitates access to services, practical support and information. Participants are also encouraged to build relationships which help them overcome isolation, develop a sense of belonging and strengthen their connection to the Whistler community.</p>	

<b>3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:</b>	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p>Over the past year, we have delivered a number of impactful activities and programs for clients and other community members, including workshops, cultural sharing activities, community building events that directly contribute to a stronger, resilient, Whistler community. These initiatives are vital to our mission of providing accessible resources and creating a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Some highlights include:</p> <p>Outdoor Adventure Activities: Naim Falls Camping Trip; Eight newcomers experienced camping for the first time. Participants experienced an iconic aspect of local life while helping break down social and cultural barriers, creating connection and belonging, learning about their own skills and resilience.</p> <p>Weekly Friendly Soccer Games: Throughout the summer, we hosted weekly drop-in soccer games. The sessions were low-barrier, no need to register in a league. The sessions created space for newcomers to engage in physical activity, build friendships, and develop a sense of community.</p> <p>Cultural and Educational Workshops: Our "How to Be Bear Smart" workshops helped newcomers understand Whistler's wildlife, ensuring they can safely navigate their new environment. Our "Around the World" cooking workshops brought together diverse cultures, with an average of 10 participants per session, promoting cultural exchange through food, recipes, and shared stories.</p> <p>Community Potlucks: Seasonal potlucks, such as our Holiday Potluck (28 attendees) and Ramadan Potluck (39 attendees), were key in bringing together people from different cultural backgrounds. These events facilitated cross-cultural connections and provided a space for people to share food, experiences, and build relationships that extended beyond the events alone. In addition to these activities, we offer free English language classes using learner-centred pedagogy. We collaborate with local service providers, such as WorkBC, to support access to other services. We seek out special topic speakers and vendors from within the immigrant community, actively using an equity-based approach.</p> <p>Overall, our programs have made a measurable impact by offering culturally responsive programming and services, improving language skills, enhancing social connections, and increasing access to services that help newcomers feel supported and connected in Whistler. These activities have strengthened the community and contributed to newcomers feeling informed, integrated, and part of Whistler's diverse fabric.</p>	

<b>4. Existing Funding and Grant Applications:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>List the specific grants, funding and fundraising planned, approved or pending for the existing year, and</i></li> <li><i>Please also list rejected or non-approved funding (with reasons).</i></li> </ol>
<p>We receive funding from both the provincial and federal governments which support core services including frontline settlement services, information and orientation services for individuals, groups and families, language training for groups and individuals.</p> <p>Ministry of Post-Secondary &amp; Future Skills (formerly Municipal Affairs) funds BC Newcomer Services Program: \$42,000 for the Whistler portion of Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services.</p> <p>Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will fund the Whistler portion of Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services with \$94,000 from April 1st 2025 onwards.</p> <p>The majority of these funds must cover costs for frontline one-to-one services, group orientation sessions, some social connection programming and English language classes. All services are free and offered at no cost to the clients.</p> <p>Our funding from IRCC for Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services will be reduced from April 1st 2025 onwards. The settlement sector is facing reductions and cuts across the province, however, the funder directed us to specifically reduce funding in Whistler.</p>	

**GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):**

<b>5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown:</b>			
<i>Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents you provide in your application</i>			
	<b>Annual Operating Budget</b>	<b>Grant Requested</b>	<i>Provide a brief description of the specific amount requested. (Ex: Products, services, staffing roles, advertising, etc.)</i>
Salaries/contracts:	6373	3187	Program delivery staff salary
General operations:	2108	1058	Field Trip costs (transportation), supplies and refreshments, marketing costs
One-time project / program:			
Physical assets:			
Rent (RMOW facilities):	610	N/A	Soccer field rental
Rent (other facilities):			
Other:	909	455	Administrative costs
<b>Total</b>	\$ 10600	\$ 4700	<b>46%</b> % (Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)
<i>Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.</i>			

<b>6. Additional Information:</b>	<i>Please list any additional information, details or explanations regarding your grant request that you would like to be considered by Council.</i>
	<p>Whistler Pemberton Newcomer Services's work not only focuses on addressing the immediate needs of newcomers but also creates lasting, meaningful connections within the broader Whistler community. We have consistently worked to create an environment of safety and respect, where newcomers feel valued. Our activities go beyond direct services —they create spaces for social connection, cultural exchange &amp; safety and community building.</p> <p>Our activities bridge gaps between newcomers, local residents, and service providers. We collaborate with organizations such as WorkBC, Navio Immigration, supporting self-advocacy for the immigrant community of Whistler. These partnerships are integral to our approach, ensuring that our programming meets the needs of the community while creating new opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, we actively listen to our community members, ensuring that their feedback shapes the direction of our programming. We use regular surveys and social media channels to help us stay responsive to the evolving needs of the people we serve, making sure we stay relevant and effective in our mission.</p>

<b>7. Attachments:</b>	<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

<b>8. Please describe how your organization can contribute to the RMOW Strategic Plan:</b>	<p><i>Please visit <a href="https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/strategies-and-plans/strategic-plan/">https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/strategies-and-plans/strategic-plan/</a> to learn about the four priority areas of RMOW 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Housing</i></li> <li>2. <i>Climate Action</i></li> <li>3. <i>Community Engagement</i></li> <li>4. <i>Smart Tourism</i></li> </ol> <p><i>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.</i></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...*

We are committed to supporting the RMOW's strategic priorities, particularly in the area of Community Engagement. We believe our organization's efforts are directly aligned with the strategic goals of innovating engagement channels, improving information sharing, and strengthening community linkages. Here's how our work contributes to these priorities:

1. **Innovating Engagement Channels:** Through our use of social media channels like Facebook and Instagram, we engage with a wide audience of newcomers, sharing important updates, event information, and community resources. These platforms serve as a space for gathering feedback through regular surveys, allowing us to refine our services and ensure they meet the needs of our diverse clientele.
2. **Improving Information Sharing:** Our workshops, cultural events, and outreach initiatives are designed to improve the flow of information between service providers, local government, and the community. Whether it's through our “How to Be Bear Smart” workshops or Pathways to PR workshops, we help newcomers navigate local challenges and access services effectively, ensuring they have the information they need to thrive in Whistler.
3. **Strengthening Community Linkages:** Our team member's ongoing involvement in the Community Engagement Working Group (CEWG) reflects our commitment to strengthening connections across different groups in Whistler. We actively seek to create opportunities for newcomers and long-term residents to connect, share experiences, and build stronger social bonds.

By focusing on these key areas, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the RMOW's Community Engagement priority, ensuring that Whistler remains a welcoming, inclusive, and connected community for everyone.

## SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

*The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'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?

Learning about and connecting with local Indigenous Nations is a core part of our program development and a long-term goal to foster understanding and relationships between newcomers and indigenous communities. We believe that understanding local indigenous cultures is key to successful integration of newcomers into Whistler.

English language classes include content that highlights the history, culture, and contributions of First Peoples to Canada. In response to Call to Action 93, we include indigenous history and current affairs in Citizenship Test Preparation Workshops, centering truth and reconciliation as essential to being a responsible Canadian citizen.

We also coordinate an annual visit to the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, providing newcomers with the opportunity to learn directly from the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations about their cultures and histories.

Additionally, we collaborate on the annual Multicultural Celebration in Squamish, a 33 year-old event driven by a partnership between Squamish Nation Valley Elders, the Squamish Multifaith Association, the Sikh Temple and other community members, including immigrants, who come together to share their cultures on Squamish territory and learn from one another.

**GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:**

Submitted by:	Andrea Dunne	
Phone number:	[REDACTED]	
Email:	andreadunne@capilanou.ca	
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]	Digitally signed by Andrea Dunne Date: 2025.02.14 12:58:36 -08'00'

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

Please contact the Legislative Services Department at [corporate@whistler.ca](mailto: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.*