



**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** April 8, 2025      **REPORT:** 25-023  
**FROM:** Legislative Services Department      **FILE:** 1850-20-2025  
**SUBJECT:** 2025 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**That** Council approve the 2025 Community Enrichment Program (CEP) grants, attached as Appendix A to Administrative Report No. 25-023.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to request that Council approve the 2025 Community Enrichment Program (CEP) grant amounts listed in Appendix A.

Information Report       Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

Each year, through the CEP, the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) financially supports local not-for-profit organizations and societies that contribute to the betterment of the Whistler community. *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program* (CEP Policy) outlines the rules and the complete process for awarding grants. The CEP Policy is attached as Appendix B.

To be eligible for the CEP, funding organizations must operate in one of the four following categories: Environment, Community and Social Services, Recreation and Sport, or Arts and Culture. The funding allocated to each applicant varies, but funding amounts are capped at a maximum of 50 per cent of the applicant's total program cost.

CEP grants are offered annually and are subject to the availability of funds in the RMOW's "Five-Year Financial Plan 2025-2029 Bylaw No. 2465, 2025" (5YFP). Approval of funding in any one year does not mean that funding will be approved in subsequent years.

In addition, the CEP Policy provides for the award of up to six scholarships of \$1,000 for secondary school graduates.

The Committee of the Whole (COTW) deliberated and made recommendations to Council to approve the funding amounts at the next Regular Council Meeting. Those recommendations are included as Appendix A.

### **Analysis**

In 2025, the RMOW received 41 applications ([Appendix C](#) to [COTW Report No. W25-002](#)) with a total of \$432,453 in funding requests. Both the number of applications received, and amount of funding requested was the largest the RMOW has ever received. In 2023 and 2024, 39 applications were received and the total amount of funding requested was \$358,250 and \$288,572 respectively. The total 2025 CEP budget included in the 5YFP is \$180,504. This amount remained the same as 2024.

All the requesting organizations except one, Whistler Mountain Ski Club, presented to Council during the COTW Meeting on February 25, 2025.

The CEP Advisory Group met on March 3, 2025, to review the CEP applications and to determine funding recommendations for each organization. The Advisory Group consisted of representatives from the Finance; Village Events and Animation; Recreation and Legislative Services departments.

The Advisory Group first reviewed the applications to ensure that they met all eligibility requirements from the CEP Policy. The following applications did not meet the CEP Policy requirements and therefore were not considered for funding:

- Slope Side Support Society (s. 2.9 must provide financial statements)
- TRIUMF Canada (s. 1.8 special or one-time event)
- Whistler Institute of Learning Society (s. 1.8 special or one-time event)
- BC Fencing Association (s. 1.8 special or one-time event)
- Whistler Mountain Ski Club (s. 2.5 must attend COTW)

At the COTW Meeting on March 25, 2025, the COTW recommended that The Whistler Institute be awarded \$5,000 in CEP funding.

The following organizations applied for funding to support a current RMOW project and funding from that project budget can partially support these initiatives, so they were not recommended for CEP funding:

- Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (Priority Habitat)
- Fire & Ice GeoRegion Society (GeoPark)

Given the large increase in the amount of funding that was requested this year, for the remaining organizations that had previously applied for CEP funding, the Advisory Group used the 2024 funding amount as a reference for how much funding could be considered in 2025. In addition, the following considerations were used to evaluate the applications:

- Total number of active Whistler residents in the organization,
- Total number of active Whistler participants for sporting organizations,
- Purpose of the requested funding and alignment with core RMOW strategic priorities,
- Truth and Reconciliation initiatives by the organizations,
- Core program needs,
- Availability of programming in Whistler,
- One-off capital project requests,

- Other RMOW contributions to the organizations:
  - Tax Exemptions received in 2024
  - Value-in-Kind support received from the RMOW
  - Other funds provided from the RMOW, and
- Other existing funding and grant applications available to the organizations.

## POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

### **Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

Council may provide Community Enrichment funding to any not-for-profit organization or society pursuant to section 8(2) of the *Community Charter* – a municipality may provide any service that the council considers necessary or desirable and may do this directly or through another public authority or another person or organization.

Council adheres to the CEP Policy, which outlines the criteria for organizations seeking financial support.

[February 25, 2025, 2025 Community Enrichment Program](#): CEP Applicants presented to the COTW.

[March 25, 2025, COTW Report No. W25-002 – 2025 Community Enrichment Program](#): Staff presented the CEP Advisory Group recommendations for COTW consideration. The COTW deliberated and made recommendations to Council.

### **2023-2026 Strategic Plan**

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

### **Strategic Priorities**

Housing

*Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing*

Climate Action

*Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan*

Community Engagement

*Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW*

Smart Tourism

*Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure*

Not Applicable

*Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs*

### **Community Vision and Official Community Plan**

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

The CEP offers financial support to a diverse array of community organizations aligned with several objectives outlined in the OCP:

Chapter 8 – Health, Safety and Wellbeing:

- Objective 8.10.1 – promoting initiatives for youth and young adults that support their developmental needs, health, well-being and social connections;
- Objective 8.10.2 – promoting initiatives for seniors that support their health, well-being and ability to be valued part of the community;
- Objective 8.1.2 – promoting and supporting connections to the natural environment; and
- Objective 8.9.1 – improving access to preschool and childcare facilities and services.

Chapter 9 – Learning, Culture, and Recreation emphasizes both outdoor and indoor recreational activities and programs.

- Objective 9.6 – Continue to work collaboratively with partner organizations to provide quality recreation and leisure amenities and experiences.
  - Policy 9.6.2 – Non-profit third-party recreation service providers thrive, complement resort offerings and contribute to the social well-being of residents and visitors.

Additionally, the following objective, and associated policy, is supported through the provision of funding to arts and culture organizations:

- Objective 9.2.2 – Increase opportunities for education, participation and enjoyment of Arts, Nature and Heritage for residents and visitors.
  - Policy 9.2.2.1 – Support non-profit and private sector efforts to increase opportunities for individuals to learn about and participate in Arts, Nature and Heritage.

## BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The 5YFP provides \$180,504 for CEP funding in 2025. The COTW has recommended a total of \$174,504 to the CEP organizations and \$6,000 for scholarships.

## LÍŁWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat 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.

During the adoption of the 2024 CEP Policy amendments, Council directed staff to take steps to engage with the Lílwat Nation and the Squamish Nation to be included in the secondary scholarship applicant pool. This year, staff are happy to report that the Lílwat Nation members would like to be included in the pool of scholarship applicants and staff will be presenting the applicable policy changes to the CEP Policy at the future Regular Council Meeting to effect this change.

The CEP Policy asks applicants to outline how their programs engage with the Lílwat Nation and/or Squamish Nation which can be found in question nine of the CEP application. Some examples of the responses include:

**Axemen Rugby Club:** Warm up jerseys acknowledge truth and reconciliation and land recognition.

**Fire and Ice Geo Region:** Partnered with the Squamish Nation and the Lílwat Nation since 2018. The Squamish Nation supports the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region and sits on the Board. They are currently working with the Lílwat Nation and UNESCO to make changes to be respectful to sensitive and sacred geo sites located in Lílwat territory.

**Myrtle Philip Community School PAC:** Funds classroom resources and guest speakers who teaches students about local Indigenous history, culture and traditions, including Indigenous Art, Storytelling and drum making.

**Sea to Sky Community Services (SSCS):** On September 29, 2024 SSCS Invited Seesaxwalia (Aggie Andrews) and Slomish, two community leaders from the Squamish Nation and Lois Joseph, manager of Squamish Lílwat Culture Centre (SLCC) to share their knowledge and experiences with Canada's Residential Schools to SSCS staff. On September 30, 2024, the SSCS participated in annual Canoe Pull on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Alice Lake Provincial Park. SSCS Youth Services partnered with the Squamish Nation and the integrated First Nations Unit at Squamish RCMP to wear Orange and paddle the Little Thunderbird Canoe.

**Sea to Sky Nordics:** With the help of CEP funding in 2024, they ran a biathlon program to 50 children from the Lílwat Nation using laser rifles in Feb 2025 and are hoping to run another program before the end of winter. They are also planning to run a similar program with the Squamish Nation next winter.

**The Point Artist-Run Centre Society:** Includes many indigenous artists in its programming. The centre has featured the Lílwat Nation's award-winning musical acts Kalan Wi and Spiritual Warriors, artwork by Lílwat artist Art Pascal, Geneva Wallace, elder Lucille (Aopalaz) Joseph, Musqueam artist Christal Sparrow, theatre mentorship by Squamish-based Cree actor Lorne Cardinal and many more.

**The Whistler Writing Society:** Offered opportunities to study the art & craft or oral storytelling from the Lílwat Nation and Squamish Nation artists at the Whistler Writers Festival. They include six indigenous guest authors to participate in reading and workshop events.

Many CEP applicants provide land acknowledgements on their websites, social media platforms and in email signatures. Furthermore, many acknowledge the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on their social media platforms and promote SLCC events and activities.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform     Consult     Involve     Collaborate     Empower

The primary communication platform for the CEP is the RMOW website. The website features a calendar with essential dates, timetables relative to the CEP and the 2025 CEP application package. Staff also contacted all organizations that applied for CEP funding in the preceding two years before the end of the application period to remind them of the upcoming deadline.

Notices for the 2025 CEP application period were placed three times in the *Pique Newsmagazine* (Pique) and through RMOW social media posts.

After the April 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, a further notice will be placed in the Pique to notify the community that Council has awarded the CEP funding, including amounts awarded.

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## **REFERENCES**

Appendix A – 2025 CEP COTW Funding Recommendations  
Appendix B – Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program

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## **SUMMARY**

This report requests approval of the COTW recommended CEP funding.

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## **SIGN-OFFS**

### **Written by:**

Richard Samuel,  
Legislative Services,  
Administrative Assistant

### **Reviewed by:**

Pauline Lysaght,  
Corporate Officer/Manager Legislative Services  
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