

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

4325 Blackcomb Way  
Whistler, BC Canada V8E 0X5  
whistler.ca

**TEL** 604 932 5535  
**TF** 1 866 932 5535  
**FAX** 604 935 8109

## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** April 29, 2025  
**FROM:** Legislative Services Department  
**SUBJECT:** COUNCIL POLICY A-7 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM UPDATES REPORT

**REPORT:** 25-029  
**FILE:** 0340-20-A-07

### 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 adopt *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program* (CEP), as amended and attached as Appendix A to Administrative Report No. 25-029.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to propose amendments to the CEP scholarship program, and to present other minor amendments to Council Policy A-7: *Community Enrichment Program* (CEP Policy) for Council review and approval.

☐ 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. The CEP Policy also includes scholarships for local students to pursue post-secondary education.

The CEP policy was adopted on December 6, 2004, and has been amended five times since (2007, 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2024).

At the January 23, 2024 [Regular Council Meeting](#), Council directed staff to explore the potential to include graduating students from the Lílwat Nation and the Squamish Nation, as well as the Whistler Waldorf School.

## **Analysis**

### **Scholarships**

Staff recently reached out to the Lílwat Nation and the Squamish Nation, as well as the Whistler Waldorf School to invite their graduating students to apply for the CEP Scholarships. Staff have confirmed requests to participate from the Whistler Waldorf School and the Lílwat Nation. Staff will continue to work with the Squamish Nation to include their students in future.

The total 2025 CEP allocated budget for scholarship is \$6,000.

Staff reviewed the language in the CEP Policy and have identified some proposed changes to reflect the expanded participation. A redlined copy of the CEP Policy is attached as Appendix A.

A summary of the changes are as follows:

- Section 4.0 – renamed to Scholarships
- Subsections within section 4 have been updated to remove references to Whistler Secondary School and replaced with secondary schools in Whistler, or members of the Lílwat Nation or the Squamish Nation (Schools).

### **Other Updates**

Staff have also made a few minor edits to the CEP Policy to clarify the eligibility requirements for CEP funding including one-time event (s. 1.8) and financial statements (s. 2.9).

Section 3.4.5.2 was deleted, as PowerPoint presentations are no longer requested from the applicants for the report back presentations.

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## **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.

### **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 Program 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;

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.

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### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

Funding for the CEP Program are included in the Five-Year Financial Plan 2025-2029 and include \$6,000 for scholarships.

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### **LÍL'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS**

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.

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 graduating students are included in the pool of scholarship applicants.

Staff will continue working with the Squamish Nation to include their graduating students for next year.

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

☒ Inform    ☐ Consult    ☐ Involve    ☐ Collaborate    ☐ Empower

Selection of the scholarship recipients is announced at the Regular Council Meeting following the graduation ceremonies of the Schools.

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## REFERENCES

Appendix A – Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program with proposed amendments

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## SUMMARY

Staff requests that Council adopt *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program* as amended and attached as Appendix A to Administrative Report No. 25-029.

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## SIGN-OFFS

### Written by:

Pauline Lysaght,  
Corporate Officer/Manager of Legislative  
Services

### Reviewed by:

Ted Battiston,  
General Manager of Corporate Services and  
Public Safety

Virginia Cullen,  
Chief Administrative Officer