

Dear Mayor and Council,

I write in support of Crosland Doak's letter to Council dated June 22, 2025, and I defer to his professional experience and concerns, which are succinctly and credibly presented. Having served a three-year term alongside Crosland on Whistler's Advisory Design Panel from 2011 to 2014, I hold his professional opinion—particularly in the field of Landscape Architecture—in the highest regard.

While I support many aspects of the proposed Tree Bylaw, I am strongly opposed to the provision that prohibits the cutting of "Large Trees" (defined as trees greater than 60 cm in diameter at breast height) *solely* to improve views or access to sunlight. This clause represents an unjustified overreach and fails to deliver on the stated intent to "balance regulation with development and property rights, and support property values," as described in the June 10, 2025 Council package.

Trees grow. Over time, they can become extremely large and obstruct sunlight, views, and property use. It is both reasonable and appropriate for property owners to manage such trees, particularly when their presence negatively impacts enjoyment, utility, and value. The proposed bylaw already includes progressive mechanisms to ensure large trees are removed responsibly and replaced with suitable species—ensuring ecological continuity and regeneration. While ideological objections to tree removal exist, including for large trees, such views should not override a property owner's right to manage vegetation on their land.

Ironically, during the June 10 Council meeting, a development application for Horstman Lane was presented. The Advisory Design Panel's first comment in the minutes reads:

"1. Generally supportive of building siting on property considering tree preservation area, topography, sunlight access, and neighbouring views."

Yet the Tree Bylaw, in its current form, appears to ignore those very considerations by restricting removals intended to enhance sunlight or views—thus contradicting the guidance of the Panel and sound planning principles.

I encourage Council to review historic orthophotos available on the municipal GIS website. In general, Whistler's tree cover has never been denser. Many areas previously cleared now exhibit significant forest regrowth. This context is important when evaluating the need for stronger protection measures. I share council's concern on the clear-cutting of individual lots, and support measures to prohibit this practice in the future.

Finally, the community engagement on this bylaw has been inadequate. Most residents do not routinely review minutes from Committee of the Whole or Council meetings. While

AWARE was likely informed ahead of time, the majority of Whistler homeowners only became aware of the bylaw when it was reported in the *Pique* on June 18. Despite the subsequent correction, the original print and online versions still state the following—an assertion that is completely false:

“The tree bylaw requires a permit to cut any tree larger than 15 centimetres in diameter within Whistler’s municipal boundaries, except for those within active development permits or deemed hazardous by a qualified arborist.”

The fact that even experienced reporters could so easily misrepresent the bylaw speaks to its length, complexity, and the need for clearer public communication and input.

Whistler’s current approach—adopting first through third readings at a single Council meeting, followed by fourth reading at the next—leaves little room for meaningful public engagement. I urge Council to return to the previous practice of separating readings across multiple meetings, allowing adequate time for community review and feedback.

Sincerely,

Eric Callender

Whistler, BC