

Lucy Wyn-Griffiths

From: Kathleen Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2020 8:07 AM
To: corporate
Cc: Kathleen Smith
Subject: Proposed Tax Increase Feedback

Hello Mayor and Council

We find it amazing that you have no problem increasing our taxes in what can only be described as the worst year the senior taxpayers of Whistler and BC have ever gone through financially, physically and mentally. We have seen our retirement savings savaged, our health threatened and have watched our Mayor, Council and very well paid staff consistently overrun their budgets for capital works by not only double but at times triple the cost. We offer the bus depot and washrooms as current examples.

When are you accountable? We hear excuses for these cost overruns that are now generating another tax hike. It seems anything the RMOW touches will not come in on time or on budget just based on your track record. And your solution is to increase taxes when we are barely surviving 2020 financially? Why are the taxpayers always penalized for council's and staff mismanagement of funds and budgets?

Seniors have been forgotten by all levels of government for the assistance and support that other sectors of the population have received especially in 2020. As seniors try to age in place in Whistler, the town we have worked in and helped to build and where we now volunteer, it becomes more difficult each year as you ignore our challenges of aging in place. Examples are a need for senior parking place if we are not yet disabled but have a difficult time managing groceries and heavier loads; a dedicated space to meet for the many activities we organize as Rotary and MAC members; a senior discount at Meadowpark to name only a few items that could make our lives easier and make us feel that Mayor and Council value us.

You might remember what happened to the Mayor and Council after the 2010 Olympics. We voted out every last one of them and put in a Mayor and Council who were actually able to balance the RMOW budgets and manage projects effectively. They did not require yearly tax increases because they were effective in their jobs and they held staff responsible. Reelection time will be coming before you know it and the senior taxpayers of Whistler will be voting in candidates who aim to bring in balanced budgets and hold staff and the companies staff hire responsible for the work they do.

I would like this email shared to every member of council so that they are aware of what senior taxpayers think of the yearly tax hikes especially this year's proposed hike. You asked for our opinion and now you have it. If you are not a young worker or a young family in Whistler you are invisible and forgotten except at tax time.

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