

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization:	ZERO CEILING SOCIETY OF CANADA
Society Registration Number:	897518916RR0001
Mailing Address:	PO Box 61, Whistler, BC, V0N 1B0
Contact Name & Phone Number:	Ms. Chris Wrightson (604) 962-5000
Email Address:	chris@zeroceiling.org
Grant Amount Issued:	\$4,000

## GRANT INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of Grant</b>	<i>Explain in detail how the funding was spent. Please note, this year, we advised that the funds were not tied to your original request, but to use the funds as best deemed by your organization.</i>
<p>The funds were originally requested to support our supportive employment and housing program for youth experiencing homelessness, and to prepare and hold community renter's education workshops. With the unrestricted nature of these funds, we were able to use these funds for staff wages for our two Co-Executive Directors, Chris and Sean, to respond to added organizational expenses due to COVID-19. Our Co-ED's worked long hours to ensure stability for our organization and for the youth we serve in our 12-month supportive employment and housing program, Work 2 Live. The following is a list of the pandemic-added responsibilities that this grant made possible for the leadership team to accomplish during the funding period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Moving Zero Ceiling to remote operations</li> <li>-Moving all Work 2 Live programming online</li> <li>-Managing increasing costs related to the increased needs of our program participants (e.g. increased mental health needs, support with applying for emergency relief funds (i.e. CERB, other subsidies), delivering groceries and bringing participants to the Food bank, developing safe practices for programming, etc.)</li> <li>-Implementing weekly team meetings and monthly Clinical Oversight by a licensed [therapist] to support the 7-member staff team</li> <li>-Working with program partners to ensure continued support of our program and participants (i.e. Whistler Blackcomb for employment, housing, and Ride Day; WCSS for accessing outreach programs; Nesters Market for donations of grocery points; etc.)</li> <li>-Creation of a communications plan so that our supporters and partners understood our increased need and our position</li> <li>-Creation of a development plan to raise funds and donations of much-needed equipment and goods due to our increased need</li> <li>-Giving unconditional support to youth in our programs</li> <li>-Giving unconditional support to staff during the transition to working from home under a pandemic</li> <li>-Advocating for the population we serve to be included in any municipal, provincial, or federal recovery plan</li> <li>-Building relationships with government funders so that we could access government emergency funds</li> <li>-Looking at options for post-lockdown recovery and program expansion</li> <li>-Expanding our programming to ensure better security for our participants (e.g. partnering with a second supportive employer, securing private market housing, hiring two new staff to add capacity, accepting more participants into our Fall 2020 program intake)</li> <li>-Partnering with community partners to host housing and employment education events (the Whistler Public Library, the Whistler Chamber of Commerce, Connect Week Whistler, Royal Roads University, Ready to Rent BC)</li> <li>-Supporting program participants in the return to work</li> <li>-Securing funding to rent 2 private rental homes in Whistler for program participants, so we can separate housing from employment</li> <li>-Working with program graduates to establish healthy, independent lives and provide support when they need it (financial, emotional, practical, and referrals)</li> </ul>	

<b>Was This a New Program or Activity?</b>	<i>If yes, please describe if the program was a success or needs improvement, and if it will continue in future years.</i>
No.	

## GRANT INFORMATION

<b>Grant Results – Financial Breakdown</b>			
	<b>Annual Budget (\$)</b>	<b>Grant <u>Awarded</u> (\$)</b>	<i>Provide a brief description of the specific amount that was spent.</i>
Salaries:	330,751	4,000	Salaries to support added operational responsibilities due to COVID-19
General operations:	209,960		
One-time project / program:	0		
Physical asset(s):	5,000		
Rent (RMOW facilities):	0	N/A	
Rent (other facilities):	5,872		
Other:	0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 551,583</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>0.7%</b> <i>(Grant amount ÷ Annual budget amount)</i>

<b>Additional Information:</b>	<i>Please list any additional information regarding your grant that you would like to report.</i>
	<p>The information above provides the Annual Operating Budget for the organization. Also attached are the financial statements for January to September 2020.</p> <p>The payroll report, which covers the period of this funding, is also attached.</p> <p>The total funds were divided equally to contribute to the salaries of both Co-Executive Directors (\$2,000 each).</p> <p>If you require further information, please let us know.</p>

<b>Attachments:</b>	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Reporting Form:</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A financial breakdown showing how the grant funds were spent. <b>(Required)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Copies of receipts showing how the grant was spent. <b>(Required)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Copy of a news release or organizational collateral recognizing the RMOW as a supporter. (Ex: social media posts, website content, printed collateral, newspaper ads, etc.) <b>(Required only if your organization received \$10,000 or more)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="text" value="Copy of blog post: 'A Letter From Our Case Worker: The ways Work 2 Live has adapted to C...'"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="text" value="Copy of blog post: 'Dakota's Story: 'Coming Full Circle'"/>

**ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZATION:**

Submitted by:	Jill Patrick
Phone number:	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>
Email:	jill@ZEROCEILING.org
Date:	December 1, 2020
Signature:	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>

**Thank you for submitting your Community Enrichment Program Grant Reporting Form.**

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, B.C.VE8 05X

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	2,773.33
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	137.94
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	61.35
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	0.00
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	2,773.33
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	137.94
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	61.35
Pay Cheque	15/05/2020				Payroll Account	0.00
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	2,773.33
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	137.94
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	61.35
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	0.00
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	2,773.33
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	137.94
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	61.35
Pay Cheque	31/05/2020				Payroll Account	0.00
General Journal	14/06/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	14/06/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	14/06/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	227.22
General Journal	14/06/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	498.50
General Journal	28/06/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	28/06/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	28/06/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	232.36
General Journal	28/06/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	510.68
General Journal	12/07/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	12/07/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	12/07/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	233.11
General Journal	12/07/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	512.44
General Journal	26/07/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	26/07/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	26/07/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	239.36
General Journal	26/07/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	520.45
General Journal	09/08/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	09/08/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	09/08/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	250.32
General Journal	09/08/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	546.50
General Journal	23/08/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	23/08/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	23/08/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	255.51
General Journal	23/08/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	558.84
General Journal	06/09/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	06/09/2020				Scotiabank Current	2,560.00
General Journal	06/09/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	256.37
General Journal	06/09/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	560.86
General Journal	20/09/2020				Scotiabank Current	4,416.00
General Journal	20/09/2020				Scotiabank Current	4,416.00
General Journal	20/09/2020			Employer EI	Scotiabank Current	332.06
General Journal	20/09/2020			Employer CPP	Scotiabank Current	726.92
						<u>63,023.98</u>



## Zero Ceiling Receives funding from the Resort Municipality of Whistler

RMOW gives \$13,000 in unrestricted funding to youth charity

Whistler, BC: In April 2020, **The Zero Ceiling Society of Canada (Zero Ceiling)** was announced as having been chosen as the recipient of \$13,000 in unrestricted funding by the **Resort Municipality of Whistler's (RMOW's)** Community Enrichment Program (CEP).

The RMOW's CEP fund is an opportunity for Whistler not-for-profits to receive financial support through projects that enhance the community of Whistler and surrounding areas. Grantees are organizations or societies that benefit the resort municipality and move the community closer to its vision. To qualify for a grant through the CEP, applicants must operate in one of the following categories: Environment, Social Service, Community Service, Recreation and Sport, or Arts and Culture.

This round of granting looked different than it had in previous years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, only seven organizations who were delivering social service programs were selected to receive funding, and the other categories were postponed, for a total of \$117,166 granted in April. Zero Ceiling is extremely grateful to the RMOW to have received these unrestricted funds.

These funds came at a critical time for Zero Ceiling and in particular, the participants in the Work 2 Live program. As the province instated lockdown measures, Zero Ceiling saw the demand for services skyrocket from participants and past participants. In times of crisis, people who are already being marginalized are most at risk. Zero Ceiling's program participants have largely experienced poverty, discrimination, family conflict, and intergenerational trauma throughout their young lives. RMOW's support ensured that they are not left behind as our province moves toward recovery.

"We're especially grateful for the unrestricted nature of this grant. None of us know what the next few months will look like in Whistler. These unrestricted funds will help us adapt our programs to the 'new normal' and provide the right support for the young people we serve. We're still working closely with many Work 2 Live participants and graduates, ensuring they have stable housing, income, and mental health support. As we move towards recovery, we'll help them re-enter employment, work towards their personal goals, and get outside in nature."

For more information, contact Chris Wrightson, Zero Ceiling's Co-Executive Director at [chris@ZEROCEILING.org](mailto:chris@ZEROCEILING.org) or (604) 962-5000.

**About Zero Ceiling:** Zero Ceiling is a registered charity based in Whistler, BC, and was founded in 1997 by Canadian skier and philanthropist, Chris Winter. The organization's mission is to end youth homelessness. It aims to accomplish this through its two programs for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness in BC: The Adventure Sessions and Work 2 Live. The Adventure Sessions organizes day-trips for groups of youth to come to Whistler and go on an adventure in the mountains with our partners at Whistler Blackcomb and The Adventure Group. Work 2 Live is a 12-month transitional program that provides supportive housing, supportive employment, and wrap-around supports to up to 8 participants a year, and continuing support to program graduates when requested.

# A Letter From Our Case Worker: The ways Work 2 Live has adapted to COVID-19

by Jill | Apr 8, 2020 | Blog |



As BC spends time physical distancing, it's a great opportunity for us to be able to reflect back on the last few weeks and see the ways our Work 2 Live program has adapted to the current changes.

The last 3 weeks have been challenging, however so many positives have shone through; our participants have been able to remain in their housing, which was a critical first step for our program. Our participants have previously faced housing instability, often leading to homelessness and crisis. Not surprisingly, they were fearful they would lose their housing and return to survival mode. We prioritized offering support to each individual and reassurance that their housing was secure and we would create a plan for food during this time; food and housing are the basics of stability.



Our plan around food at the moment is creating an online weekly shopping list that covers the food staples both the boys' and girls' units need, and these are delivered by staff each week. We are ensuring all participants get groceries directly to provide, and are very grateful to Nesters Market for their support. One of our key priorities is to ensure that participants have enough food to maintain a healthy diet while self-isolating.

With the stability of food and housing in place, we then needed to adapt the other key services we access, like Mental Health Services including counsellors, G.P's, and hospital appointments. Ensuring our participants continue to access the services they require is really important. It is easy to prioritize other things right now over our mental well-being. But the external stress, fear and anxiety often linked with increased access to social media, isolation from peers and family, and fear for older family members health, can result in mental well-being being impacted. We have been able to ensure all our participants continue to access these services, mostly through phone contact.

Usually we offer a varied schedule to our participants, including life skills training, time spent one-to-one, mountain access, training opportunities and other social activities. Having a weekly schedule, especially with things to look forward to, has a huge positive impact on well-being, motivation, goal setting, and day to day success. Over the last few weeks we have continued to offer a selection of group activities online through zoom, including Meditation, Yoga, Art Group, Well-Being Discussion Group, and Life Skills Sessions, currently focusing on the RentSmart modules. These group activities have so far been a huge success. This is truly a reflection of our incredible participants who are so engaged with the program: whatever adaptations we have made, they have been enthusiastic to jump on board and offered great input to make them successful.





Our one-to-one sessions now need to take place either over the phone or through Zoom. One challenge we have faced is that the majority of our participants have limited access to technology devices – they only have the phones we have provided them. Completing E.I. applications has been challenging however we have been able to adapt and use so they can go through the online application process. Thank you to those who have responded to our recent requests for computers and monitors. We'll be up and running in no time and they will make a real difference.

The positivity that participants show is extremely humbling, and shows the life skills they have developed around resilience, adaptability and motivation. I am extremely grateful to work with our participants and I sincerely thank the community for their ongoing support during these challenging times.

**Rhianna Russell**, Case Worker



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We gratefully and respectfully acknowledge that our workplace, the land now known as Whistler, lies in the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh and Lílwat Nations.

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**Mail:** PO Box 61, Whistler, BC, V0N 1B0

**Office:** 1519 Spring Creek Drive, Whistler, BC, V8E 0A2



# Dakota's Story: "Coming Full Circle"

by Jill | Oct 7, 2020 | Graduate Stories |



*If you've been around Zero Ceiling — or even around Whistler Village — for a while, you've probably seen Dakota. His love of tie-dye, infectious grin, and easy laugh are easy to remember. He's also been the poster-child (according to him) for our programs. Just last week, he took part in our [Family Dinner fall fundraiser](#), speaking about his experiences and telling his story live to our virtual event guests. And now, Dakota will share that story here, in his own words...*

I originally came up to Whistler when I was in grade 9 through Zero Ceiling [Adventure Sessions](#) back in 2011. We came for a day of snowboarding; I had never been snowboarding before but always wanted to. We spent the day on the bunny hill learning how to side slip and ride one footed. I may have fell and hurt my knee a bit but that did not deter me from getting up and trying again.

When it came to the end of the day a couple members of the group got to ride down the mountain to meet us at the bottom and we had to ride the gondola down as a bunch of us were beginners. I was dumbfounded by the idea of riding all the way down the mountain at the time.

Fast forward to 2016 I had saved up for a car with my summer job. I had been living in Vancouver my whole life, transit was good down there, so we did not really need to drive anywhere. I decided that I did not want to buy a car, that I wanted to try snowboarding again. I went to go buy some second-hand gear at a store in the city and then got a Night Seasons Pass for one of the local mountains.



Dakota got his first taste of the outdoors at the Adventure Sessions. Now, he's a permanent staff member.

I started really getting into snowboarding when my friend invited me on a trip to Whistler with the [Urban Native Youth Association \(UNYA\)](#). We ended up doing an Adventure Session again with Zero Ceiling, where I learned more about openings in [Work 2 Live](#), which blew my mind as I was looking for an opportunity to move up to Whistler!

I moved to Whistler May 2017 through the Work 2 Live program with the intentions of staying up in Whistler. I spent the summer learning how to mountain bike. I took my Professional Mountain Bike Instructor certification course at the end of summer to become a bike instructor and passed it!

The winter was just lots and lots of snowboarding. I lived near the base of the mountain in staff housing from my work with [Whistler Blackcomb](#) which was amazing!!! The end of winter was my graduation through Zero Ceiling could not believe I had already been here for a year! It blew my mind.

I started bike instructing for the mountain and volunteering for adventure sessions and ride days as an extra bike guide. I also volunteered in the winter at the ride days snowboarding with the youth in the Work 2 Live program.

In my second year being in Whistler I also sat on the [Board for Zero Ceiling](#). I gave useful input that other board members couldn't as I came through the program and had first hand experience of what youth go through. I took this opportunity to learn more about what goes into running a non-profit organization. I eventually want to run my own non-profit in the future.



This summer, I worked for Zero Ceiling as a peer support worker running adventure sessions welcoming youth up here and bringing the stoke! We went hiking and did tree top adventures with [The Adventure Group](#), facing our fears of heights and challenging ourselves to hike part-ways up the mountains. I also took part in ride days mountain biking and doing dinners with the crew.

I want to take time to reflect on my whole experience living up here in Whistler it has really made me humble and in tune with living in nature. I now think of this town as my home and will always return here after future travels. Zero Ceiling has provided me with an opportunity to grow and learn how to successfully live on my own. An important part of the program for me was being able to have a support group that will help me however I need be. Coming full circle has given me ideas to one day run a non-profit of my own and help low income families experience the great outdoors together.

*Dakota has had an incredible journey, starting out as an Adventure Sessions participant, then a Work 2 Live participant, a Work 2 Live grad, a Zero Ceiling Director, and this summer as our Peer Support Worker, working with folx in the Adventure Sessions and Work 2 Live. [You can read more about him in this article that first appeared in the National Post](#). And he is now on our staff permanently as a Support Worker!! Congrats Dakota. We are so lucky to have you on our team, and we can't wait to see where you go from here.*



Photo by Mike Wakefield, courtesy of TELUS.



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