

From: [Brandon Green](#)
To: [corporate](#)
Subject: 5298 Alta Lake Road: Stand up for your constituents!
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:36:49 PM

Dear Mayor Crompton and Councillors,

I write this letter sitting on the patio of the Nita Lake Lodge (an example, perhaps, of a successful, thoughtful development that continues to contribute to the lives of Whistler residents) overlooking one of my favourite places in the world. I walk along the east side of Nita Lake almost every day; this year as every year it has been a pleasure to watch the seasons change along its shores, to see ice form, melt and reestablish itself, to pass families fishing at the mouth of Whistler Creek, and to smile at my various neighbours (and their dogs!) walking the Valley Trail. It remains, for the moment, a shared good of our community and, in a municipality where so much lakefront property is in private hands, a special asset. I always think of it as Our Communal Backyard.

It is therefore with some frustration that I have heard about the proposed rezoning and development on Nita Lake West. From what I've gathered, Council appears to be bending over backwards to grant the developer *carte blanche* for whatever is most appropriate/profitable for them. To be clear, I have always assumed that the role of my elected officials was to advocate for the interests of their constituents, NOT to champion the endeavours of private enterprise. The uncritical cheerleading of you and your fellow councilmembers at the Dec 1 Regular Council Meeting was disheartening, and in my view you have failed to hear (let alone fight for) the concerns of your community. In particular, I believe that this rezoning application provides a clear opportunity to pressure the developer to address the following issues:

- i) Aesthetics/Environment: in what ways can the developer be encouraged to reduce density and deforestation to preserve one of Whistler's last unoccupied lakesides?
- ii) Traffic: could alternate access avoid pile-ups and accidents at Nita Lake Drive? This intersection off Alta Lake Road is already perilous (just off a curving section down a steep hill) and has seen several accidents in recent weeks. Council should make alternate access off Alta Lake Rd a condition of any rezoning.

I am by no means against development (the beautiful patio on which I'm sitting now is evidence of the value to the community such endeavours can produce); nor do I subscribe to well-meaning but overstretched rhetoric about the "untouched" lakeside view (the railway and hydro lines are already quite prominent!). Nonetheless, I am incensed at the capitulation of the RMOW, which should realize that at the moment it holds all the card. If the developer would like to proceed with construction according to the current zoning (the zoning under which they purchased the property!) my best wishes to them; however, if they seek new zoning and new permissions from our community—as they now do—I hope that in return they will make concessions to the concerns of residents and neighbours in exchange for such privilege.

Why should my community give up its backyard to line the pockets of some private developer?

I look forward to your response and your shared advocacy regarding this issue.

With deepest sincerity,
Brandon Stuart Green



Whistler, B.C.