

March 25, 2021

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Dear UBCM Grant Selection Committee,

Re: Resort Municipality of Whistler Grant Submission

On behalf of Howe Sound Women's Centre Society, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Resort Municipality of Whistler's (RMOW) application for funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to address community response to homelessness through the Strengthening Grant for 2021.


The Howe Sound Women's Centre has been supporting women and children in the Sea to Sky Corridor, impacted by violence, conflict or abuse, for 39 years through programs such as their two Drop-in Centre's, Pearl's Place Transition House in Squamish and Pearl's Safe Home in Pemberton, Children, Youth and Family Counselling, Multicultural Outreach, Sexual Assault Response and Prevention and a Homeless Prevention Program among other wellness programs and events throughout the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought sharply to focus the rates of domestic violence happening in communities across the country and we are now seeing even higher numbers as well as increased rates of high conflict divorce and separation.

In addition, the pandemic has shone light on the lack of shelter space or housing for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Whistler and amplified the risks associated with high-density communal living situations.

Little blurb about you and the work that you are doing...

As the Executive Director of Howe Sound Women's Centre Society, I am keenly aware of the need for emergency housing to support women and children fleeing violence, to provide safe shelter for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and to address the ongoing need to house individuals with Covid-19 in a safe and supported environment. HSWC fully supports the RMOW submission to UBCM's Strengthening Grant 2021 as we believe the RMOW will be able to implement strategies and solutions that suit Whistler's unique needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-341-5845 or by email aoakes@hswc.ca if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely



Ashley Oakes
Executive Director