

July 6, 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors of Whistler, BC

Good morning all,

My name is Ivana Ilic and I'm writing to you regarding the safety concerns with the Whistler Olympic Plaza Playground that can potentially cause serious to fatal injuries but can easily be preventable.

Today I was visiting Whistler together with my family: my husband and I and our almost 7-year-old boy and girl twins. After having a lunch, my husband had to go to the car, and I continued with the kids to the Whistler Olympic Plaza Playground. Shortly after we came, around 2 PM, my son run into the corner of the structure that has a slide and cut his head open. Blood started to pour out of his head and got us all really scared. I went with the kids to Blenz coffee shop to ask for some towel and ice and ask if they can call emergency. I am very grateful to a lady that works there who brought me a towel and some ice in the bag for my son. I have managed to stop the bleeding, but the cut was long and on top of his head, so I still wanted to have him checked by the doctor.

Blenz's staff directed us to nearby Emergency Medical Clinic on Lorimer Road. My son was taken care of there – the administrative and medical staff were amazing; the wound was glued and we were sent home to monitor for signs of concussion. So far, my son is doing fine. However, he will be staying home for the next few days as I have to monitor him for any possible signs of concussion.

I'm writing all this to you because I feel that injuries like this could have easily been prevented. You see, the corner is not an issue for the kids that are smaller and for the kids that are taller than that corner of the structure. However, my son, is just about that height of that corner. The corner is slightly above his eyes, and he hadn't seen it as he was wearing baseball style cap to protect his head from sun, so he run into it profusely and fell backwards on to his behind. All of this could be preventable if some hard rubber was installed all around those beams, and especially on that corner. I'm writing to you to call you to action on this and prevent any further injuries or possible fatalities on the playground. The level of stress that we all went through today is unmeasurable. It was supposed to be a relaxing day that ended up with injury for which, I can only now hope, there won't be any further consequences. I plead to you to reach to the original playground builders and ask them to remedy the situation as soon as possible before any worse injuries occur.

I'm attaching the images of the structure where my son hit his head – the area is circled in red. I am also attaching the close ups where you can see that metal corner, metal bolts, and metal sidings are exposed, and am attaching the image of my son's head injury.

Please keep me informed on the progress you have made in remedying situation. I do trust that you will act on this with the utmost urgency as with the hot days approaching, I'm pretty sure that many kids will be attending the playground, and none of us would like to see more kids injured.

Thank you very much in advance for your time and consideration! Your cooperation regarding this is highly appreciated!

Best regards,

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Playground Structure with the unprotected corner where injury have occurred:



Corner where the injury occurred:



Close up of the corner that caused the injury:



My son's injury:

