

WHISTLER'S

VitalSigns



Connect + Engage
2018





About Vital Signs®

First launched in 2016, Whistler's Vital Signs is an ongoing program of the Community Foundation of Whistler. We aim to:

- **inform** all members of our community on aspects of community health, bringing together key statistics and community updates in an easy and accessible way
- **encourage** dialogue with and between local individuals, organizations and stakeholders
- **connect** in new ways to facilitate inclusion for members of the community that find it hard to participate

The goal of the Community Foundation of Whistler Vital Signs initiative is to offer an objective look at the community through statistics and local perspectives. Knowledge is the first step toward action, and Vital Signs aims to gather and share information vital to our community's health. We hope this information will help community members understand local strengths and issues, and encourage constructive and respectful dialogue that builds our shared understanding of our community and our vision for the future.



Contact Us!

We know the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help info@whistlerfoundation.com



Tracking Community Health and Vitality

This 2018 report is the first full update of the initial 2016 Vital Signs report on community health and vitality and we look at how some indicators have changed in that period. It is also an extension of our focus on the impact of change on our sense of belonging. Two years on, change and growth in Whistler continues, and we continued to explore the impact on our sense of belonging through our 2018 Connect and Engage survey.



What's Next

We hope this report sparks curiosity, creates conversations and stimulates action. The Community Foundation of Whistler will use this report and research to guide our decisions in granting, partnering and building community development projects. We aim to support initiatives that encourage and support dialogue and participation to grow inclusiveness and effect change in our community. We will also keep listening, and want to know how you would like us to help Whistler become more connected and engaged.

Quality of Life Indicators

This 2018 report examines 12 key areas of community life.

Indicator Updating and Research Findings

The quality of life indicators presented in each key area were identified by our engagement with community members in 2016. Vital Signs 2018 includes those indicators which have changed significantly from 2016, and comparison of indicators to illustrate change from 2016 to 2018.

The report focuses on the community within the boundaries of the Resort Municipality of Whistler. Some figures may refer to the broader region, but local data has been used whenever possible.

We aim for the statistics presented to:

- be easy to understand and relevant to members of the community
- reflect public interest
- arise from a reliable and credible source
- be objective and valid
- be available and timely in future years
- help readers understand the different issues in Whistler

Full details of the sources of data can be found in our Whistler's Vital Signs Sources and Supplemental Information document available on our website whistlerfoundation.com

Community Engagement & Partnerships

In 2018, our community engagement work explored how residents connect and engage. It included:

- **Vital Partners:** individuals, organizations and community groups were invited to have conversations with friends and peers that explored how they connect and engage with others in the community.
- **Online Connect and Engage survey:** this survey explores how people make and keep personal, neighbourhood and community connections, as well as how they participate. We hope this will give us a tool to map connections and engagement over time.
- **Vital Conversations** with Whistler's Nonprofit Network and other local community service organizations.
- **Post-survey focus group** of Vital Partners and survey participants for a deeper exploration of personal, neighbourhood and community connections and engagement.
- **Partnership** between the Community Foundation of Whistler and the Whistler Centre for Sustainability. We paired Vital Signs with the Resilient Streets program which invited participants to turn ideas into action with small grants.

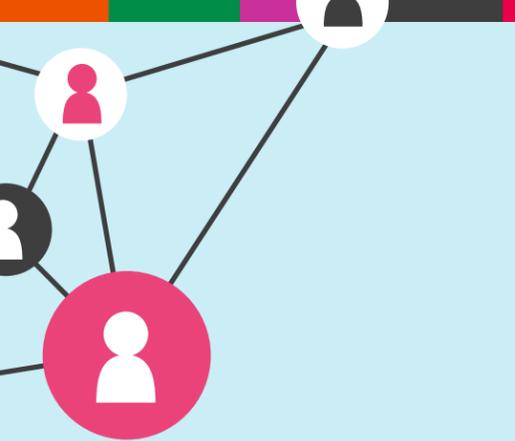
Results from the Connect and Engage survey are included on each key area page as well as in a separate section.

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The Community Foundation of Whistler acknowledges that our community is located within the unceded territory of the Lil'wat and Skwxwú7mesh Líl'wat (Squamish) Nations.



Connect and Engage Survey 2018

Growth and change impact the way we relate to our community. This year, the Community Foundation of Whistler asked the community about how they connect and engage locally.

Why are connections and engagement important?

The stronger the connections we have, the stronger and more resilient our community. When some experience fewer connections, or weaker connections, then the whole community is impacted. Even those who feel well connected can benefit when everyone's sense of belonging is enhanced.

Connect and Engage Survey

Developed by the Vancouver Foundation, and used in Whistler with their permission, the Connect and Engage survey explores

- Personal Connections
- Neighbourhood Connections
- Community Connections

During April and May 2018, 422 community members responded to the survey.

What did we learn?

Much of Whistler's population is doing well, feels well-connected and is managing financially, but there is a significant proportion of community members experiencing challenges and struggles. In general, it is younger adults, those newer to town, and those earning lower incomes who are more likely to have difficulty making friends, managing financially, and finding the time to make the social connections to build a strong sense of belonging.

The full tabulated results can be accessed at whistlerfoundation.com.



Community Profile

Located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations, Whistler has a rich history and has evolved into a culturally interesting community and a special place for the adventurous spirits who live here. Whistler has recently experienced year-over-year growth in winter and summer business, record visitation numbers and the disappearance of shoulder seasons. Our core economy is based not just on recreational activities, but festivals, events, arts, and cultural activities.

Population

11,854

2016 Permanent resident population

an increase of 20.7% over 2011, where Squamish increased by 13.7% and BC by 5.6%.



Population Equivalent

Average daily population equivalent



32,544 (2015) → 33,631 (2016) → 36,306 (2017)

Whistler's population equivalent includes permanent residents, seasonal residents and the average number of visitors in Whistler on any given day.

Due to the population equivalent, per capita measurements should be interpreted carefully.

Economy

3,480,136 visitors came to Whistler in 2016/17, a new record high for year-round visitation. The Whistler economy generates 1.44 billion in annual consumer spending (2014-2015) and 25% of BC's tourism export economy.

Age Distribution

67.7% increase in the number of seniors aged 65+ from 2011 to 2016. Seniors made up 7% of the permanent population in 2016 compared to the national average of 18.3%

24% increase in the number of children aged 0-14 from 2011 to 2016. Children made up 12.5 of the permanent population in 2016.

80.4% of the population in 2016 were working age (15-64), compared to the national percentage of 66.5%

34.2 was the median age in 2016, compared to the median age in BC of 43 and up from 32.4 years in 2011.

Households and Income

13.7% of households consist of people living together not as a family. The provincial average is 4.7%

2015 median total income of: people aged 15+ **\$35,491** households **\$79,752** families (couples) with children **\$113,579** lone-parent families **\$52,565**

Diversity

21.8% of the permanent resident population are immigrants, compared to the average for Canada of 21.9%

1.2% of Whistler's permanent population in 2016 identified as Aboriginal. Compared to 12.2% in the SLRD and the Canadian average is 4.9%

0.22% reported Aboriginal ancestry.

GETTING STARTED

It's hard to get started in Whistler. Superficial connections are easy to develop, while deeper relationships and support are harder to find. Challenges are even greater for newcomers who are developing English skills and starting a new chapter in life.

DID YOU KNOW

From March 2019, Whistler residents will have access to a **4-bed hospice facility**. This means Sea to Sky residents will not have to travel to Vancouver but will be able to remain in the Sea to Sky Corridor for end-of-life care.



Immigration



10% of Whistler's permanent population

ARE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS.

Temporary foreign workers (work visas, international students and refugee claimants and their families) represent 2% of the population in Squamish, and 1% in Canada.

Childcare

Average births/year:

2008-2012 Average 8g
2013-2017 Average 106



32 licensed group child-care spaces for infants and toddlers – **There has been no increase from 2016.**

It is estimated that there are **licensed group child care spaces for only 10% of Whistler** children aged 12-36 months.

18 months to more than 2 years is the waiting list time for infant and toddler day care spaces in Whistler. This has not changed from 2016.

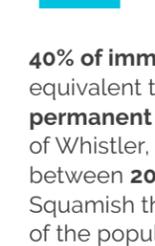
There are **54** licensed after-school childcare spaces.

\$45/day Average cost for full-time day care at Whistler Children's Centre, which has opted into the Provincial Child Care Fee Reduction Program. With this program the average cost decreased from \$61 in 2016.



INCREASE

in new permanent residents landing in Whistler 2011-16 over 2006-11.

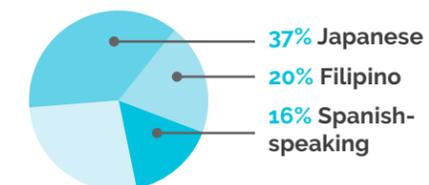


40% of immigrants, equivalent to **8% of the permanent population** of Whistler, arrived between **2011 and 2016**. In Squamish the percentage of the population arriving as immigrants in the same time period was 3%, in Canada it was 3.1%.

Top 3 countries of immigrant origin 2011-16:

U.K., Philippines & Australia

183 adults accessed settlement services in 2017-18



CONNECT & ENGAGE

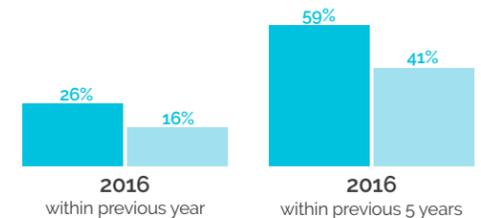
34% of respondents said they found it **somewhat or very difficult** to make friends in Whistler.

Mobility

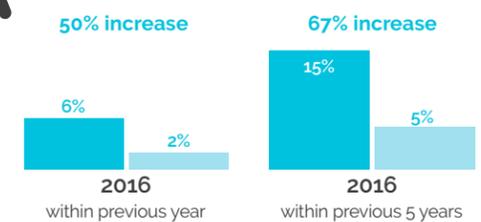
Whistler residents remain more mobile than the BC average.

WHISTLER BC

Moved Residence



Moved from outside Canada



Moved within Whistler

In 2016, **13%** of Whistler residents had moved locally within the previous year, compared to 2% in BC, and down 7% on 2011. 24% had moved locally in the previous 5 years, compared to 5% in BC, down 4% on 2011.



Parenting Across Cultures at the Whistler Welcome Centre, funded by the Community Foundation of Whistler, brings immigrant mothers of young children together to build understanding of how to adapt to parenting in Canada and create a support network to help newcomer parents participate in the wider community and to access local family-centred programs.

GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR



HOUSING



CONNECT & ENGAGE

25% of respondents say they are 'just getting by' financially, and a further **12%** saying they are finding it **difficult or very difficult**.

Financial challenges can be isolating and can place stress on personal relationships. They make it more difficult to connect, to find time to socialize due to long working hours, for parents and children to participate in sports and activities, and may force some out of the community.

Living Wage

Family of 4 in 2017 \$111,820 is the total before-tax household income needed by a family of 4 to make ends meet, where both parents are working 40 hours/week, one child is in school and one child is in full-time daycare.



The 'Living Wage' is an estimate of what a family of four needs to earn in order to meet basic needs and participate in the civic and social life of their community.

It includes costs for Shelter, Food, Mobility, Clothing, Childcare, a basic education course, a small contingency fund and other furnishings, toiletries, health products, recreation etc.

39% In 2016, **39% of permanent residents** surveyed reported incomes below 'Living Costs' levels. Compared to 16% in 2015.

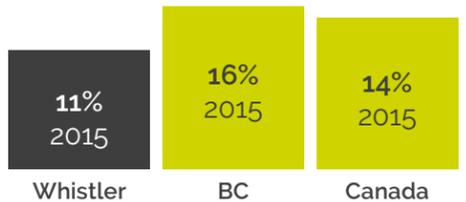
DID YOU KNOW

Many males over 30 years are more vulnerable because there are not as many services for them. Injury and illness is often when people lose connections with others because they are not able to participate in activities like skiing or biking or work. (WCSS Outreach)



Poverty

People living in poverty based on the Low Income Measure after-tax (LIM-AT):



10.7% OF CHILDREN

and **6.6% of elderly people** were living in poverty based on the LIM-AT in 2015 in Whistler. **24.6%** of people in **lone-parent families** were considered **low income**. **20.5%** of those **aged 20-24** in Whistler are **low income**.

Gender Gap



Median after-tax income for women **increased 10.5%** from 2010 to 2015 versus a **2.2% increase** for men.

Food Bank Users

- In 2017, **20%** of users accessed the foodbank because of **injury or illness**
- 24%** had **lived in Whistler for more than 10 years**
- 30%** were from **Pemberton**
- 57%** were **male**, and **66%** were aged **30 years and above**

Increased numbers of children accessing the foodbank, from 19% in 2014 to **28% in 2017**.



School Lunch Program

Average number of students **participating in the School Lunch Program** run by Whistler Community Services Society 2013-2018. **29**

Insecure housing reduces our sense of belonging as connections are harder to make and keep.

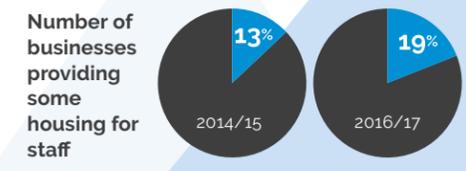
Average Monthly Rent



The average amount spent on rent and utilities in 2016 was **44% higher in Whistler** compared to BC.

Workforce Living Locally

While there has been **no change** in the percentage of employees living locally from 2011 to 2016, an increase in the workforce during this period means an **18% increase** in the number of employees housed within Whistler.



DID YOU KNOW

Whistler needs **445 more bedrooms** to house all renters suitably, almost double the 235 needed in 2011.

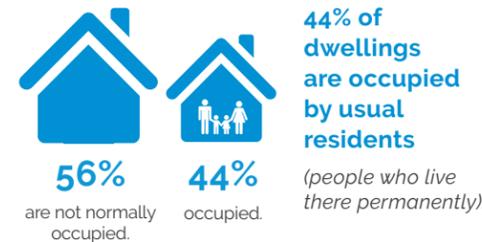


Housing Income Ratio

21% RENTER households in 2016 **spent over 50% of income on rent and utilities**. This is unchanged from 2011 and is equivalent to the provincial rate. 44% of renters in 2016 were paying more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities, down from 52% in 2011.

44% of dwellings are occupied by usual residents (people who live there permanently).

Occupancy



Of those, 61% are owner households and 40% renters.

Rental Housing Index



Whistler is rated the 4th most critical municipality in BC after Burnaby (43.7), Richmond (40.8) & Coquitlam (38.3).

17% of renters in 2016 were living in **overcrowded conditions**. This represents no change from 2011.

Whistler Housing Authority

Purchase Housing Waitlist 466 in 2016, 731 in 2018 **↑ 57%**
Rental Housing Waitlist 410 in 2016, 658 in 2018 **↑ 60%**

CONNECT & ENGAGE

63% of respondents have a close friend or family member that has moved away due to affordability reasons. **25% know more than 5 households** who left Whistler for this reason.

Housing Prices



As of February 2018 **\$547,200 was the benchmark price** for a condominium in Whistler.

15.5% of Whistler's residential properties are **owned by non-residents of Canada**. This is the second highest in the province, behind Sun Peaks 16.5%. Vancouver is 7%, and BC 3.5%.



Up 6% since 2016 # WHA Housing Units

- As of 2017, WHA provides 2,034 (6,500 beds) price-controlled rental and ownership units to local employees and retirees. 1087 ownership units, 946 rental units.
- 111 more units planned, including 20 seniors rental units.

WORK

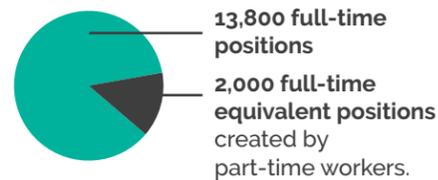
Demanding work schedules and work stress are diminishing our ability to spend time connecting with friends, family and neighbours. But, workplaces are also important places of belonging. Workplaces that are fair, inclusive, and supportive make significant contributions to resident wellness.

CONNECT & ENGAGE

53% of respondents said work or school obligations get in the way of them seeing friends.

Workforce

Workforce for the 2016/17 winter season:



Whistler's estimated total workforce required in 2017 was **15,800**:

- 13,200 full time positions
- 1,500 full-time equivalent positions

8% INCREASE compared to 2016. The highest number of employees recorded.

"the living wage clearly focuses on the role of employers in taking their fair share of responsibility for the well-being of their workforce"

- 2017 Living Wage Final Report

DID YOU KNOW ?

In 2016, in Whistler the number of self-employed individuals in the labour force was 1,350, an **increase of 45.9%** from 2011.

Staffing Shortages

30% of Whistler's employers were unable to meet their staffing requirements during the 2016/17 winter season.

This meant a **shortage of 740 full-time equivalent positions.**

This is a decrease from 35% in the 2015-2016 winter season but is still much higher than the 17% who were not able to meet their staffing needs in the 2014/2015 winter season.

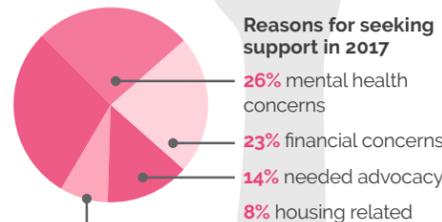


HEALTH & WELLNESS

Illness and injury can be isolating in Whistler because connecting through physical activity is a strong part of our local culture. When unable to work or play, many residents become vulnerable to diminishing mental wellness as a result of a lack of supportive networks.

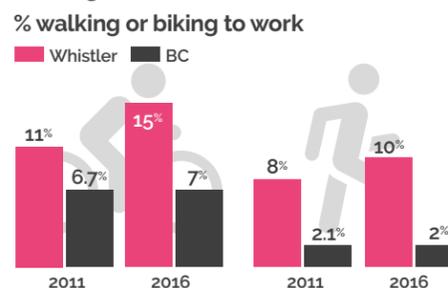
Community Outreach

Visits to Whistler Community Services Society outreach workers:



Wellness

Increase of **36% for cycling**, and **25% for walking** to work in Whistler (2011 to 2016).



Binge Drinking rate in grade 6-12



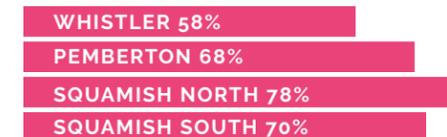
Experimentation with marijuana in the 12th grade jumped from 52% in 2013 to 74% in 2017.

68% of grade 12 students said there was "no risk" or only a "slight risk" from trying marijuana once or twice. 26% of students believe that regular marijuana use poses the same lack of adverse effects.

Stress

23.3 % of population aged 15 and over in the North Shore Coast Garibaldi area reported that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful in 2015-16. This is down from 29% in 2014.

Grade 4 students in Whistler (2017-18) scored quality of nutrition and sleep in their lives lower than in other Sea to Sky communities.



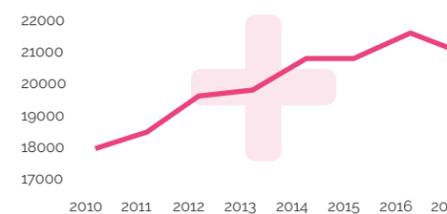
277 calls and online chats from Whistler individuals to the **YouthinBC.com** distress phone service and online chat service, up 48% from 2015.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The Canadian Red Cross' Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) provides **free, by donation, loans of basic medical equipment** by referral for those recovering from illness, injury or surgery. In 2017-2018, 35 unique Whistler clients accessed equipment from the Squamish HELP office.

ER Visits

21,066 visits to the ER in 2017. **17% increase** in ER visits 2010-2017.



CONNECT & ENGAGE

85% of respondents say they have at least one close friend they can talk to about what is on their mind, or call on for help.

Medical Services

'There is [...] a concern over a shortage of medical practitioners serving the resort community.'

- Draft Whistler OCP, June 2018

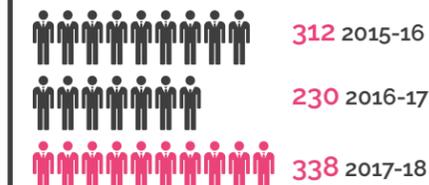
2014-15 Specialists per capita:



*In the Howe Sound Local Health Area which includes Whistler, Pemberton, and Squamish.



The Community Foundation of Whistler funds youth wellness workshops at local schools to provide youth with mental wellness practices that support suicide prevention.



Youth reached (Whistler and Pemberton)

Labour Force Participation Rate

85% of the population over 15 years of age was working or looking for work in 2016 (83% in 2011) compared to 63.9% for B.C.

DID YOU KNOW ?

In 2016, in Whistler the proportion of **women in managerial positions** was 44.4%, an **increase of 28.9%** from 2011.

Whistler Chamber of Commerce - Employer and Employee Surveys 2018

The biggest challenges for employers in the winter of 2017-18 were:

- recruiting qualified employees
- housing employees
- recruiting enough employees
- paying higher wages, providing more attractive benefits

What employers said about winter season 2017-2018:

The top 5 most difficult positions to fill (winter 2017-18)

1. Culinary staff - All position levels
2. Trades people - Intermediate, supervisor, top level management
3. Night Audit - Entry, intermediate, supervisor level
4. Maintenance - Entry and intermediate levels
5. Labourer - Intermediate and supervisor level

How long do seasonal staff stay?

33% up to 6 months, 67% up to 12 months, 4% return for 2 or more years

Employees scored Whistler positively as a place to work for its

- mountain lifestyle
- work life balance
- small community

What employees said in 2018:

Employees scored Whistler negatively for

- access to appropriate or affordable housing
- wage level
- career and employment opportunities/ advancement

What would attract and retain more employees?

- better wages, benefits, and perks, including transit and immigration support
- cheaper housing
- more/better training
- promoting Whistler as a caring community

CONNECT & ENGAGE

Strong social connectedness makes strong communities.

How well are we connected?

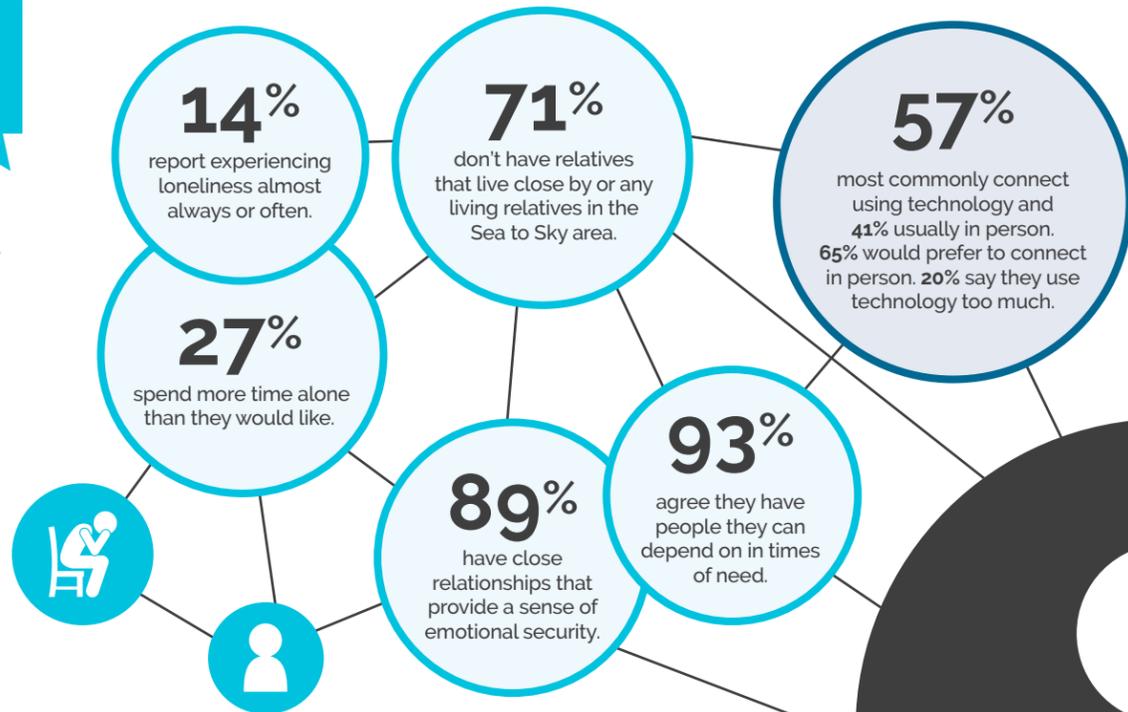
PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

People with lower income tend to spend more time alone than they would like relative to people with higher income.

People with no relatives nearby tend to spend more time alone than they would like relative to people with relatives nearby.

Younger adults tend to feel lonely more often than older adults.

Somewhat newer residents to their neighbourhoods tend to feel lonely more often than longer-term residents.



Can we count on our neighbours?

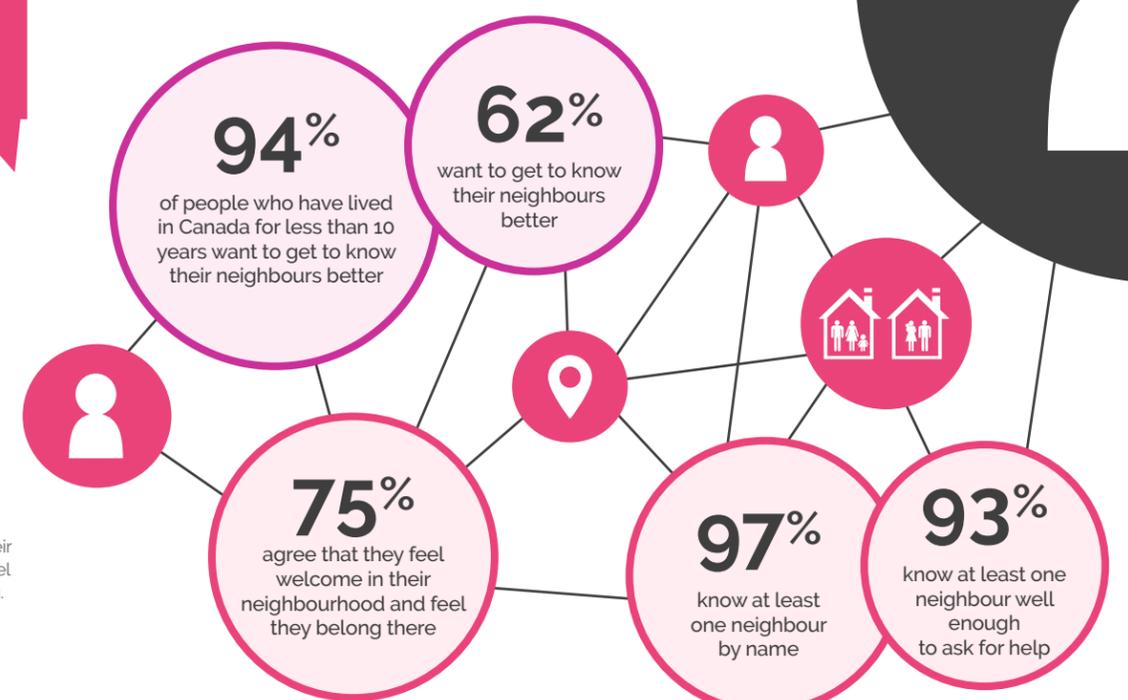
NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS

Younger adults and people with lower income tend to know fewer people well enough to ask for help

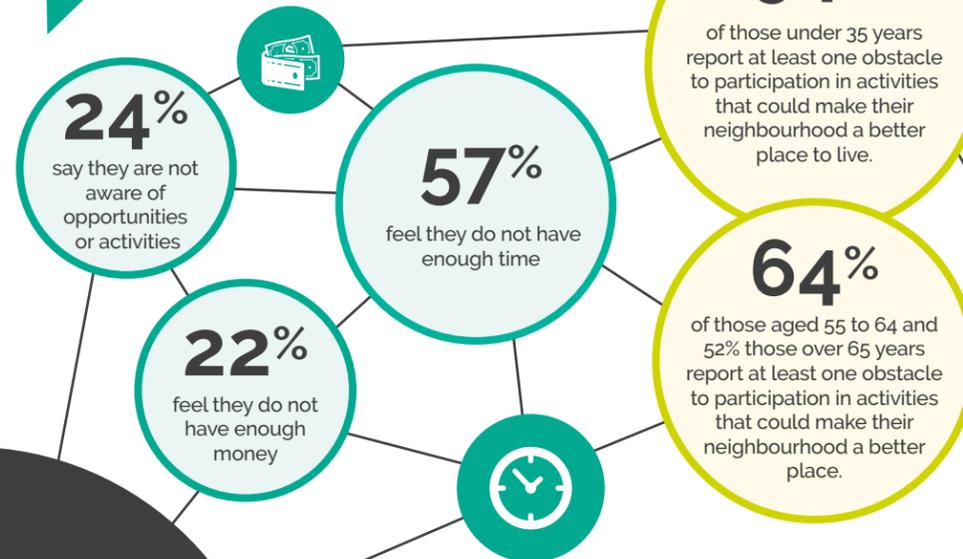
Newer Canadian residents and newer residents to the neighbourhood tend to want to get to know their neighbours better

Older adults, those with higher incomes and people who have lived in Canada more than 10 years tend to feel more welcome in their neighbourhood.

People who know more of their neighbours' names tend to feel a stronger sense of belonging.



What prevents us from getting involved in our neighbourhood?



Who has more difficulty getting involved?

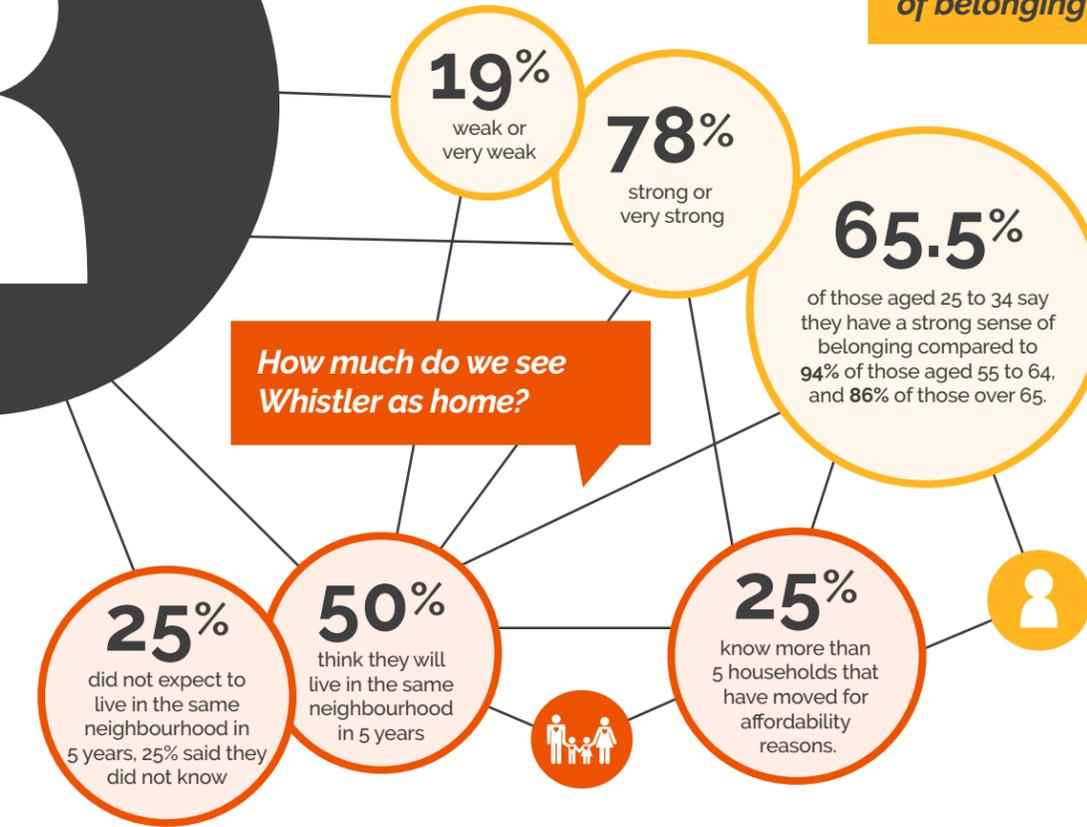


Overall, obstacles to participating are most felt by younger adults, and are slightly more felt by people with lower income and who have difficult managing financially.

Those who chose 'not having enough time' as an obstacle tend to be younger and to have lived in their neighbourhood for fewer years.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

How would you describe your sense of belonging to Whistler?



People who have lived in Canada for longer tend to feel a stronger sense of belonging than those newer to Canada.

People who have lived in Canada for more than 10 years tend to feel more welcome in their neighbourhood. 20% of those in Canada for less than 10 years do not feel welcome.

Younger adults tend to know someone who has moved away due to affordability slightly more than older adults.

People who know someone who has moved away due to affordability tend to feel a slightly weaker sense of belonging to Whistler.

42% of those who said they expect to move said the reason is because they can no longer afford to stay.

SENSE OF BELONGING

ENVIRONMENT

GETTING AROUND



CONNECT & ENGAGE

56% of respondents said they feel a strong sense of connection or **belonging in nature**

Many Whistler residents find their sense of belonging by connecting to nature. It is important, though, to balance our access to nature with the need to preserve the integrity of our natural environment.

Water Use



COMMUNITY VOICES
"We have already taken so much of the valley for our own purposes and we need to have discussion about how [much] more we take."
 Focus group participant, May 2018

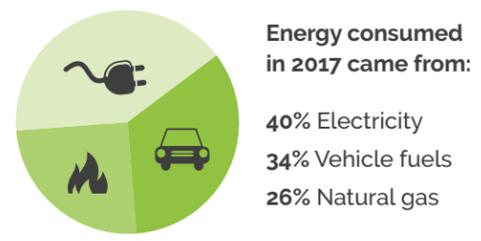
Waste



DID YOU KNOW
 Whistler's Karl Ricker has been monitoring the Wedgemount Glacier for 45 years. Over a period of 117 years, the glacier has shown **549 meters of recession**. The Foundation now funds the cost of a helicopter to take 80-year-old Karl and his team of successors to measure the glacier.

Energy Use

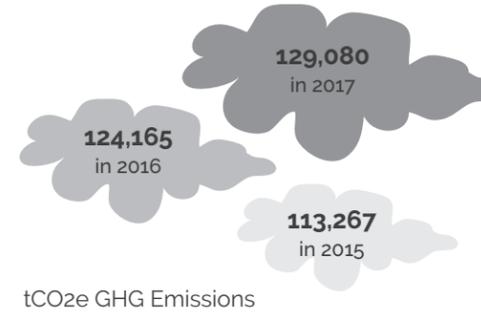
Total community energy consumption in 2017 was up 5.5% over 2016. This is the highest level ever recorded in Whistler. However, energy consumption per population equivalent decreased in 2017 by 2.6% from 2016.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Total community **GHG emissions in 2017 were 129,080 tCO2e**. This is **4% above 2016 levels**.

Estimated GHG emissions per population equivalent decreased 4% from 2016 levels.



Biodiversity

>4000 Known species inventoried in Whistler.

The total number of confirmed to occur species at risk in Whistler is 69.



Among the species at risk are: coastal tailed frog, northern red-legged frog, western toad, great blue heron, bull trout, grizzly bear, whitebark pine

Invasive species

172 Invasive plant species
7 Invasive animal species
 have been found in Whistler.

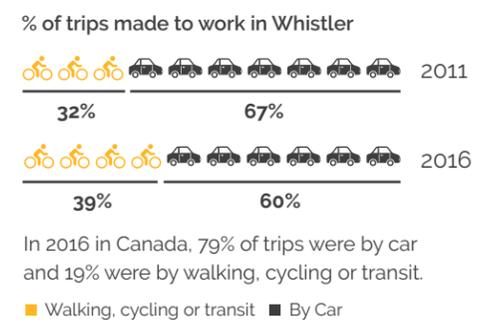
An Environmental Legacy Grant from the Community Foundation of Whistler helped to build the Outdoor Classroom and food gardens at Myrtle Philip Community School. The classroom connects students to nature and they learn about growing food. Students and their families came together to harvest, cook and eat at the Harvest Soup Celebration.

Most of us still want to connect with others in person. Transportation challenges in Whistler can make connecting more difficult, forcing us to use technology to connect, sometimes more than we would like.

DID YOU KNOW
 The Valley Trail is part of the Sea to Sky Trail and the Trans Canada Trail. The Trans Canada Trail is the longest trail in the world and links 15,000 communities along 24,000 kilometres of trail.

Getting to Work

7% MORE TRIPS TO WORK by Whistler residents, in 2016 were by walking, cycling or transit over 2011.



DID YOU KNOW
 On November 18, 2017, a pilot project started allowing compost, recyclables or garbage to be taken on the bus.

Transit in Whistler

\$2.50 Adult fare in Whistler

Adult fare in Squamish is \$2.00. The system cost per ride in Whistler is \$3.42.

On July 1, 2017, the monthly pass was reduced from \$65 to **\$50 (adult) and \$40 (student and seniors)** to encourage transit usage.

From July 14, 2018 the Squamish monthly pass = \$39.00. Senior pass = \$20.00

16% increase in ridership on Whistler Transit from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

Regional Transit

4 roundtrips a day operate between the Village of Pemberton & Whistler Village. Annual ridership on the Pemberton commuter **grew 47%** from **26,000 rides in 2013/2014** to **38,100 rides in 2016/17**.



The 'Sea to Sky Corridor Regional Transit Study' Oct. 2017 recommended a **regional transportation plan** to include:

- 6 round trips per day between Whistler and Squamish
- An additional 2 daily round trips between Whistler and Pemberton

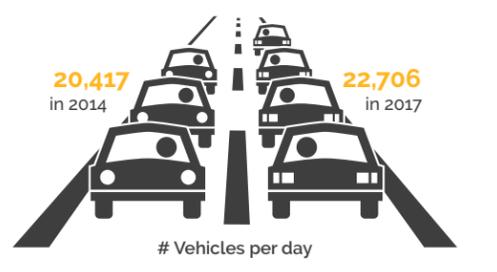
That RMOW has signed an MOU approving this regional transit plan for implementation by 2019-2020.

CONNECT & ENGAGE

72% of respondents said they **use a car, truck or van** to complete errands such as grocery shopping.

Highway Traffic

Estimated annual average daily traffic on Highway 99 in Whistler.



Passenger Vehicles

REGISTERED PASSENGER VEHICLES INCREASED BY 4% in Whistler 2011 to 2015.

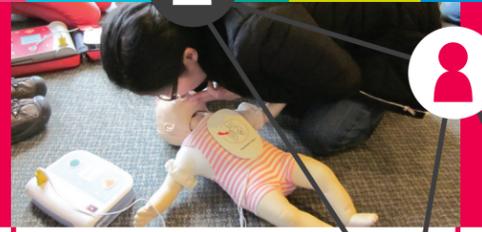
In 2017 passenger vehicle use accounted for 55% of greenhouse gas emissions.



LEARNING



SAFETY



CONNECT & ENGAGE

85% of respondents had visited the local library, community centre or recreation centre in the last year.

Opportunities for learning are important to ensure community members can continue developing the literacy skills needed to participate fully in our community.

Schools

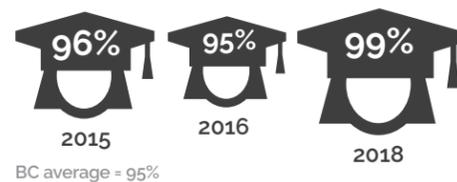
Public School Enrolments (K-12)



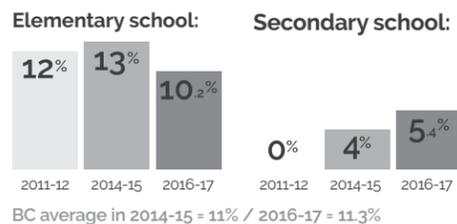
2018 Scholarships:

77 scholarships
54% of grads received scholarships
\$112,000 total value
55 organizations provided awards

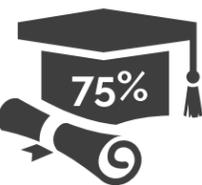
Whistler Secondary School Graduation Rate:



ESL Students:



Local resident satisfaction with opportunities for formal accredited learning in Whistler **decreased from 49% in 2017 to 42% in 2018.**



of the permanent population aged 25 to 64 had **completed post-secondary education** in 2016, no change from 2011 and compared to BC at 64%, Squamish at 69%.

DID YOU KNOW

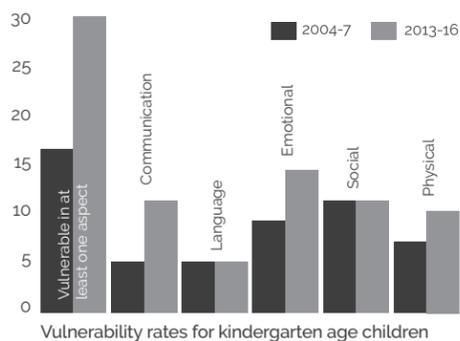
Family literacy - Learning as a family supports basic literacy and helps in the development of new skills.

Adult literacy - Learning is a lifelong process; adults and seniors must continue to learn to keep up with the pace of change.

Workforce Literacy - Improving workers' literacy skills creates a more productive workforce, a more competitive economy, and an improved bottom line.

Child Development

29% of kindergarten age children in Whistler were rated vulnerable in at least one aspect of their development in 2013-16. This is up from 16% in 2004-2007.

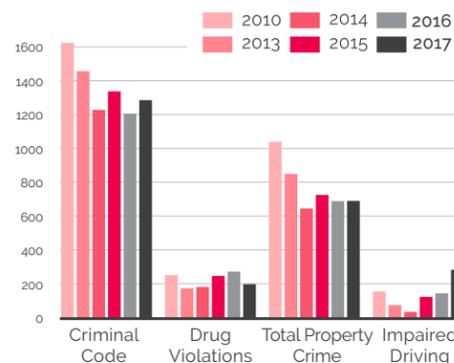


46% of grade 4 Whistler students in 2017/18 rated their well-being at levels considered to be thriving and 29% were at levels considered to be low well-being.

COMMUNITY VOICES
"It provides a safe space for people new to Whistler, people that might not have much of their own safe space and also space for anyone who needs it to read, study, tune out, relax etc."
- WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY VISION SURVEY AUGUST 2017

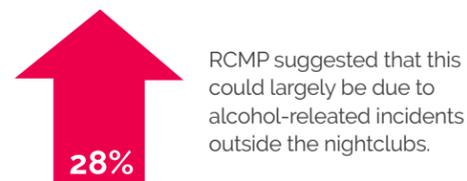
It is how a community cares for those who are the most vulnerable due to social, economic, health or other risks that determines the strength of a community. While Whistler residents generally report feeling safe, there are concerns around emergency preparedness as well as the increase in the number of visitors and recreationalists.

Crime Rates



The large increase in impaired driving violations is likely a result of an increase in enforcement efforts by the Whistler RCMP.

All assaults
143 incidents reported in 2017, 112 in 2016



Bike Theft
74 reported in 2017, 80 in 2014

Children and Youth Safety

In 2017, Whistler teens (Grades 6 to 12) exhibited more risk than the national norm in 3 areas:

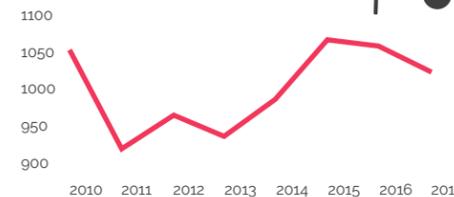
- parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use
- perceived Risk of Drug Use
- rewards for Antisocial Behavior

81% OF GRADE 4 STUDENTS

(2017-18) said there are safe places in their neighbourhood/community where they feel comfortable to hang out with friends.

Workplace Injuries

1034 workplace injuries were treated in 2017 by the Whistler Health Care Centre



DID YOU KNOW

In 2017, there were **8 fentanyl-related deaths** in the Sea to Sky corridor.

Search & Rescue

Whistler Search and Rescue (WSAR):

- 20% increase in responses** from 2015/16 to 2016/17.
- 12% more female** subjects from 2014/15 to 2016/2017.

The age of individuals assisted by WSAR is trending up. 55% of responses in 2016/17 involved subjects aged 26-40, up from 36% in 2014/15.

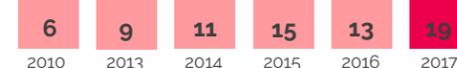
Volunteers spent **1115 hours** in 2017-18 rescuing people, up 113% from 2016.

CONNECT & ENGAGE

79% of respondents think that if they lost a wallet or purse containing \$100, it would definitely or probably **be returned with the money inside.**

Sexual Assaults & Domestic Violence

Sexual assaults reported:



40 incidents of domestic violence reported to the RCMP in 2017.

Whistler Women's Centre referred **8 women** to Howe Sound Women's Centre safe housing for 131 nights in 2017 (2016 = 14 women for 181 nights).

There were **950 drop-in visits** to the Centre in 2017, 1131 in 2016.



Through the Emerald Fund, the Community Foundation of Whistler provided a grant to WSAR to purchase a new snowmobile. The Foundation also gave a grant to the Whistler Disaster Management Volunteer Team for the purchase of tents, heaters, laptops and generators to support those affected by disasters.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"In Whistler there is a particular risk to vulnerable persons - that may be transient workers that are here, away from family and friends, or new Canadians that come into the community."

-RCMP Inspector, Jeff Christie



In 2017-2018 the Community Foundation of Whistler supported the Technology Literacy Series at the Whistler Public Library. The program provides free classes to community members on using social media, spreadsheets, desktop publishing and other technologies.

ARTS & CULTURE

SPORTS & RECREATION

CONNECT & ENGAGE

42% had participated in a sports or recreational club or group (team sports, recreation club, cycling group or hiking club) in the last 12 months.

Funding for the Arts

\$3,756,159 the municipality's 2018 Festivals, Events & Animation budget **19%** over 2016

6% over 2017
\$656,569 fee-for-service to Arts Whistler for 2018
\$175,099 fee-for-service to the Whistler Museum for 2018

Canada Council for the Arts Grant funding: \$27,500 in grants from the Canada Council for the Arts to 4 local recipients in 2016/2017.

Community Foundation of Whistler funding for arts, culture and events:

2015	\$28,718
2017	\$41,799
2018	\$42,035



Employment in Occupations related to arts, culture, recreation and sport in 2016: 6.7% of total labour force 15 years and over, up from 4.7% in 2006.

Expressing and experiencing arts and culture contributes to residents' sense of identity and belonging. Equitable access for local residents is equally important to build bridges within the community by reflecting diversity and sharing understanding.

Support for Local Artists

72% of all artist fees paid by Arts Whistler went to local artists.

90% of community programming art instructors were local.

95% artists showcased in The Gallery at Maury Young Arts Centre were local.

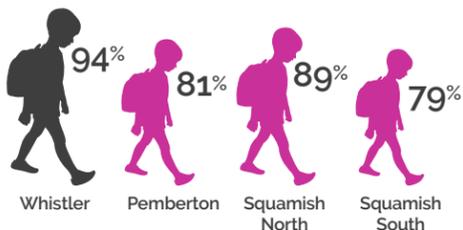
73% of Whistler Street Entertainment performers were local.

Individuals participating in Arts Whistler community programming:



After School Activities

Grade 4 (aged 10-11) students in Whistler (2017-18) reported an **extremely high level of participation in after school activities.**



While 71% of children said they are already doing what they want to do for after school activities, 34% said they are not.

DID YOU KNOW

KidsArt provides financial assistance for arts education to children aged 5 to 18 of financially restricted families. Patterned after the National KidSport program, KidsArt is a collaboration between Whistler Community Services Society, the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and Arts Whistler.

Kids Art grants in Whistler:



As we work towards communities where everyone belongs, Community Foundations across Canada are committed to reconciliation for Indigenous peoples, which includes listening and learning.

In 2017, the Community Foundation of Whistler provided a grant to the Sea to Sky Discovery Story Telling Celebration that invited locals to submit their own writings.

Birkenhead Pantoum
 Winner- Aboriginal Category
 By Tressa Peters
Calm sage current
Refreshing alluvium
I sit and watch the water
Safe meander
Refreshing alluvium
Fern coloured ripples
Safe meander
It carries my troubles away downstream
Fern coloured ripples
I sit and watch the water
It carries my troubles away downstream
Calm sage current

In Whistler, too much competition, pressure, and demanding schedules can make sport a negative experience for some, especially youth. It is important to maintain a sports culture of fun and fairness.



Municipal Programs

Children and Teens
9 municipal & **4** afterschool initiatives for 2017-18.
14 municipal sports programs in 2017-18.
10 summer camps in 2018

Adults and Seniors
30 ongoing programs for adults, **11** for seniors, at Meadow Park Recreation Centre in 2017-18 – **up 141% on 2015-16.**

Also listed in the municipal Recreation Guide are **24** community groups and **7** arts and culture groups.

Meadow Park Drop-In Rate 2018

\$5.25 Youth
 \$8.75 Adult & Seniors
Up 5% and 3% on 2016.

Squamish's Brennan Park admission rates are \$5.75 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors and youth – **up 15% and 18% on 2016.**

Sports Groups

38 sports groups listed in the municipal Recreation Guide.

451 youth registered in **The Whistler Youth Soccer Club** in 2017 – down 10% on 2016. The WYSC has 70 volunteer coaches.

The Whistler Tennis association was formed in 2017. It now has **660 members.**

Whistler Off Road Cycling Association now has **1800 members** – up 20% on 2016. **WORCA** runs Toonie Rides, Phat Wednesdays and special events for all ages.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"The situation for youth today is completely different from 5 years ago. Youth are dealing with anxiety and sleep issues. There is school stress and stress in the family home. There is pressure to perform in sports at a high level."

WCSS Outreach worker

After School Sports Activities

49% of Grade 4 students participated in individual sports with a coach or instructor **2+ times a week.** 30% in a team sport with a coach or instructor.

CONNECT & ENGAGE

33% of respondents said they feel a **strong sense of connection or belonging** in a sports or hobby group.

Financial Assistance

Sports and recreation financial assistance programs in 2016 & 2017:

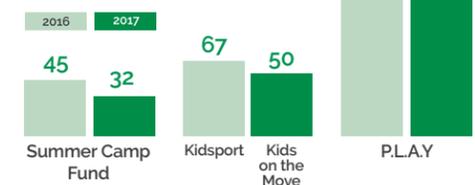
Summer Camp Fund: The Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS) Camp Fund helps financially restricted families to send their children to summer camp.

Kids on the Move Sports Fund: Grants up to \$400 for sport participation/registration fees in replacement for Kidsport. 70% of applications are for ski school, gymnastics is the second most common activity applied for.

Programs and Leisure Activities for You (P.L.A.Y.): Financially restricted Whistler families and individuals can receive a \$131.20 credit per person toward any program offered by the RMOW/recreation department.

Credits administered by WCSS.

Grants in 2016 & 2017:



The Wendy Thompson Scholarship fund provides bursaries to students in the Outdoor Recreation Leadership Program at Whistler Secondary School. The bursaries primarily go to help those in financial need offset the \$550 program fees.



A grant from the Emerald Foundation Fund in 2018 helped to ensure that the Whistler Multicultural Festival, one of Whistler's most popular events for the local community, was able to continue.

The Festival showcases Whistler's diversity with free cultural activities, crafts, performances and displays plus an opportunity to try multicultural food cooked by local immigrants.

BELONGING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



CONNECT & ENGAGE

Where do Whistlerites feel their greatest sense of belonging?

- With friends **63%**
- In nature **56%**
- At work/in a group **33%**
- With family **31%**

Sense of Belonging

2017-18 Percentage of Grade 4 students who responded **"very much true"** when asked: **In your neighbourhood/community there are adults who:**



"When asked why they decided to apply to be a mentor, the majority included 'because I'm finally at a place where I feel settled in Whistler and can give back to the community.'"

- Talya Shore, Big Brothers & Sisters

Charitable Giving

Approximately **19.5% of all taxfilers** in B.C. (689,290 people) made a charitable donation in 2016, down from 21% in 2015.

However, the total amount donated by British Columbians increased



Belonging is at the heart of community life and some of our community's most pressing issues, from inclusion of newcomers and immigrants to members' ability to stay living in the community.

Volunteering

52% of permanent residents in 2017 volunteered for at least **one hour per month**, down 4% from 2014.

2017/18 volunteer numbers included:

- 121** Arts Whistler
- 36** Whistler Public Library
- 105** Village Hosts
- 132** 2018 Whistler Multicultural Festival
- 9** Big Brothers & Sisters in school mentors, up 125% on 2016-17
- 12** Literacy and ESL tutors

75% of respondents to the Connect and Engage survey said they had volunteered for an organization or group in the previous 12 months.

Voter Turnout

35% of registered voters

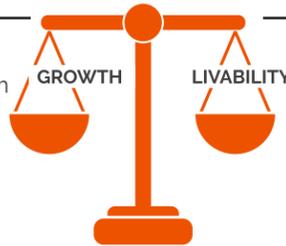
in Whistler voted in the 2017 provincial election. Turnout in West Vancouver Sea to Sky was 61.09% and the provincial average was 61.18%.



In 2018, the Community Foundation of Whistler helped fund the Resilient Streets project. Small groups of neighbours were able to apply for \$200 micro-grants to create projects and events to help build a sense of community and a feeling of belonging in their neighbourhood.

Belonging and Balance

A major theme that emerged from our community engagement in 2018 is the need for Balance: how to balance community and tourism, and how to maintain the special qualities of this natural place with growth and development. People are also concerned about how we balance the well-being of all members of our community.



"As I was creating this [sphere], some cracks started happening in my clay sphere and we need to be mindful of the cracks that happen in the community!"



"I realised that trees are important to me. We need to balance growth. If you get too many trees they are a hazard. So they need to be controlled. But to me a tree represents wildlife habitat. It's important to me that we share this beautiful place with more than just humanity. We can control growth, just like we can control trees."

"Volunteering is so important here. We can all reach out to others, even in small ways."

"I think having community hubs in each neighbourhood would be great."

What makes us feel connected in Whistler?

- Families in my neighbourhood
- Volunteering
- Learning
- Trust
- Environment
- Outdoor activities - hiking, golf, tennis, skiing, biking
- Like-minded people
- Wellness
- Fun

Our thanks to the following partners and volunteers who made this possible

FUNDING PARTNERS:



PROJECT LEADS:

Carole Stretch & Carol Coffey

STEERING COMMITTEE:

(steering committee, and data, sponsorship, writing, community engagement and launch teams)

Andrew Ross Lisa Severn
Anne Townley Sue Lawther
Jill Dawson Sue Maxwell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Craig Beattie Scott Pass
Debbie Smythe Sharon Broatch
John Walker Shelley Quinn
Karen Williamson Sue Lawther
Maureen Wale Executive Director:
Mike Groot Carol Coffey

COMMUNITY MEMBERS & STAKEHOLDERS WHO GAVE THEIR TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CONSULTATIONS AND/OR ASSIST WITH THE PROVISION OF DATA:

Barbora Vaneckova, Whistler Welcome Centre
Bob Brett, Whistler Biodiversity Project
Capri Doucet, Vancouver Coastal Health
Caroline Jauvin, Whistler Health Care Centre
Cathy Coyle, Whistler Village Hosts
Cathy Jewett, Communities That Care
Clare Greenberg, Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
Community Foundations of Canada
Dan Wilson and Laura Swaffield at the Whistler Centre for Sustainability
Elizabeth Tracy, Whistler Public Library
Emma DalSanto, Resort Municipality of Whistler
Greg Newton, Whistler Search and Rescue
Jackie Dickinson, Cheryl Skribe, Sara Jennings and Whistler Community Services Outreach Workers
Jay Elliott, St. John Ambulance
Jenny Fitzgerald, Capilano University

Kaan Yazman, Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre of BC
Kevin Titus, Whistler Secondary School
Mo Douglas, Arts Whistler
Nicola Bentley, Constituent Assistant to MLA Jordan Sturdy
PJ O'Heany, Whistler Youth Soccer Club
Resort Municipality of Whistler
Talya Shore, Big Brothers Big Sisters Sea to Sky
Vancouver Foundation
Whistler Chamber of Commerce
Whistler Children's Centre
Whistler Housing Authority
Yamina Bassi, Whistler Women's Centre

Thank you to all the community members who participated in the Vital Signs Connect and Engage survey, the Vital Signs focus group and as Vital Partners.
Our thanks also to Whistler Creative

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:



About the Community Foundation of Whistler

The Community Foundation of Whistler is a charitable public foundation, serving the communities of Whistler and Pemberton, and operated by members of our local community who live, work and raise their families here in the Sea to Sky region.

Our vision is a thriving local community where all members are engaged and informed, and where strong connections create a resilient and caring community.

The Community Foundation of Whistler:

- invests in the future of our community by managing permanent endowment funds
- provides grants to local charitable organizations to create impact in all areas of community life
- offers donors the opportunity to establish charitable funds, endowed in perpetuity, for the ongoing benefit of the local community.
- promotes community knowledge, volunteerism, and community leadership

We bring people together to create opportunities for dialogue, learning, and partnership. Our knowledge of the community helps us to create maximum impact with our grant programs.

Investing in a thriving community.



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whistlerfoundation.com

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

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