WHISTLER

2025 Budget Prioritization Survey

Summary of results

September 2024

Survey reach & engagement

2023
August 22 - September 25

228 Engaged Participants

205 completed the survey
23 completed the Budget Quiz

5,458 Overall Views

637 page page visits
2,065 impressions on social posts
57 social engagements (clicks+reactions)
2,697 newsletter subscribers
2 newspaper ads in the Pique

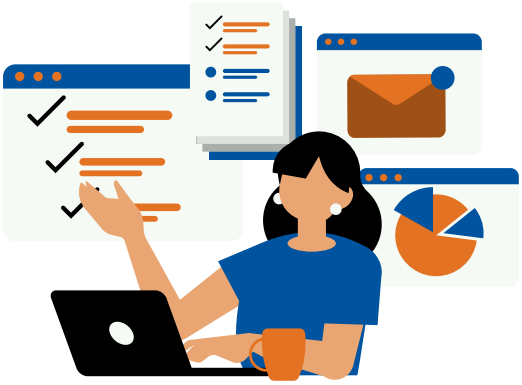
2024
July 7 - August 15

314 Engaged Participants

239 completed the survey
75 completed the budget poll

37,226 Overall Views

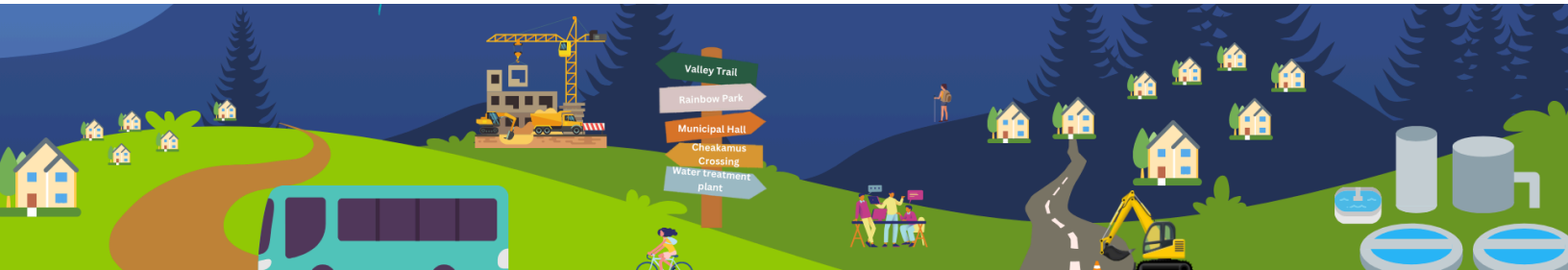
1,000 page visits
31,228 impressions on social posts !
2,376 social engagements (clicks+reactions)
2,594 newsletter subscribers
28 QR code scans from Pique ad



! Facebook saw the highest return

29,520 impressions
8,602 reach
2,050 engagements
286 link clicks

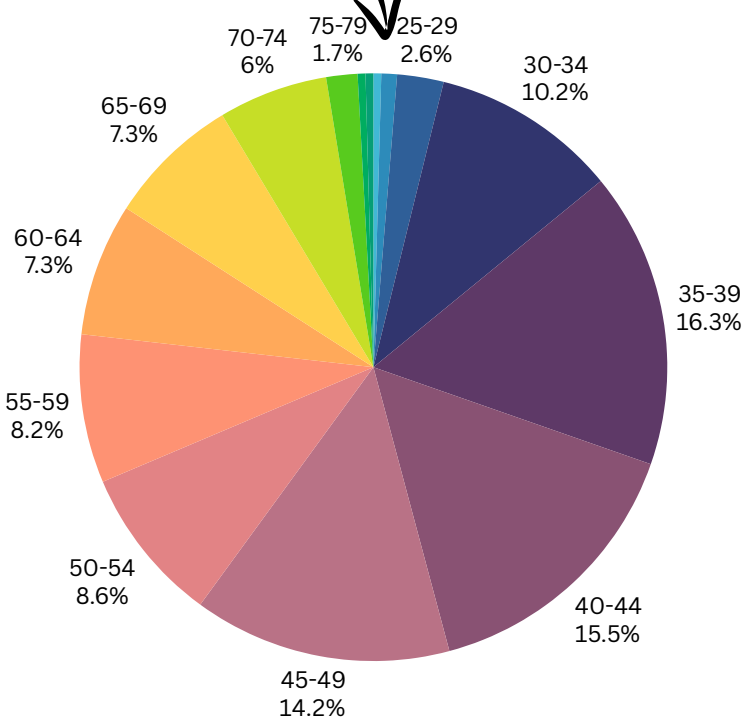
Results are from organic and paid posts



Snapshot of survey respondents

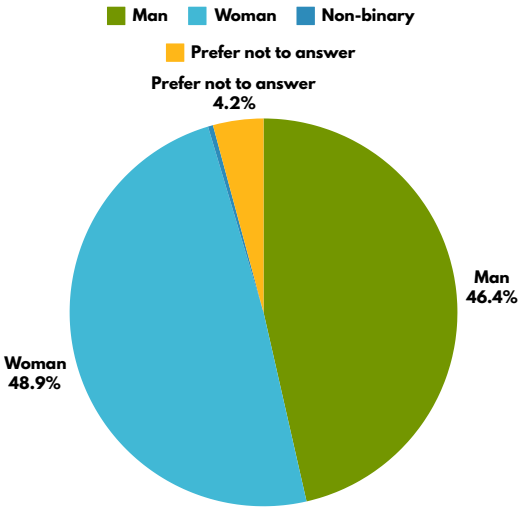
Respondent ages

15-19: 0.42% (1 respondent)
20-24: 0 .84%
80-84: 0.42%
85 and over: 0.42%

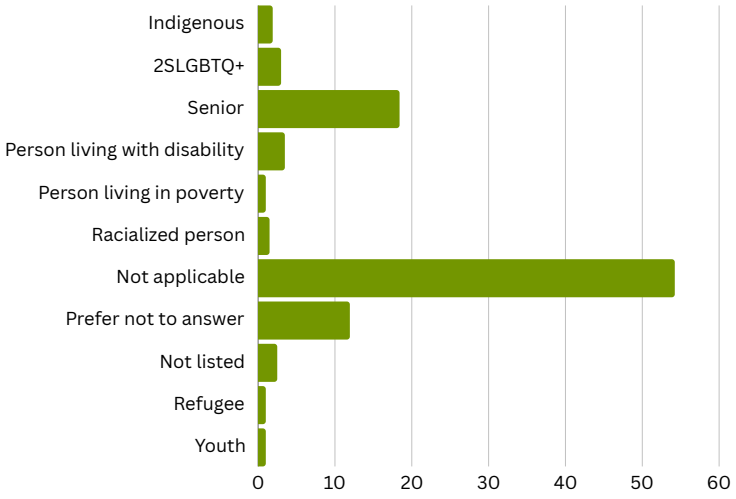


Most engaged in budget survey and poll were between the the ages of 30 and 49

How respondents identify



Equity-seeking respondents

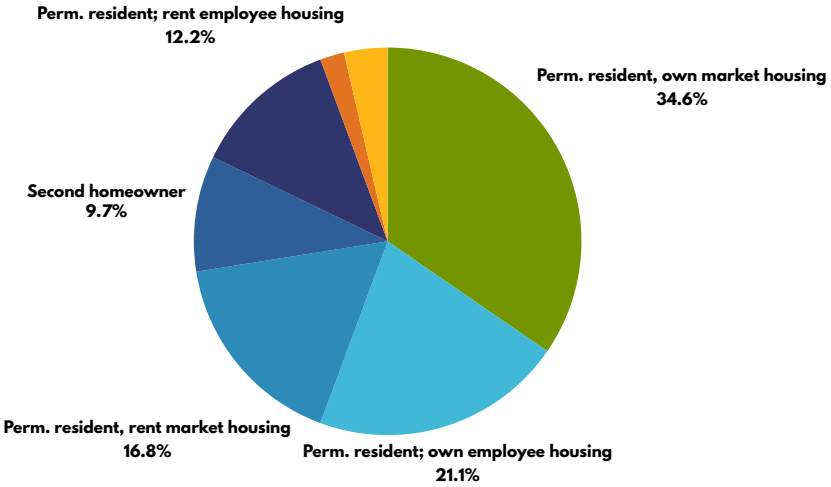


Who's missing?

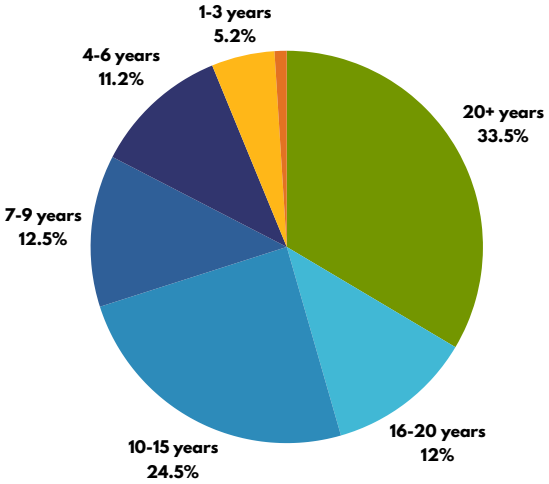
- younger and older youth
- older seniors
- equity seeking people

Snapshot of survey respondents

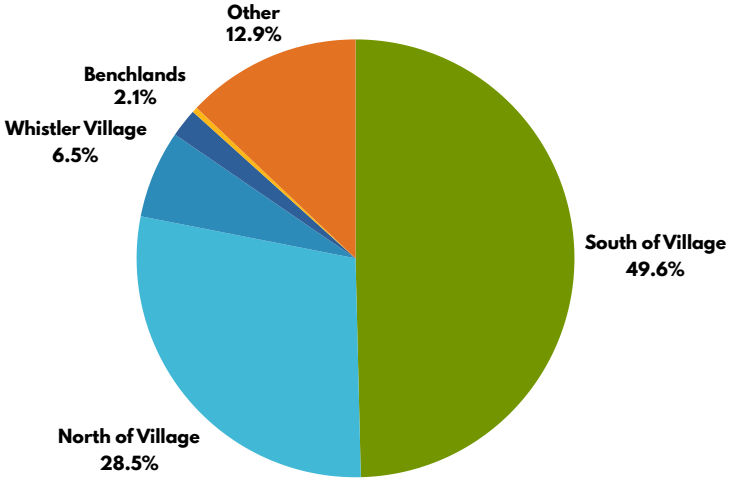
Housing status



Time lived in Whistler



Respondent locations



15% respondents are Business Owners

37% of business owners owned their property

40% have 2 people in their household

10%: 1 person
22%: 3 people
19%: 4 people
9%: 5+ people

Survey feedback Summary

Ranking of Council priorities

2023

HIghest Priority — **Lowest Priority**

Housing

Climate Action

Community Engagement

Smart Tourism

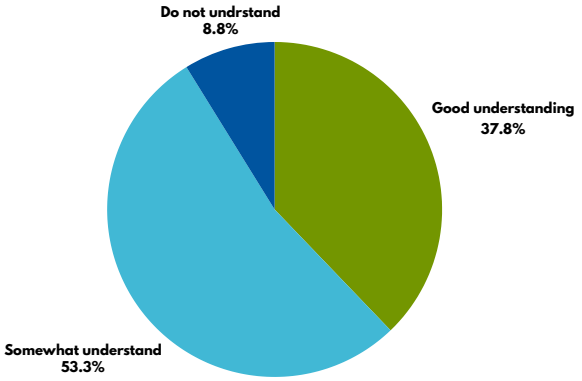
2024

HIghest Priority — **Lowest Priority**

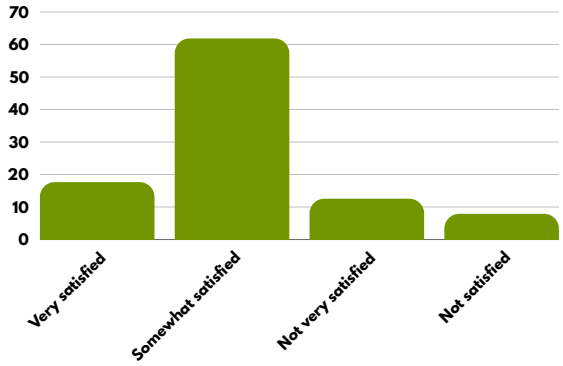
Ranking

	1	2	3	4
Climate action	19.21% 44	20.09% 46	24.89% 57	35.81% 82
Smart Tourism	14.85% 34	29.26% 67	28.38% 65	27.51% 63
Housing	53.81% 127	25.42% 60	11.02% 26	9.75% 23
Community Engagement	14.85% 34	25.33% 58	34.93% 80	24.89% 57

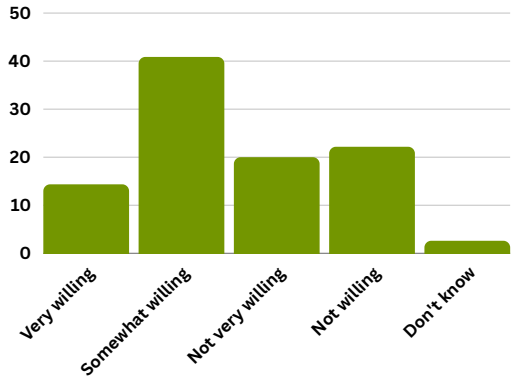
Understanding of budget process



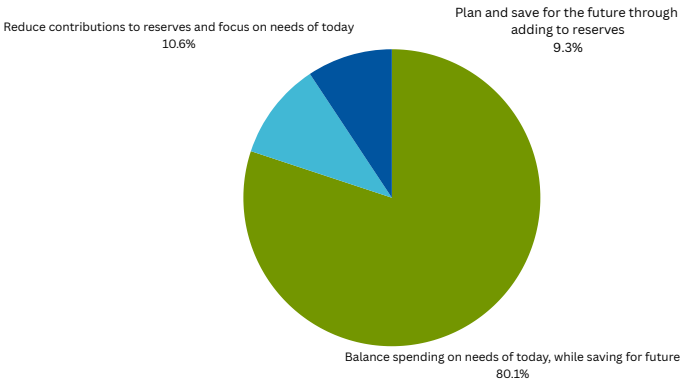
Overall satisfaction with level and quality of services



Willingness to pay more in user fees to maintain or improve services



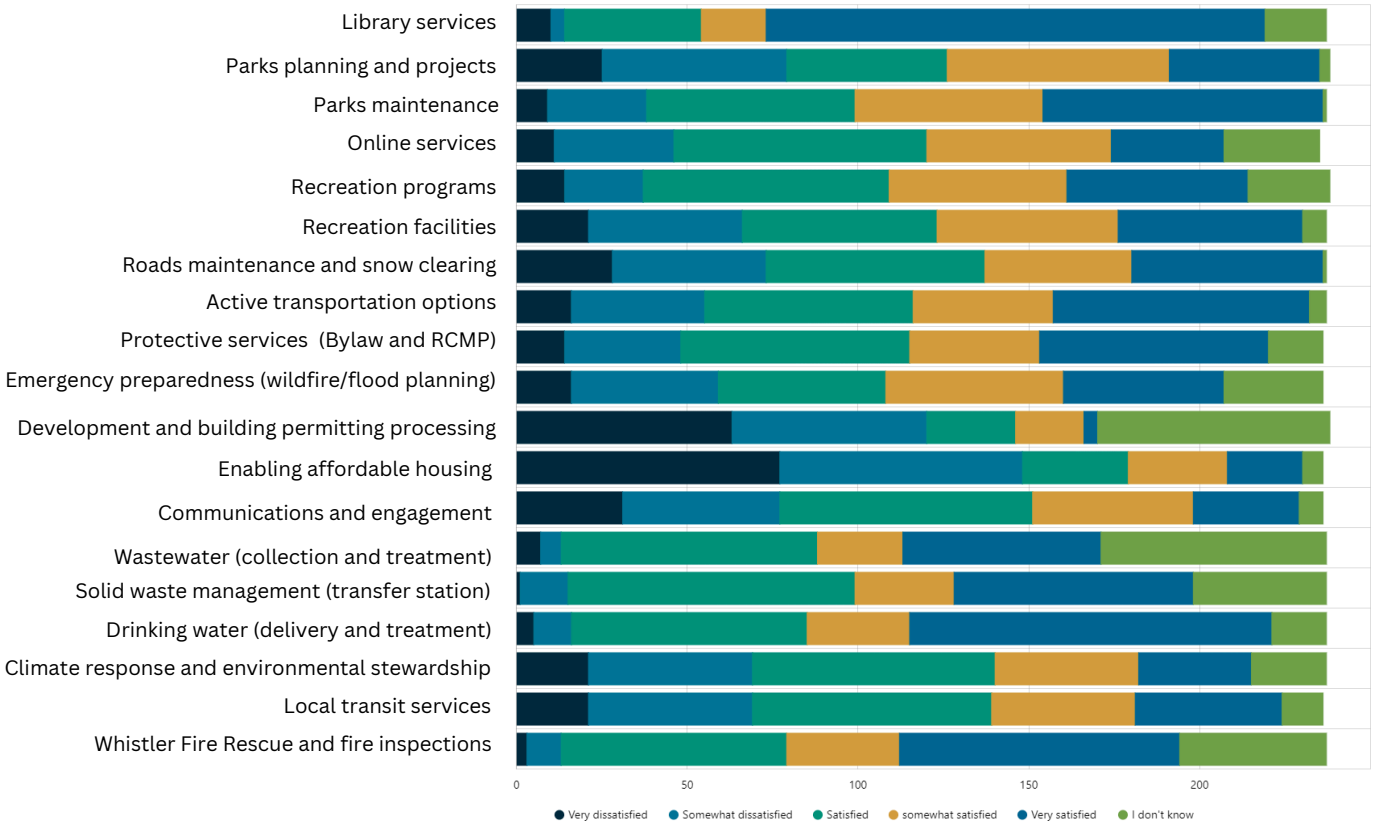
Quick poll: Preference for making financial planning decisions



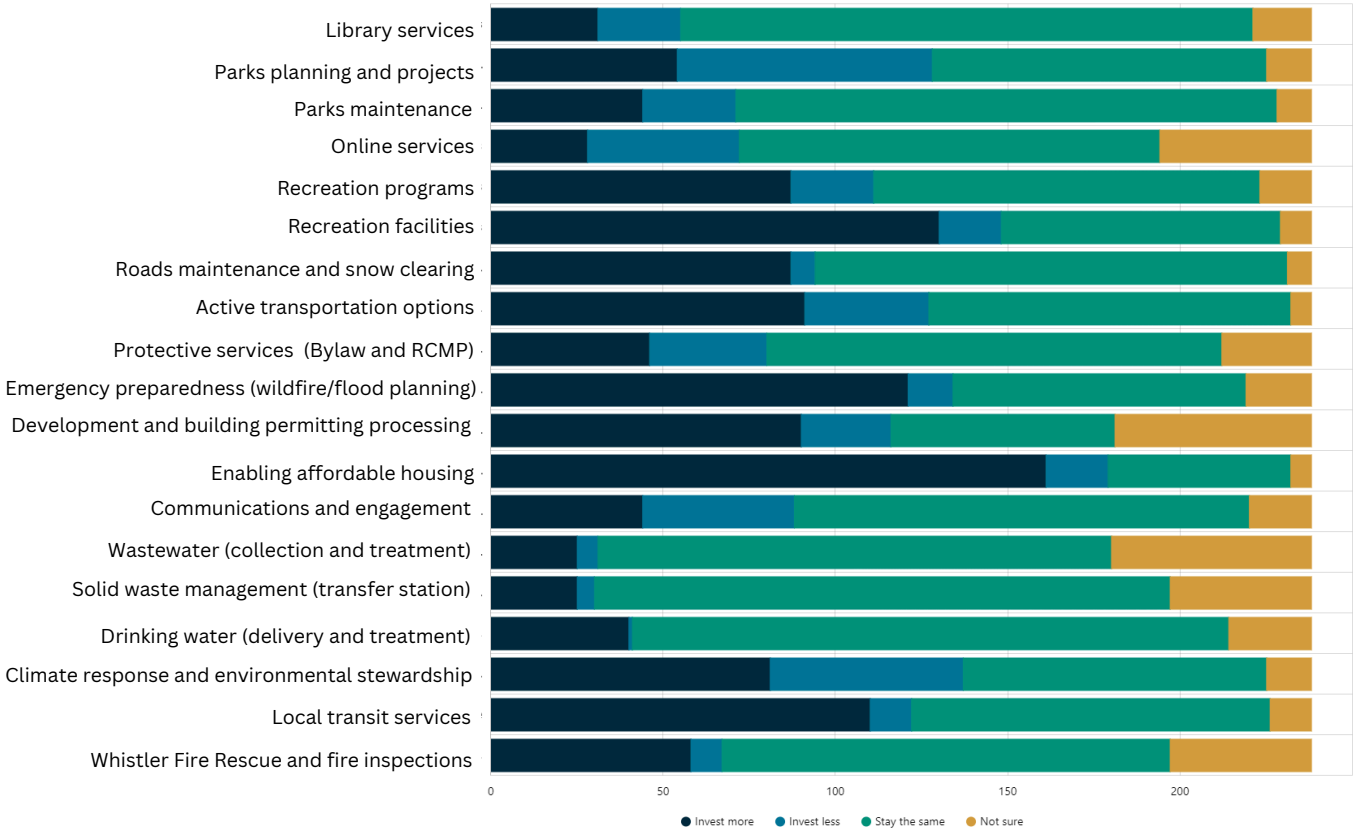
n=75

Survey feedback Summary

Level of satisfaction of each service



Investment testing: Invest less, more or stay the same?

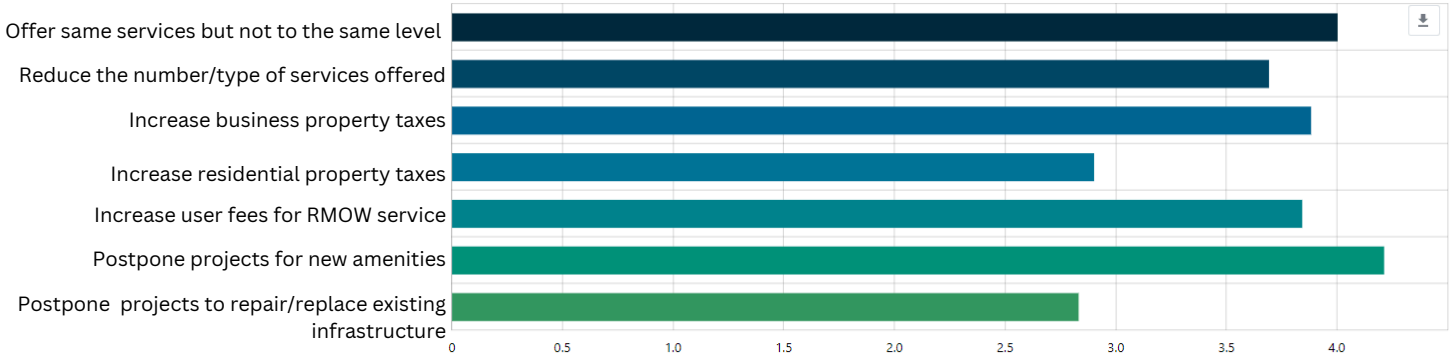


Survey feedback Summary

Overall value received for municipal services and utilities

In 2023, residential property owners in Whistler paid $1,380.90 per million dollars of assessed property value in property taxes for all municipal services, such as roads, trails, snow clearing, fire, police, recreation, parks, and transit. Each typical residential tax parcel paid $1,361.34 for water and wastewater services and solid waste management. How would you rate the overall value received for your tax dollars?

Ranking of most to least preferred options for balancing the budget



26% indicated their first preference was to postpone projects for new amentities

31% indicated their last preference was to increase residential property taxes

Themes and trends in open ended questions

Top 3 services that are least important

Top 3 services that are most important

Survey feedback Summary

Themes and trends in open ended questions

Additional comments related to level of satisfaction with service levels

Housing and affordability
- lack of affordable housing for families and local workers
- high rents force residents into cramped housing
- concerns for losing valuable workers
- more investment in affordable employee housing
- prioritize locals housing over building more tourist accommodations
- WHA pricing is too high for local workforce

Transportation
- high parking fees, request for discount for locals
- request for improved transit, added frequency and regional transit
- bike safety on Valley Trail

Municipal services and infrastructure
- generally positive feedback on core services
- request for improved road maintenance and snow clearing
- concerns for efficiency of permitting processes
- appreciation for parks and recreation faciliites

Tourism
- concerns of overcrowding, loss of sense of community
- mixed views on locals needs vs. tourism need
- high cost of operating businesses in Whistler
- increased management of tourism impacts

Governance and communication
- mixed feedback on staff responsiveness and communication
- more transparency in decision-making
- concerns about tax rates and increases
- appreciation for opportunities for feedback

Summary of key messages to Council

Housing and affordability
- emphasis on need for more affordable housing
- high cost of living pushing out long-term residents
- consideration of vacant home taxes and limiting nightly-rentals

Municipal services and infrastructure
- maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure rather than building new
- mentions of aging infrastructure, road repairs and water/sewer services
- call for indoor recreation spaces

Tourism
- focus on needs of locals over tourists
- increased fees/taxes for visitors and second homeowners

Transportation
- calls for improved transit
- calls for safer bike routes
- mixed views on parking fees

Environment
- mentions of importance of climate change preparedness and wildfire protection
- mixed views on investing in environment vs. core services

Fiscal responsibility
- comments about reducing spending, cutting waste, and being more efficient with taxpayer money.
- concerns about high property taxes and calls to limit tax increases.

Governance
- calls for more transparency and community engagement
- suggestions to plan for long-term population growth and changing community needs.

Other local issues
- mentions of the importance of Whistler Waldorf School, racquet club, and community facilities.
- concerns about e-bike safety and trail use
- mentions of need for childcare facilities

Key messages to Council

If you had one key message to share with Council regarding the 2025 budget, what would it be?

Comments have not been edited for grammar and spelling.
Comments that contain personal information, profanity, abusive or inflammatory language have been edited or removed.

If you had one key message to share with Council regarding the 2025 budget, what would it be?

Housing

Please please build more affordable housing, renovating the parks won't help locals. Most of the locals I know moved out of Whistler already due to expensive way of living. Business are closing too

Housing, housing, housing must a priority. This is a tourist town, businesses cannot run without low income workers who are finding it impossible to survive in this town due to inflating rents.

Affordable, fair housing for young people or those who work in our community.

This would help Whistler's economic growth by adding to the market land to build houses from south of Function Junction to Callaghan; helping the community to have access to home ownership.

Local housing and safe transportation options are the main priorities for us.

End vacation rentals that have stripped affordable housing from hard-working Whistlerites.

Platforms like Airbnb and VRBO benefit the wealthy, leaving locals priced out. When landlords can earn $6k/month from short-term rentals, they're unlikely to rent to locals for $2k/month, driving up property prices and leading to multiple property ownership.

Affordable housing for essential service workers in our community

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Setting the WHA rental prices based on 30% of your income is not "affordable housing". It also unfairly benefits people who earn less on paper and do not disclose their cash tips. How anyone can save for a house while renting through the WHA is beyond me.

More affordable housing!

Sort out housing

Ensure there is a focus on affordable housing initiatives. Create more long term rental inventory - perhaps look at zoning bylaws for Phase A and B. New development must include suites for long term rental, regardless of size or location of the home ie if you build a new home, it must have space for a local resident to live.

Make Cheakamus a less car-dependent neighborhood, we keep building houses with no commercial spaces, we have a huge gym sitting idle, while we need to go to meadow park, the bus system is somewhat unreliable in winter, we don' t have grocery stores around, except for "El Cebu de Oro" where everything cost twice as much than independent and has no fruit, veggies or fresh stuff of any kind....

Think long term building for the future needs of the community. You can house people but they need more than just four walls. They need a community.

We appreciate the work that is done here. There is no way to keep everyone happy. From me, please allow us to own housing and continue to survive in this community.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING. FREE PARKING FOR LOCALS. AFFORDABLE HOUSING!!!

We need housing for local families ie not a 1 bedroom and not a 3 bedroom for $800 000k that's too much for most people I know) a family earning $140k combined can only get a pre-approval now for $700,000k if you haven't been to the bank lately it's based on 9% interest. It's too hard for both parents to be working and earning that amount of there is no daycare and VERY limited after school care. We could use a second community centre in the south end that could be used for both daycare are after school care. There is space in cheakamus to build and some units could be put aside to house the ECE workers required.

Property Taxes

Please no more property tax increases. tax tourists, ensure everyone is paying their share (so stop free camping, make people pay to park) responsible people who bought market value housing really can't afford to live here if property taxes keep on going up.

Property taxes are incredibly high. As someone who is lucky to have been able to buy a free market home, each year it becomes harder to afford the property taxes. My homes value goes up but when it is not sold it makes no difference to my income and therefore I have no extra money to keep paying the larger sum for taxes. With the extra tax generated by increased home values we can not increase the burden of running this town to the residential home owner. Do not increase property taxes.

Tax the rich, so you can help the year round residents, who are struggling to exist. Tax the rich subside the poor. Tax the rich and use that money to fund services for the residents. Tax the Non Doms to whom this place is a luxury, and help the people who live here so that here can continue to exist.

RMOW taxes are very high. Tax payers are very concerned that they are not getting value for their money. In many cases it appears that the RMOW staff lack any sense of urgency in completing their tasks.

The taxpayers are tapped out

Increasing taxes should be directed at those who can ford them the most: foreign owners, high end properties (ie worth >$5 million, then an even higher amount for >$10 million).

Put a tax on second homeowners who don't occupy their properties year-round. Better police and prosecute people who rent illegal air bnbs (They know the hours people work and remove their listings during that time. Stop unnecessary renovation projects i.e Rainbow Park

Property tax should be increased. It needs to have a minimal increase each year. The fact that the previous mayor didn’t raise taxes just means there becomes a back log. People need to have a consistent minor increase instead of no increase then all of a sudden a large one.

No big changes, strive to keep taxes as affordable as possible while we're all still in a challenging economic climate, from interest rates to inflation. When that calms, maybe we can all afford to pay a little more.

The Canadian property tax system was NEVER designed for a WHA model, especially one of this scale. With rapidly increasing numbers of WHA properties, the burden of expanded Municipal services is increasing, your costs are increasing - but these properties are not paying their fair share of taxes!! Furthermore WHA properties usually have a higher people count per sq ft! Please be fair, they got a good deal with initial purchase price - it's ridiculous that they are not paying their fair share of municipal running costs each and every year. E.G a 4 bed home in Rainbow of approx 2000 sq ft that houses 6 people pays 2k per year. In reflection that same home and people in Alpine pays 6.5k per year, usually more. This is ridiculous. How did you miss this? What are you going to do to fix it? This is an obvious option to introduce fairness of use of municipal services, and also increase municipal revenues. Do the right thing.

Empty vacation homes tax

Nightly rental homes tax

Increase property taxes drastically for home owners that have second home /vacation home / investment property here.

How you currently reach out to the community seems to attract a very specific demographic. I was at the meeting at the Rainbow theatre & was one if the younger attendees at 48. Most younger folks left part way through. If you want to reach the average long term non-home owning resident, try having people ask questions/survey users at Meadow Park or the Re-use It /Re-build it areas. I'm not a home owner but I don't think increasing home taxes is sustainable - it gets passed on to renters and can create hardship for the longest term residents who are retired & on a fixed income. I'd favour taxing people owning more than one property versus single home owners, especially if they don't live in any of them. Or a vacant home tax. I'd also re-explore the bowling alley usage of the former movie theatre. This town needs more independent family activites to take the pressure off. Meadow park - & parents sanity. Teens need more option.

Tax the hundreds of empty homes in Whistler, homes that are used maybe twice a year. Use this money to support our community.

And why exactly is Whistler NOT included as a Speculation & Vacancy Tax area???

Second big tax increase in back to back years. Put that money to good use!

Don’t raise property taxes! We are maxed out. Work more cost effectively. Use more RMI funding to upgrade infrastructure (find tourism twist that benefits locals as well)

Tax the rich and the tourists!

Ensure the tax increase is reasonable to meet inflation and increased costs. A zero percent increase is not realistic. You have to increase taxes reasonably. Homeowners and business owners have enough money to cover tax increases. They all have 2nd and third homes, boats, fancy cars.

They are not hard done by. Ask them where they went for vacation this year. Money is not an issue for them.

Make sure we are investing in the aging infrastructure we have or have a plan to replace it. Tax increases are necessary.

If the population is rising 33% very shortly why there isn't more than a 33% increase in tax revenue? Especially when many houses are being converted to multi million dollar homes with increased tax revenue.

Do not raise our taxes by 8% again. The average taxes have increased by 16% in the last two years. Taxes on my property have increased by 40% in the last two years. This is unsustainable for the property tax payer, especially local residents. We are not rich, but will soon be forced out of Whistler by increasing costs. We have deferred our taxes for the first time this year; up until now we have been debt free...there's something wrong when government who is supposed to be looking out for us forces us to incur debt!

I pay more tax for my 1200 sq ft townhome here in whistler than my 4600 sq ft in Victoria that has a bigger yard than here and have the same support

Impose an empty homes tax on the huge homes that no one is in for at least 6 months a year. Too many wealthy people who do not contribute to the community because they are never here for more than a few weeks at time if that.

A 7.5% increase with 3% inflation is unacceptable. Need to get it down to 5% or better. Can we get some MRDT funds allocated to policing to offset the upcoming increase? After all, we do have more police to handle visitors, so it is related!

Services & Fees

Free transit or locals free parking at municipality parking lots

More childcare!

Whistler is full. Growth will ruin Whistler. We do not need more housing/people/garbage/buses/traffic.

Stop charging more for locals and give them some local only perks. It feels like the municipality only makes good decisions in relation to tourist visitors (eg. free weekend transit, free weekend shuttles to parks), and it feels like a kick in the gut each time you release an initiative that you think is a good idea. When making policy decisions, think first "will this help or benefit the locals, or just tourists first.

social media

Cutting anything out of a budget is very difficult. Please weigh carefully the consequences of any changes to existing services.

Fund childcare. Other municipalities do it. You should too. It is really hard out there for families.

Increase fees on items like parking and development permits. But don't increase fees for items that

low income users rely on like Meadow Park rec passes, etc.

We need better parks and programs for our children. We need a second rec centre and places for locals that pay for these areas

Better the trail system to be safe for all"

Parking is a payment for land use but if transit and alternative transportation are not fully improved it is a real slap in the face to pay to park at community services. Residents deserve a break compared to visitors. The summer day use lot permit is not sufficient. Parks and facilities need to be financially accessible to residents.

Child care, the muni and the mountain are the top employers in town! There is some real responsibility that needs to take place on this front. Is that what the Spruce grove facility will be transitioned into? If people are going to work they need day care. On that note, I'm pretty disappointed to see our only alternative education stream being forced out.

Increase childcare in this community or you will lose our community.

The traffic from Function to the Village is bumper to bumper almost every day. Close the Day lots to day trippers and shuttle them from Callahan. All locals and employees shoud be able to park for free in the day lots. Also, no parking fees for local at all parks.

Review services to see how you can perform them better, while maintaining budget levels. And eliminate programs that no longer are relevant or worthwhile. This can happen within each department. It doesn't mean eliminating the broad categories of services, such as Parks or Recreation.

We have no idea of the sub programs that take place to carry out services such as Parks. This makes it difficult to suggest specific changes and makes public input unreliable.

Think creatively and focus on what the community "needs" not what noisy individual groups (ie tennis lobby, XC skiers) and others might "want". Nice to have is different than have to have.

Charge more for nordic day passes, parking and SF building permits, reduce transit fees especially for bulk rides targeting locals.

Think about maintaining what we have and focus service there. Tourism Whistler is long past its best before date time to move on. Cut management we need workers. Stop doing the same thing to solve problems that still remain (housing).

Increasing fees or cost of services for folks who use RMOW services isn't the way forward, increase taxes for 2nd homeowners.

Local parking fee, we are not tourist. This town without local is nothing. You are killing the local families.

Very happy with services.

I would love to see lights at the dirt jump park (like the skate park has) to allow riding at night, and a much bigger jump park.

Secure a location and plan for indoor tennis

Support indoor recreation spaces

Spending on health prevention through recreation facilities such as the tennis center is key.

Whistler needs new sewage facilities with more capacity for wastewater treatment. The reality is that the sewage facility in Cheakamus/99 Corner does not support Whistler's need for houses. Building a proper-sized sewage station by the waste station in Callaghan would be ideal since the Cheakamus River, with the current waste station uses, is easy to access by the 99. The transfer station smell will go well with the sewage smell.

Why do we still pay more for school, hospitals etc taxes than the regional average, we should not be the cash cow for other municipalities because our property values are high, or we should be our own area , to equalize these fees. This village already supports the tax base of the Provence beyond our means, and population.

Keep the quality of services. Understand will need to find more revenue to do so.

Please concentrate on delivering services and maintaining infrastructure in the municipality, and stop pie in the sky thinking about peripheral issues that are not directly in the municipal mandate (e.g. fixing global warming).

We should have 2 tiered fees, 1 for residents and a higher rate for visitors. If this reduces the number of visitors that would be fine, over tourism is a real thing in whistler

Raise user fees for non-residents and visitors.

Keep that raquet club - it is in the land covenant and is not being rightfully enforced

Consider better your audience seniors have nothing yet represent a huge percent of demographics

Please keep Meadow Park pass fees, nordic trail fees, buiding permit fees, parking fees affordable and accessible for locals, there are enough other expensive activities in Whistler, these are reasonable and appreciated.

More funding for Arts and Culture please!

You can increase fees all you like. I will not pay them. People are tired of paying to service the rich. This survey won't change anything. This council does not, and have never, cared about locals.

Please look to upgrade and offer community facilities. Perhaps a large indoor facility at spruce grove that caters for sports that are not currently supported in whistler (athletics etc) and a new pool facility with a water park that can be used year round. More large indoor spaces for community cinemas and rooms that can be used by youth groups/seniors etc.

Continue to support local non-profit organizations that are supporting the fabric of our community. We have to do better at creating connection and not isolation, whether that's through outdoor

recreation, exercise classes, arts/culture/heritage programs, or hands-on workshops and learning opportunities.

Give the Waldorf school back to the community and work on bringing more affordable childcare to whistler. We are in a crisis and families are stressed beyond measure right now.

Protect the drinking water the town from fire and improve the hwy.

Return to basic service spending for whistler families and community: fire, police, education, daycare, parks, water treatment. Start charging higher user fees to non-residents and reduce fees for locals (parking, rec facilities). Stop charging residents to pay for tourist experience upgrades. The economics for locals is untenable.

Please don't cut anything, the cost of living is increasing, we do accept that.

Focus on the services and initiatives that serve the needs of the people who live here and the rest will follow.

Priorities should be on public safety and essential services. Everything else is nice to have, not a need to have.

What about adding fees to RMOW services that used to be free?

Stop making locals pay more for amenities used by tourists and locals. Parking at parks should be free or low cost at parks (offer a seasonal parking pass for locals), and higher cost for tourists. Why do shuttles only run on weekends? I pay for services I cant even use

It would be amazing if we lower the parking fee for daylots 4 and 5.

If you want to get people out of their cars increase the bus offering!

Please think about EVERYONE that lives in Whistler. Increase fees for tourist things. We're in a tourist Municipality, take their money instead of the locals!

Fix the roads.

Protect Whistler. Use the Provincial revenue for the Resort to offset public safety costs. The majority of service demands on public safety are related to tourism, yet all that Provincial funding is spent on nice to have things and not essential things to protect the community

Great job on core services including water, sewer, roads, parks as well as increasing tourism, but please don’t over invest in non core municipal services (ie climate change or social projects). Thanks for keeping taxes low, we get good value as homeowners.

Focus on serving the people you represent.

Support families that are trying to live here and make a life for their kids. Daycare, education, parks - make people want to live here and raise a family

I would love to see things like more paddleboard storage at the lakes so ppl don’t have to drive. Would also be so amazing to have ski storage near the mountain so ppl would take transit to the mountain rather than driving.

Better and more lake access for residence living in Rainbow , Alpine and Emerald

Respect the people that work for you. We put a great deal of trust in your efforts as our lives don't allow enough time or money for us to review this work periodically. Please help us with housing, keep the trails in good shape and work for our survival from there. Thank you.

safety is paramount - control the e-bike explosion- police the roads and trails more.

Focus on key government service, waste, water/sewer and municipal infrastructure. Think long and hard before even hinting at raising taxes to solve problems. Especially problems not unanimously seen as important (Or, as in the case of climate change, even remotely addressable by the wringing of additional tax dollars out of the exhausted citizenry)

Increase cost of parking for day visitors and have a sliding scale parking fee for locals based on the employee status and lower income. Ie for people like me who have retired, have savings and own homes. we should be paying more for parking and other services than young employees with families.

Focus on Public Safety and impacts of Climate Change before any other non essential services

Spend on community. RMI projects are great, The staff time on those projects cannot be recovered through it however. That staff time should be seeking funding and grants for community amenities.

To use it more towards the community,we need more shcools and day cares, facilities for community and real affordable housing!

Build something that's going to strengthen the community as a whole as opposed to pitting community groups against each other. It's not an either or situation, it's about compromise. Less about the tourists, more about your community members who voted for you thinking that you would represent them as a whole. Divisive decisions only hurt the community.

Focus on maintenance of what we have. Stop building more new things.

Emergency: we need at least 250 places of day care TODAY. Private sector cannot make it happen in Whistler.

The Waldorf school is paying rent -- how will that be replaced? Can we expand the facility rather than cutting it? (I am not a Waldorf person).

Make the Valley Trail safer and more accessible (re-route/regrade for steep sections ie switchbacks or companion protected route along highway)

Stop investing in infrastructure and services that benefit the short term visitor or weekender local.

Year round locals are not supported enough. We need longer grocery store hours, healthier food options, indoor recreation and training facility based around skiing/biking.

Increased wildfire preparedness and staffing.

We need space for daycare

Budgeting

Start building up reserves, eliminate the spending on new frills (like additional recreation infrastructure) and tax appropriately (raise taxes to cover costs). Increase action on environmental and community initiatives.

Reduce management and consulting costs. It's ridiculous in comparison to the general population.

Tighten the belt. I want to pay less taxes and I'm happy to get less services in exchange. Trim the fat. We are spending beyond our means.

Make your staffing much more efficient. Streamline rather than add layers of paperwork and process. Bigger is not better.

Do more with less. Cut out the waste in the system and streamline operations.

Don't chase the money, chase what you have right now. We are losing workers.

Balance the budget by eliminating ineffective spending

Slow down on new projects and push back on Vail where fees are concerned, the supposed partnership seems to be very tilled in their favour.

Canada represents 2% of the world's emissions. We need to stop with the recycling over kill. Reducing our 2% will not affect or change Chinas 50%.

We have to think about Whistler, forest Fires, emergency procedures, drunk drivers, housing.

Most government administrations lack accountability for being over budget. Must address this by introducing accountability.

Hold the line on expenses by working hard on efficiencies.

End the madness. While you'll take a hit on tax revenue, you wouldn't have to dump millions into housing initiatives.

Costs at the RMOW are out of control. They need to be levered back. There need to be incentives for cost savings. Salaries are too high. There is no culture of efficiency within the RMOW so nobody cares that everything costs too much or takes too long.

Prioritize climate change above all else.

Start spending like it was your own money.

Stop allocating so much time and money to long range studies and plans with no concrete goals or time lines. Many vitally important decisions need to be made now; such as a location for replacing the Whistler Racquet Club, a home for the Waldorf School, and community space for seniors and community groups. Be bold like our foundering leaders!

All decisions regarding the budget should consider Climate Change

Reduce spending

Fiscal responsibility. I am concerned about the ballooning municipal wage bill under this council. I would like to see accountability and value for the dollars spent in all areas.

Do not increase the expenses unless revenues increase also.

Reduce focus on climate change

Act like it is a business with a fixed income focus on local permanent residents who work in whistler and provide them with amenities and pay your staff less.

Be much more efficient, let's see a lot more productivity. Less management and more people producing results.

We need to focus on efficiencies. Doing the same using less resources, whether they be financial or human.

Invest in aging infrastructure rather than feel good cool aid items

Please disclose clearly all legal fees that are being spent on useless suits that could be resolved by just talking

Use the current budget to strategically plan for population growth in the next 20 years.

Be open and transparent with the rationale behind your decisions. I'm happy to pay more if I understand why it is necessary. For example, I'd be happy to another $500 a year for Fire Smart activities, but would need convincing about more park upgrades

Stop increasing the number of staff, and look to cut waste

Focus on cost reduction.

Stop wasting our tax revenue on unnecessary projects. Learn how to prioritize and budget. The elected officials need to provide leadership not sit and wait for un-elected bureaucrats to run this community. Listen to the tax paying residents!

Listen to the voice of the community and review big-budget items.

Talk to small communities that seem to stretch their little tax revenue further than Whistler. It's amazing what other 10k to 15k communities can deliver on very small budgets. Talk to them. When I look around, it seems like rmow has lots of toys, time to spend, and isn't very efficient. But that's just what I perceive. Ie: dirt bikes for trail access (nice perk), high maintenance landscaping, expensive capital projects (bathrooms, bus loop)

It seems that the cost of everything keeps going up and up, so my comment to Council would be to direct the CAO and GM's to ensure staff are spending wisely.

Do you have a centralized purchasing department, or do departments purchase their own goods? With centralized department, there are possibilities to shop in bulk, save on shipping, build relationships with suppliers etc. BCSPI (B.C Social Procurement Initiative) - https://bcspi.ca/ had been discussed, but has yet to have made any traction.

The bid process for muni buildings is crazy two washrooms built are a higher build per sq foot cost then the average kadenwood home how can anyone think this is feesable? using clear cedar as a ceiling is not necessary why??? You need to order three times the material to apply the same square footage as regular cedar wood or just install something that is a zero or close to zero maintenance. It a washroom

Governance over services. Reduce development services that can be undertaken by the private sectors (WDC). Reduce management staff.

Curb the spending on staffing increases. Reduce some administrative overhead.

Keep basic municipal needs as priority.

No more expensive idealogical ""sessions"". Cease the cultural propoganda videos.

End the ""monitoring"" programs.

Let's work on maintaining/repairing what we already have instead of building/redesigning new facilities that we can't afford.

Please consider the total projected costs of climate change over the next few decades against the cost of mitigation strategies now.

Spend less trying to encourage more people to visit, and look after those who visit here and those who live here. Over tourism dilutes the experience.

Please plan better for spending and consider the community and locals vs tourist.

Stop spending on ridiculous projects, bike lanes on major arteries, green initiatives when No one can afford to live here.

You are doing well. Just try to be more effective. Don’t waste your time and money on useless people and unnecessary things. Thanks

Reduction of staff and services.

I feel like a full overhaul of all department budgets is required. My impression is that area budgets have a very siloed approach. Cuts in one area can help another and I don’t get the impression anyone is willing to make those types of reviews or cuts for the good of the entire overall organization.

Building and Development

Keep the Racquet Club at Northland or have Bessie Group finance a new location.

Move forward with the Northlands Blvd Redevelopment project (Beedie Group) and have them build our amenity (an indoor racquet facility)

Fix permitting! It’s a mess. It discourages compliances and places ridiculous burdens on home owners who are already stretching to live here. Don’t make it only affordable for the super rich

Make sure you build a facility for tennis before the whistler racket club disappears.

Need to cut red tape in all processes and simplify.

Keep development within reason. If our population grows do we have enough infrastructure and level of services to accommodate the increase in population."

Fix the building permit issue. It’s a broken system.

Re-zone some residential properties to no longer allow nightly rentals.

Tourism

Think more about locals and less about visitors

Figure out a balanced approach to tourism so people aren’t so on top of one another as much as they have been recently. Roads are insanely congested, hills and trails are over capacity, and we are eroding the experience of residents and visitors!

Tourists are important but the people that serve them are equally important and therefore their wellbeing

Focus more on keeping locals happy than drawing in more tourists as this place is over run on weekends, or at least don't give tourists all the free items and change locals for them such as free shuttles but only from the village.

Respect the locals requests than cater to the tourists. That would make locals happier and In return the tourists will come back as we offer good customer service when we are treated well.

Please try to focus on the members of this community who live and work here rather than trying to attract visitors. We, who live here, believe we are pretty good on the tourist numbers but often feel that the muni makes them the priority.

Focus on locals more than tourists. Vail has tourists covered.

Please do better at pushing the envelope on 'smart tourism' - implement some form of user fees for day visitors, and don't be afraid to try other bold initiatives. We can't keep talking about it (and hiring consultants!), we have to take action to save our resort's appeal and value.

Try to reduce day trippers, council should engage with vail and ask to increase ski day passed for day trippers and offer discount for day passes if the tourist stay in the hotel for example 1 night 5% , 3 nights 10% more then a week 15%

Put locals first. Charge tourists for parking and using our amenities.

Make this place livable and welcoming to tourists. Increase parking availability NOT promote bus travel. Infrastructure in this town is tired, spend there and you’ll get more tourists. For a world class resort, we don’t look like one walking down the stroll or driving on our roads. Increase highway lanes (you need this for evacuation purposes alone)

Why can’t visitors coming in with a car pay an entry fee? Exempt if they take the bus?

The province and Vail benefit greatly from Whistler. They need to support us more! The more we raise taxes and user fees and do not push back on those that are creating and benefiting from the problem, the faster we will crumble. We are the bottom of the feeding chain and they can't keep feeding from us.

Cost of living

Locals, families, workers, and businesses aren't surviving because they aren't being considered when decisions are being made. If you continue to pull every last dollar from them, there won't be a town for you to make your millions from… it's not rocket science, Whistler didn't used to be like this. You can do better.

We could have a vibrant, diverse community of long-term residents contributing to Whistler. Instead, we see transient workers juggling multiple jobs, burning out, and leaving town broke. Worse, some are trapped in work permits, tied to one employer for years, with no option to switch jobs or stay in the country.

This town is placing huge pressure on its working population to be able to even live here. All while focusing it's actual efforts on satisfying the wealthy homeowners and visitors with asthetically pleasing developments and planning that are absurdly expensive for the end result. It's an unsustainable future, when the majority of people you need to stay and operate the town for your homeowners and visitors can't even afford to live and work here.

Stop penalizing locals, so much of what is spent is on tourism …tax those. So many policies directly and indirectly drive our locals out of town, it's too expensive!

Focus on the the living residents here before the tourists. To bring the standard up that Whistler used to have we need to raise up the standard for people living here. Focus on building amenities that directly prosper residents not visitors. Lets bring back a community led town, the pride when residents are speaking to visitors is slowly diminishing and that affects our town in the long run. The current problems that have been voiced across social media is showing the dissatisfaction that residents have. A lot of us of all ages are feeling that our needs are not being heard nor met, greater lines of communication could be had.

We have a community still struggling to come back after the financial challenges of the pandemic and an economic downturn. Costs are rising in every area of people's lives, and if the RMOW could find ways to increase costs for those who have the luxury of visiting Whistler while giving residents who live and work here full-time a break, we would be stronger as a community in the long term.

No more green initiatives until this town is livable and able to accommodate all its visitors properly. And finally, change the road speed limits back, absolutely no one is driving 30kmph anywhere. What a joke

My message to council is: Please pay attention to how much of a financial strain is being put on our residents, especially those in a lower tax bracket. If folks making over $100k annually are feeling the financial strain, then our residents who independently make less than that are being hit harder.

Often people feel that council sits in an ivory tower, dictating to the community, vs really understanding how hard it has been for many of our community members.

Despite being one of Canada's wealthiest provinces, B.C. struggles with significant income inequality and housing affordability issues, particularly in urban centres like Vancouver," Food Banks Canada staff said.

We compare Whistler to cities like Vancouver and I know our community is struggling.

General

Switch your focus.

Please continue the great work.

Please listen to your qualified staff and the tourism experts. Please know what you don't know.

Only the wealthiest people are in whistlers future due to the increasing unaffordability even for middle class senior citizens. This might be my last season visiting due to the increasing difficulty and affordability to rent for the season.

Reversing the damage may be difficult, but it's a necessary step.

Keep a vision of healthy vibrant W front and centre. Make it a showcase for innovation in these areas - compare to other mountain towns worldwide. Infrastructure deferral is showing badly everywhere right now - people get it. Nothing matters if it burns down. If it did, what would people " build back" and what would they let go?

Good luck, you have a tough job ahead.

Be smart !!

Protect Whistler First

Keep the main thing, the main thing.

Things are generally good - don't make any big changes.

None of this will matter if the town is burned in a Wildfire. We need a dramatic escalation of preparedness work if we have any hope of surviving a wildfire event. Examples include:

> Consequences for property owners who do not Firesmart their property. I doubt you can force people to Firesmart their property but you could increase property taxes for everyone and then give those who receive a Firesmart certification a discount on their taxes (so they remain unchanged).
>
> Hundreds of trees need to be cut down in Whistler on both public and private land. Direct public funding to this and make the process as easy as possible for homeowners (e.g. why do we need a permit to remove a tree when we have hundreds if not thousands that need to be cut down)?

Have Firesmart people out in the neighbourhoods contacting owners who's properties are overgrown and represent fire hazards

Clear a path of trees surrounding the key ignition areas so that we have separation between houses an forest

The threat of forest fires is real. Very real. Please take a more pro active approach. Trees are starting to get sick around Whistler's forests, so what's the plan? Wait 5yrs and see just how sick??!? You can do better. Please be proactive with ACTIONS, not reactive with words when it's too late and Jasper will happen here.

Focus on locals' needs

Ensure that all trail users can safely use the valley trail without fear of being mowed down by an e-bike that weighs 70lbs travelling at 40km/hr

Please continue to look at the mosaic of our community, and not just the squeaky wheels. Please make decisions that your gut tells you are in the community's best interest, AND that go against the loudest people in the room.

Better parks planning

Leave the parks alone (they are great)

Light rail!!

In order to hear from diverse voices to make the informed decisions for the 2025 budget, allow Permanent Residents can vote to the municipal election.

Without locals there is no more Whistler.

Not sure if this is a key message but for what it's worth here it is: I am reading about Community groups that want their own space to meet. Rather than building more infrastructure can we look at engaging the Tourism Community to host meetings at Hotels, Maury Young Arts Centre, Audain or the WCC. With Q1 down and future projections softening, I'm sure there would be more of an appetite to support our community. It's a way to invest back into Whistler businesses too. Also, space sharing with the WCSS and perhaps Waldorf could work too.

Let the Waldorf School stay where it is.

Sort out the busses falling into ditches when theres snow

Tourists and second homeowners should not get a say in what is happening in the community. Only those working IN town.

community first