



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2016

Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Awards over \$250,000 to Sea to Sky Initiatives

The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation has recently awarded over \$250,000 in charitable grants to Sea to Sky non-profit organizations.

"The Foundation is committed to helping organizations that benefit residents of the Sea to Sky Corridor with an emphasis on children, youth and families. As always it was extremely difficult to choose between all of the applications we received" said Mei Madden, Executive Director of the WBF.

The largest grant of \$43,000 was donated to the Spearhead Huts Society whose plan is to have a system of three mountain huts strategically placed along the Spearhead ski traverse route. Huts will accommodate approximately 35 people each. The first hut to be constructed will be the Kees and Claire Memorial Hut and this WBF grant will go towards its water supply system which is required by both BC Parks and Vancouver Coastal Health.

\$18,200 was granted to the Mamquam River Access Society who are currently in the process of fundraising to build a not-for-profit campground beside the Mamquam River in Squamish. This campground will provide an affordable camping option while also providing opportunities for at-risk youth and individuals with developmental disabilities to gain work experience. These funds in particular will go towards the clean-up of the industrial mess, and they will begin by grinding dead stumps.

Myrtle Philip Community School will receive \$15,000 to help pay for a covered outdoor classroom for the "Kids on the Go" and after school programs. The outdoor facility will be a simple post and beam structure with multiple purpose benches and tables. Construction will likely begin in the spring of 2017.

\$15,000 is being donated to Squamish BMX to cover the shortfall for their start gate. The WBF has funded the start gates for the three BMX Clubs in the Sea to Sky Corridor for \$35,000 each, but because the gates came from the US, this club was \$15K short with the exchange rate at the time of purchase. Squamish BMX has over 150 members and in June 2016 they played host to the Sea to Sky Nationals and had over 1300 racers participate.

Whistler Secondary School received \$13,573 towards a number of needs including an updated MAC Lab server and Airport Extreme router, stools for the Food Room, their drama program, and new uniforms for the boys' basketball team.

\$12,000 was given to the Mount Currie - Lil'wat Nation for an upgrade to their recreation sports fields and playground, as well as to purchase bleachers. Although the fields are used extensively by the community, they are not very safe in the condition that they are in. The funds will be managed by the Recreation Department and Public Works.

The Whistler Waldorf School has received funds for their science lab and safety equipment. The school utilizes an experiential learning methodology where teachers purposefully engage learners in direct experience.

The Stawamus School will be purchasing new Macbook Airs to be used for their "Learning Expeditions" which are project based learning programs comprised of 30% Aboriginal learners and 30% Special Education learners, grades 7-12. Established to meet the needs of students that don't fit within the traditional structures of regular high schools.

Whistler Animals Galore (WAG) was awarded \$5,600. Due to the expansion of the new social services bin, WAG is losing a portion of their existing outdoor dog run (previously funded by the WBF). This latest grant will go towards their Simtek Stone Fencing to be built around the perimeter of the altered dog run as it will be surrounded by increased traffic, parking, roads etc. The fencing will protect the dogs from both the traffic and the increased stimulation.

Arts Whistler will receive new audiovisual equipment for the gallery, the studio, the boardroom and the multipurpose room in Maury Young Arts Centre. Each of these rooms is used by many community groups and organizations to facilitate a wide range of activities, but the current equipment is from 2001 and is no longer compatible with new technology.

Also included among the successful recipients within this fall funding period were Kidsport Squamish, Squamish Food Bank Society, Zero Ceiling, Pemberton Canoe Association, Sea to Sky Community Services, Whistler Youth Basketball, Spring Creek Community School, Pemberton Secondary School, Squamish Climate Action Network, Pemberton BMX, Whistler Nordics Ski Club, École La Passerelle, Whistler Centre for Sustainability Institute, Pemberton Secondary School Outdoor Program, Whistler Quilters Guild, and Bratz Biz.

The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation is also proud to remain the title sponsor of KidSport Whistler. KidSport provides funding for financially restricted children so they are able to participate in sport. The WBF has been the title sponsor since 1997.

The Foundation also matched all Whistler Blackcomb employee donations to the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Environmental Fund which supports environmental projects in the Sea to Sky Corridor.

Help us continue to support our local communities by participating in the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation's winter fundraiser, the **TELUS Winter Classic** to be held on January 20 & 21, 2017. More details are available at www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com. Since 1992, the Foundation has given out more than 10.3 million dollars in grants. Application submission deadlines are October 1st and April 1st of each year.

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