



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2016

Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Awards Over \$230,000 to Sea to Sky Initiatives

The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation (WBF) has awarded more than \$230,000 in charitable grants to Sea to Sky non-profit organizations.

The Foundation is committed to enhancing and helping organizations that benefit residents of the Sea to Sky Corridor with an emphasis on children, youth and families. "The quality of life in our communities continues to be a high priority for the Foundation and as always it was extremely difficult to choose between all of the great organizations that applied", said Mei McCurdy, Executive Director of the WBF.

\$35,000 was donated to the Whistler Sailing Association for their Dock Project which will accommodate a fleet of sailboats and create more storage for the club. The dock will be accessible and will be utilized by the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program as well.

\$33,000 was granted to École Les Aiglons towards Phase One of their Outdoor Learning and Play Area. École Les Aiglons is one of 3 francophone schools in the Sea to Sky. Sister schools are École la Passerelle and École la Vallée.

Whistler Fire Fighters Association received \$22,500 towards a container for a training facility to conduct live fire training. This will allow firefighters to develop skills in a controlled environment including confined space training and other specialized training scenarios. This will also allow for a greater understanding of fire behavior.

\$20,000 is being given to the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program to purchase an XCRSport On Adaptive Mountain Bike and an Explorer 111 Adaptive Mountain Bike. These bikes will benefit individuals with spinal cord injuries or limited mobility and are suitable for both children and adults.

Platypus Childcare Society received \$20,000 towards new equipment for an outdoor play area. Its location in the Amblepath development means the play equipment can also be used by the community when daycare is not in session.

Pemberton Childcare Society was given a grant of \$14,000 to update their playground, including repairs to the concrete walkways, bench seating area, fences, sand box, and structure repairs. Over 200 children attend the daycare.

Whistler BMX has been given an additional \$14,000 from the WBF to go towards the building of the track which started this April and is nearing completion. The Foundation also donated \$35,000 in 2014 to purchase their start-gate.

\$10,000 was granted to the Northern Outreach Program. This is an alternative education program that operates in Mt. Currie on Lil'wat Nation Territory. It is an aboriginal education-focused program designed to provide support for youth (16-19) that have faced barriers to success. It provides a unique learning environment that supports learning challenges and social emotional needs. It started in 2012 and has had a notable impact on increasing aboriginal graduation rates.

\$8,000 is being given to the Spo7ez Cultural Centre towards their Exhibit "Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools - Where are the Children?" The exhibit contains photos, stories, maps & artifacts that help to create a better understanding of the lasting impacts of residential schools and how they have shaped Canadian history and affected First Nations relationships.

Winds of Change, BC Luge Association, Stewardship Pemberton Society, Whistler Writers Group,

Whistler Learning Centre, Squamish Hospital Foundation, BC Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association, Pemberton Youth Soccer Association, JUMP Math, the Arthritis Society and the Whistler Refugee Response Group also received grants.

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. 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 Golf Classic** to be held on September 16, 2016. More details are available at www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com Since 1992, the Foundation has given out more than 10 million dollars in grants. Application submission deadlines are October 1st and April 1st of each year.

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