

WHAT IS A QUALIFIED WHISTLER BUSINESS?

In July 2019 the eligibility criteria for the WHA Employee Housing Programs were updated to reflect the newly introduced [RMOW Employee Housing Policy K-01](#). For all Employees and Retirees wishing to participate in the WHA Employee Housing Programs their employment must meet the requirements of a Qualified Whistler Business.

This document is intended to help Employee Housing Program participants understand if their employment in Whistler meets the requirements of a Qualified Whistler Business.



WHAT IS A QUALIFIED WHISTLER BUSINESS?

A **Qualified Whistler Business** means an individual, partnership or incorporated body, with one or more employees, which operates a business in Whistler that:

- a) holds a valid RMOW business license, which is not a 'non-resident business license', or is legislatively exempt from business licensing requirements (e.g. schools); and
- b) has an office or premises that are physically located in Whistler or at the Whistler Olympic Park; and
- c) is a permitted use of the business premises under the Municipality's zoning bylaw; and
- d) is primarily* and directly servicing Whistler local residents, Whistler homeowners, Whistler businesses or Whistler tourists:
 - i. in the case of a home-based, self-employed, or mobile business, the business derives more than 75% of its business income from Resort Municipality of Whistler local residents, tourists, or Whistler local businesses.
 - ii. for commercial (non-residential) premises, the company must provide 75% of all of its business services within the RMOW for Whistler local residents, tourists, or Whistler local businesses.

An **Employee** is an individual who is either employed or self-employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week on an annual basis by a Qualified Whistler Business.

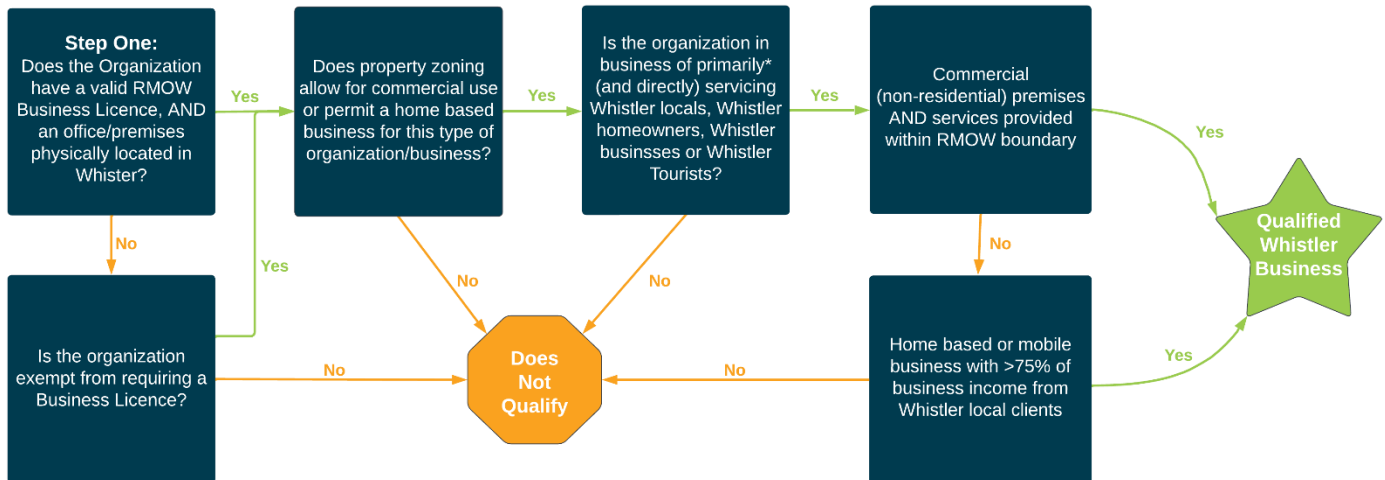
A **Retiree** is an individual who (i) is at least 55 years of age; (ii) has ceased full-time employment (such that they work less than 30 hours per week) and was an Employee for at least 10 of the 12 years immediately preceding the date on which the individual ceased full-time employment; and (iii) is a Canadian citizen or has Canadian permanent resident status.

**Primarily is defined as the main purpose of the business/operation, which would translate to gross sales being generated predominantly by this group of customers. This includes Whistler businesses that were initially established & operated to produce goods and services for the Whistler local market and met criteria 1) - 4) above during their start up phase and continue to operate and produce products and provide services in Whistler.*



HOW YOU CAN CONFIRM IF YOUR EMPLOYER IS A QWB

Follow the steps in the flow chart below to help understand if your employer meets the requirements of a Qualified Whistler Business:



If after reviewing the steps outlined in the graph its not clear if your employment qualifies as a Qualified Whistler Business contact the WHA at mail@whistlerhousing.ca



HOW THE WHA CONFIRMS WHISTLER EMPLOYERS AS A QWB

The WHA works closely with the RMOW to confirm which Whistler businesses meet the requirements of a Qualified Whistler Business. When an application for Employee Housing is received, additional documentation may be required to confirm that the applicants employer meets the definition of Qualified Whistler Business. Examples of information that may be requested include:

- A copy of the valid RMOW Resident Business Licence
- Verification of the company's Whistler office location
- A full copy of pertinent tax documentation
- Detailed annual business invoices confirming client addresses for service in Whistler