



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 2017**

## **Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Awards over a quarter of a million dollars to Sea to Sky Initiatives**

The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation has recently awarded over a quarter of a million dollars 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. It is so rewarding to disburse these funds to some amazing local non profits" said Mei Madden, Executive Director of the WBF.

The largest grant of \$51,000 was donated to the Children's Nature Play Park Centre at the Pemberton Community Centre. This project has been phased over a number of years with the grass maze and interlocking brick patio already at completion. This third phase which the Foundation is funding includes a large play structure, outdoor classroom and a perimeter loop.

École Squamish Elementary would like to create a stimulating area for outdoor learning and play and the WBF is on board to support this initiative with a grant of \$41,000 which will cover the costs of the Nature Play & Outdoor Classroom including a gazebo.

\$40,000 was granted to the Pemberton & District Public Library. Since 2008, visits are up by more than 75% and upgrades are needed to optimize space to accommodate the changing needs of the community.

Squamish Off Road Cycling Association (SORCA) has received \$25,000 which will go towards the Asphalt Resurfacing of their pump track. This pump track will allow the BMX racing clubs and riders of all ages to train and prepare during the wetter months.

\$15,000 has been given to the Lions Bay Search & Rescue for the relocation and rebuilding of their emergency cache which contains valuable lifesaving gear (i.e. stretcher, clothing, emergency shelter etc.). Currently their cache is located in a depression where deep snow gets deposited and has led to the cache being inaccessible for most of the year. They have found a more suitable location and have drafted plans for a steel platform so that the equipment can be elevated and accessible year-round.

Whistler Minor Hockey Association was granted just over \$11,000 for a cross ice hockey divider and goalie equipment. The divider will be placed in the middle of the ice surface so it allows for two teams to practice at the same time. Younger teams will be able to have games on a smaller surface which allows for more puck touches and provides more skill development. The new goalie pads for Bantam and Midget group are necessary for this age group 13-18 as they need to have high quality equipment for safety reasons.

The Pemberton Food Bank received \$7,500 which will help them to keep this important drop-in program running twice a month. The people using the food bank are residents of Pemberton, Mount Currie, N'Quatqua, Samahquam and Skatin.

Just over \$6,000 has been donated to the Whistler Arts Council to purchase new equipment for the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Presentation Technology Fund.

Garibaldi Highlands Elementary was given over \$5,000 to purchase a SMART Multi Touch Interactive Whiteboard for their Early French Immersion Program. Interactive whiteboards provide kinesthetic, audio and visual learning.

The Whistler Squash Club has been given \$5,500 to purchase a ball machine. The Club would like to grow the squash community and specifically target children between the ages of 8-18. They currently have a weekly program for Juniors and offer introductory classes in the PE school program. This machine would be used as an effective training tool to consistently deliver balls at a particular speed and position.

The Whistler Sea Wolves Swim Club is being granted \$5,000 to purchase a PA and a Wedge Block System. This will allow them to host revenue generating swim meets throughout the year. Wedge blocks are used to sit on existing start blocks that allow different start points for different swim strokes. The Club is comprised of both Whistler and Pemberton children and adults from ages 7-100.

Also included among the successful recipients within this Fall funding period were the Sea to Sky Crimestoppers, Whistler Youth Basketball, Whistler Secondary School Theater Program, the X'it'olacw Community School Boys Soccer Team, the Whistler Multicultural Network, Junior Achievement of British Columbia to fund programs in the Sea to Sky Corridor and the Whistler Skating Club.

The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation is also proud to also be the title sponsor of KidsPlay Whistler. KidsPlay provides funding for financially restricted children so they are able to participate in sport. The program is run through Whistler Community Services

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 March 9 & 10, 2018. More details are available at [www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com](http://www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com). Since 1992, the Foundation has given out more than 11 million dollars in grants. Application submission deadlines are April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

For more information, please contact:

**Mei Madden, Executive Director**  
**Whistler Blackcomb Foundation**

Phone: 604-938-7321

Fax: 604-938-7337

E:-Mail: [mmadden@whistlerblackcombfoundation.com](mailto:mmadden@whistlerblackcombfoundation.com)

Website: [whistlerblackcombfoundation.com](http://whistlerblackcombfoundation.com)