



# Building the 2024 Budget

Early input survey  
Summary of Results

October 26, 2023



# Building the Budget Analytics

August 22 - September 25



**228** Engaged Participants

**205** completed the survey

**23** completed the Budget Quiz



**5,458** Informed Participants

**637** Engage Whistler page visits

**2065** impressions on social posts

**57** social engagements (clicks + reactions)

**2697** Whistler Today newsletter subscribers

**2** newspaper ads in the Pique



# Building the Budget Summary

## Survey Respondent Demographics

**Housing status:** Of the survey respondents:

- 37.5% are permanent residents and own market housing
- 19.2% are permanent residents and own an employee-restricted home
- 17.3% are permanent residents and rent market housing
- 16.3% are second homeowners
- 7.2% are a permanent residents and rent an employee-restricted home.
- 0.5 % are seasonal/temporary residents
- 2% either do not live in Whistler or said ‘other)

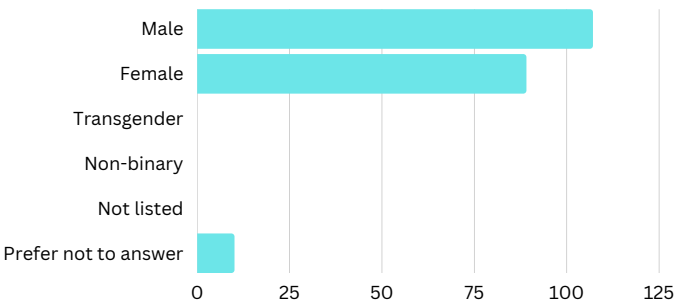
**Neighbourhoods:** Of the survey respondents, the most engaged neighbourhoods were:

- Alpine Meadow (16.5%),
- Cheakamus Crossing (13.6%)
- Emerald Estates (7.3%)

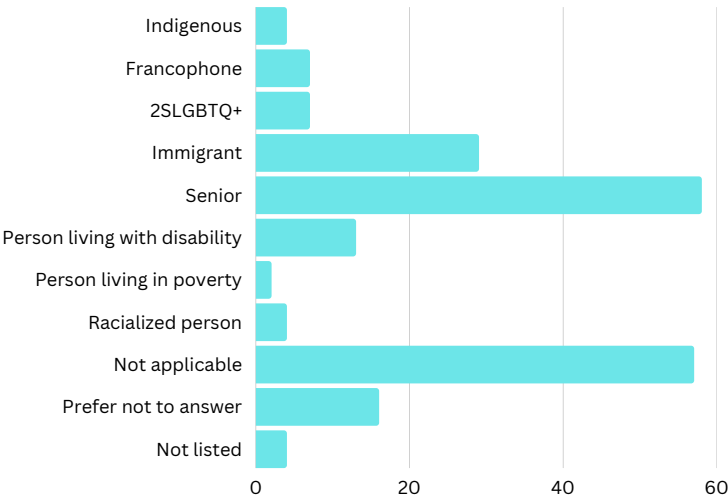
**Time lived in Whistler:** Of the survey respondents:

- 35.3% lived in Whistler for 25+ years
- 15.9% lived in Whistler 15-25 years
- 16.9% lived in Whistler 10-15 years
- 18.8% lived in Whistler for 5-10 years
- 11.6% lived in Whistler 1-5 years
- 1.4% lived in Whistler less than one year

### When asked how respondents identify



### When asked if respondents identify as belonging to the following group(s)



# Building the Budget Summary

**Council Focus Area Prioritization:** Overall respondents ranked their priorities in the following order:



Housing



Climate Action & Mitigation



Community Engagement



Smart Tourism

Highest Priority



Lowest Priority

**Investment priorities:** Respondents were asked to rank their investment priorities for the 2024 budget

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Provision of Water and Sewer Services	5.75
Roads (snow clearing and maintenance)	5.86
Transit	6.03
Community Infrastructure Improvements (park upgrades, Valley Trail expansion, new recreation amenities)	6.97
Provision of Protective Services (Bylaw, RCMP, Emergency Management)	7.10
Investments into Active Transportation Infrastructure (snow clearing on Valley Trail, Bike Valet, secure bike storage)	7.11
Recreation and Facilities (Meadow Park Sports Centre, Recreation Programming, Kids on the Go, Youth Centre)	7.20
Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	7.44
Resort Operations (Village and Parks maintenance, horticulture, pedestrian snow clearing)	7.62
Solid Waste Management	7.75
Building and Development Services (Building permits, new developments)	8.24
Community Investments (grants to community groups)	9.16
Whistler Public Library	9.18
Festivals, Events and Arts (Summer Concert Series, VSO, New Year's Eve, Canada Day Family Apres)	9.61

When filtering responses by 'How long have you lived in Whistler?', priorities fluctuated.

## Council Priorities (top 3)

1-15 years:



15-25+ years:



## Investment priorities (top 3)

1-15 years: Transit, roads, active transportation

15-25+ years: Water and sewer, Smart Tourism, Engagement, Climate



In the reporting, the number that is provided is the average ranking. This means that if an option shows a value of 2.36, then on average, this option got ranked in 2.36th position. In other words, the lower the value, the more preferred this option is.

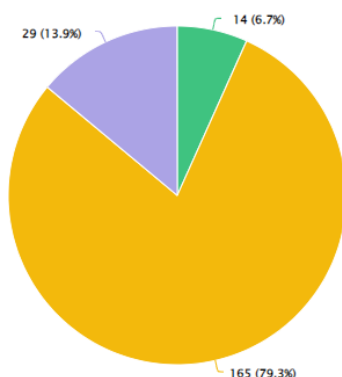


# Building the Budget Summary

## When asked for rationale for their first priority, the reoccurring themes included:

- Focusing on essential community services (water, sewer, waste management, roads, safety)
- The urgency of adding housing inventory for Whistler's workforce
- Climate mitigation and adaptation are emergencies and need immediate attention
- Increasing transit service locally and regionally and active transportation are critical means to meeting our climate goals while reducing traffic congestion
- Improving permitting timelines and prioritizing employee housing is essential for addressing housing shortage
- Desire to prioritize resident needs first
- Ensuring water and wastewater infrastructure meets demands
- Arts and culture elevate us from 'just' a sports mountain town
- Preference to focus on maintaining and replacing older infrastructure over building additional infrastructure
- Public safety makes a community liveable and welcoming
- Adequately supporting community groups who support the community

## When respondents were asked how they would like to see the RMOW make its financial decisions:



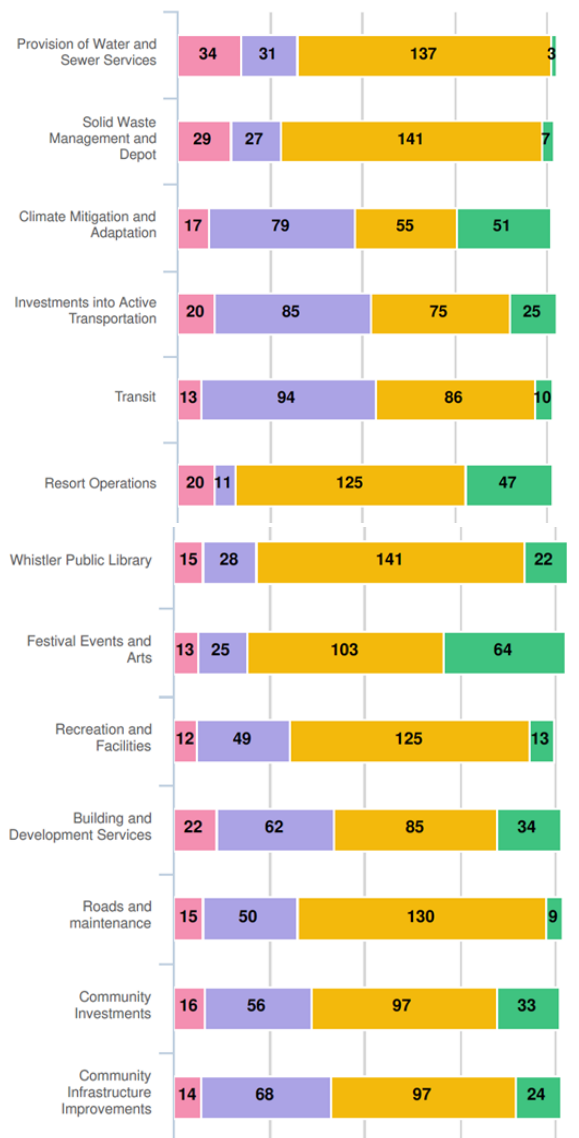
**79%** said 'balance spending on critical needs of today, while also saving for the future'

**14%** said 'reduce contributions to reserves and focus on the needs and wants of today'

**7%** said 'the RMOW should plan and save for the future through adding to reserves'

# Building the Budget Summary

**Funding of services:** Respondents were asked to indicate if a service should have additional funding, decreased funding, or should remain the same.



## Question options

- Not sure
- Increased funding
- Keep current funding
- Decreased funding

## Observations:

- On average, respondents felt most municipal services should remain at current funding levels but most notably for the 'Provision of water and sewer services', 'Solid waste management' and 'Whistler Public Library'
- More respondents showed support for increasing funding for 'Climate mitigation and Adaptation,' 'Investments into active transportation' and 'Transit' than keeping it the same or decreasing it. It should also be noted that 28% of respondents felt that 'Climate Mitigation and Adaptation' should be decreased
- While 47% of respondents felt that 'Building and Development Services' funding should remain the same, 34% felt it should be increased.
- While most respondents felt 'Festivals, Events & Animation'\* and 'Resort Operations' funding should remain the same, 33% and 26% respectively felt funding should be decreased. *\*We did not distinguish in the survey that non-municipal tax dollars fund FE&A, so this may have impacted results.*



# Building the Budget Summary

**What do you see as being the biggest challenge for the 2024 budget? Do you have ideas or recommendations addressing this challenge? \***

## Housing Themes

Rising cost of construction and interest rates impacting housing...consider utilizing existing housing to suit the needs of the community. So many suites unrented or people in WHA that have abused the system and have other homes or properties.

Increasing housing starts and projects is imperative to address this long-standing issue. Speed up permitting, increase infill housing opportunities, consider co-op housing (partner with businesses to provide more staff housing), tax incentives for property owners to create affordable rooms/suites for employees/full time residents, increase taxes on properties that charge excessive rental rates to employees/full time residents (anti-profiteering), increase taxes on properties that have no employees/full-time residents housed there, put an end to high-end spec homes in traditional residential neighborhoods

Inflation and the cost of living.

## Transportation & Transit Themes

Not prioritizing the things that are going to give Whistler more long term sustainability for its locals - transit and housing. Transit solves many of the climate goals too. Subsidize bus passes for locals and implementation of a park and ride system through a development of parking in the south end of the village.

Create policy incentives for hotels to get guests to the resort using a form of transit other than single family vehicles, and create tax breaks for employers to provide housing.

Providing better [transit]- much more frequent services...have small vans vs big buses. This is more common in European ski resorts. Local van service that runs every 10-15 minutes.

## Climate Themes

Unforeseen expenses. We don't know what the climate will bring this year.

Meeting our climate goals. Recent report shows a sobering reality of not being on target and it will take drastic changes and a ton of money to get us where we need to be...and it's not something we can put off anymore, it'll only get more expensive.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation - are we able to keep pace with work to prevent forest fires requires with increase in global warming? Take advice and wisdom from our Indigenous peoples!!

## Municipal Services Themes

There are massive community needs and deficiencies. Cutting taxes and minimizing tax increases have lead to these deficiencies...we need to meet the needs of the community regardless of the tax increase... A number of the RMOW's amenities and buildings are substandard.

Speeding up the permit process, specifically for employee housing initiatives...Asking people for an engineer approved plan and encouraging the use of a contractor for permitting on a simple project (such as deck) does not exactly help with the general affordability of this town. Having an actual person at the muni office to answer questions for homeowners as to rules and permitting might help get better traction on creation and utilization of employee suites, or maintaining and improving current properties.

More investment in arts and culture. Sport is too dominant in our tourism model. Also too much municipal red tape.

Minimizing tax increases. Stick to the core competencies. eg. roads, water, sewer.



# Building the Budget Summary

**What do you see as being the biggest opportunity for the 2024 budget? Do you have ideas or recommendations taking advantage of this opportunity? \***

## **Housing Themes**

Employee housing - affordable housing!

Turning the new-found revenues into rebates for tax-payers and subsidized parking for residents.

The overwhelming need and will for more housing. It's time to deal with Airbnb.

Facilitate affordable housing. Costs of construction and turnaround in planning and development could improve a lot

Allocating money directly towards staff housing. Creating a budget item for the annual building of staff housing. Have the taxpayers contribute to employee housing.

## **Transportation & Transit Themes**

Investing in the transit system and transit infrastructure is the biggest opportunity.

Allocate more of the parking revenue (day lots, parks, etc) to subsidizing transit and active transportation. This helps reduce traffic congestion and climate change

Create policy incentives for hotels to get guests to the resort using a form of transit other than single family vehicles, and create tax breaks for employers to provide housing.

## **Climate Themes**

Increasing Zero Waste and Climate Change staff capacity and adding additional policy/enforcement/education on this.

Stop spending so much time and energy on climate change.

## **Climate Themes Con't**

Focusing climate investments in personal safety of the community vs carbon offsets. Tourists generate massive carbon footprint to come to our community. The residents and visitors are at constant risk with limited egress, unenforced by law breaches for fires in the forest / urban interface in all of our neighbourhoods and inadequate preparedness for massive displacement from a fire event.

## **Municipal Services Themes**

Realizing the money that can be saved by having more updated emergency services (insurance rates will be heavily affected over the long term by investing in staffing, equipment and buildings)

Capitalize on under utilized attractions to Whistler tourism, such as arts and culture, which also make Whistler more liveable for locals. Continue to expand the library as a community hub by offering more programs

More support for Youth programs and initiatives through things like the youth centre and special out trip life experiences as well as for young adults in town and also seniors. They are some of the vulnerable populations around

Any new initiative should be funded by the user... i.e., climate change- charge a road toll for going through Whistler, parking - increase fees substantially, garbage charge by the bag, water - charge for usage

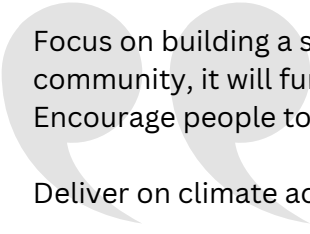
Minimizing tax increases. Stick to the core competencies. eg roads, water, sewer.





# Building the Budget Summary

**Key Messages to Council:** The following is a complete summary of the messages directly to council which respondents took the time to put in their own words.



Focus on building a stronger community. Tourism will need to take care of itself for a bit. If you neglect community, it will further collapse and we will see a greater exodus of community members than ever before. Encourage people to gain skills and work together for a better future.

Deliver on climate action, transit, active transportation and housing. These things are interconnected.

Cut. Cut. Cut.

Over the last 15 years the sense of community has slowly been draining from Whistler. We continue to lose the heart of the Whistler Community. People are leaving and moving away. My feeling is the RMOW is okay with this, focus has seemed to be on tourism, second homeowners and creating the perfect PG rated 'disney land' for adults. All at the expense of the people who are desperately trying to make Whistler home, and -be the community- I really hope the 2024 budget and the initiatives focused on will prove me wrong.

No in-camera meetings.

Increase spending on climate measures so we can meet our 2050 targets. We heavily rely on Winter as our main season, and less snow and warmer weather is detrimental to the resort as a whole.

Too much staff at RMOW, especially at the fire department. Many making more than \$100,000. Reduce staffing levels.

Please help us to have better time in Whistler while working \*\*\* off

Deal with illegal Airbnb's. They are reducing opportunities for long-term renters. Thx.

more affordable housing rental and for local resident ownership.

would want council to look at inflation and pay attention to the folks in our community who are really being affected by this and have the budget support those individuals.


WE NEED MORE HOUSING

Be bold and creative

Focus on taking care of the people who live, work and contribute to Whistler

We need affordable housing. As someone who lives here it seems like nothing is being done

Invest in whatever area is going to bring more affordable housing to the community.



improve non-car-based transport infrastructure.

The basic needs of life must be met before people can concern themselves with things like climate action. Improve the housing situation first and foremost and create an incentive for restricted market owners to maintain and upkeep their homes.

If we don't set ourselves up to be on track to meet our climate goals then there is no point worrying about the other priorities, in the grand scheme of things housing doesn't matter if we can't live here due to climate change

Housing for locals

Climate change is here and now. Make moves that matter by investing in a sustainable future... look outside of the RMOW to find out what that really means. What incentives do locals need to change their behaviours. How can we better equip our community for mitigation and adaptation. Invest in the future because without changing our habits now, the future is pretty bleak.

Resources for families!

Housing, Housing, and Housing Affordable and Adequate Inventory

Pay closer attention to the wants and needs of the people who prop up Whistler, the employees. Focus on getting employee housing and transport in order.

no tax increase, free bus transportation, higher parking lot rates

Spend now to invest in future.

Don't waste our tax dollars catering to tourists. Improve infrastructure for locals.

Whistler Blackcomb ski passes should allow for free transit if you're dressed to go skiing. WB should invest in our transit and to help reduce cars to the hill. Advertise shuttles to the resort from the airport. Whistler residents are doing a great job of cycling, taking transit, electric vehicles and bikes. It's the tourists that are increasing traffic, causing accidents on the highways and affecting our greenhouse emissions.

Focus more on local community needs over tourism...

You must find ways to do MORE with LESS (it isn't a dirty concept it's an important part of life) yin-yang, ebb and flow these are necessary to contend with both - every dept should be able to do core functions for 10% less - every dept should be prepared for more trimming next year Wasting money is one thing with rates at .6% Entirely different situation for everyone where it is now. Not to mention inflation. You also need to look back at some of the trendy spending that was done and see what that does for us today and be ready willing and able to trim. All Canadians want a clean, green, environment but that's not a blank check or an excuse to make everything way more difficult and expensive for the common Canadian. If everything is getting more expensive and more difficult for the common Canadian the policies aren't working likely causing more harm to people and families. (Comment edited for brevity)

Affordable housing with storage & parking for those of us who live and work in Whistler

More housing to purchase WITH adequate parking

There are no right answers. Unfortunately.

please reduce property taxes.

Focus on Improved Housing

In order to make any kind of impact on climate mitigation, the RMOW needs to get a handle on tourist and employee transportation to and from the resort. Can the hotel sector collaborate on providing guest shuttles to/ from Vancouver? Can the restaurant association collaborate on providing employee transportation to/from work? Until the current housing and transportation issues are dealt with, there should not be any further spending on attracting more visitors to the resort.

The next (pandemic, recession, global terrorist event) could well be around the corner. Let's act now to set aside and prepare for that day, in the same way that we are quick to "grant relief" when the sh\*t goes down.

Regarding Q12, with costs increasing, we might need to increase funding just to keep the same levels of service. So the way this question is worded, it might be difficult to draw any real conclusions from the data.

Please spend wisely

Community engagement, childcare and improvements to ALL neighbourhood parks.

We have limited time to address biodiversity and climate crises. Spend more on active transportation even if it means slowing down on road maintenance/paving.

Keep expenditure below 2022/23 levels.

Affordable housing is necessary

Please, the actual citizens of this town are being bled by landlords, lack of nightly rental restrictions, and ridiculous housing costs, not to mention lack of housing options. When I moved here I actually had a hope of saving and buying a place here one day. That has become an impossibility over the course of a mere 3 years.

Please define "critical needs of today" for the community so that not everything is justified as critical as the sacrifice of long term planning. Reserves and long term financial planning are imperative.

Housing! We need housing. Affordable housing. Make people rent their suites!

Respect the local taxpayer...we have no choice but to pay the tax bill you send us. You don't have to continually expand your programs. There's nothing wrong with taking time to review and stabilize what you are currently doing. There is an endless demand on governments to provide more services; the important thing is to be able to resist some of these demands and keep things affordable for us.

People before corporate profits

Rather than throwing more funding at things like climate mitigation and adaptation, educate the visitors (and residents) about how we need to change our way of thinking and doing things to be more aware of what our actions are doing towards climate change. Being more resourceful, reducing waste and water consumption.

Reduce fossil fuel use in China and India.

Cost control

more affordable rental housing for local residents. across the entire municipality

spend wisely and stick to your knitting there is already a heavy burden on taxpayers. E.G. Muni should not be spending taxpayer funding on provincial/federal areas like climate

Provide more purchase employee housing for residents of Whistler. Employee rental housing based on income doesn't work for Whistler.

Whistler could be more welcoming to residents and inspire more of a community feeling.

I believe each one of you loves this place. The challenge at this time in my view, is for you to make decisions in favour of preservation over development. Thank you for your service.

Keep spending to within inflation. No more excessive spending increases. Now is a time to focus on MUST HAVES not nice-to-haves. Stop wasting money/resources on climate actions that will have no meaningful impact.

My taxes have gone up by 50% in the last 2 years. Please stop spending!

A proposed 7% increase in the 5 year bylaw is just too high. Aim for 4%.

Focus on the immediate priority - rental availability and affordable housing

If locals cannot live in town and move around town easily, then tourism will die.

Please focus on Whistlers residents and workforce, not it's tourists.

Keep in mind what makes the Merry Go Round go round

Focus on a few key areas and get them right (implemented).

Please do whatever is within the municipality's power to provide affordable housing.

Increase the fees paid by developers and other businesses.

Stop the monster of government growth. We do have a dual mandate of small town and tourist town. Let business take care of tourism. 90% of focus should be the 15K that live here

Housing and transit should be the focus, otherwise the livability of Whistler will continue to deteriorate for all but the most wealthy.

No excessive property tax increases; plan within your means (and mine)

Whistler is amazing place with fantastic incredibly maintained amenities. Climate change needs to be a top priority for everyone. Beyond that I view having suitable housing for the staff that are the backbone of Whistler to be key to Whistler's ongoing success. I read a suggestion in the Pique once about putting staff housing on the day lots with parking remaining below at or below grade. I thought that was a great idea as it would place staff right in the heart of the village reducing their need for transportation and does not require clearing forested land for housing.

Think about the everyday person living in the community, earning a medium wage while paying higher than ever prices for everything, before making any decisions. They are the heart and soul of this community, not the millionaire with a mansion used a week a year.

Add a report card to a transparent process on these decisions.

I'm happy to see this early engagement happening.

Please continue to think about those who live here all year round. Those who contribute to the community in ways beyond tourism. Those who love this town for what it was but also can support for what it could be. We can't forget what makes this town great just because we want to focus on growth.

Without our community infrastructure and services, we have no community.

Financial accountability, and Control of departmental head count growth.

DON'T repeat last year with the outrageous increase in taxes and absolutely wasteful spending (think Rainbow Park). DON'T be so focussed on the development of employee housing, there are other people in the community. DO address issues now that are becoming problematic (community safety, infrastructure) before they become catastrophic problems.

Focus on locals and our community, not tourism and realize that EVERY dollar counts. And yes I know we are a Resort but without community, we are nothing.

Scrub the proposed budget line by line, and mark essential (per mandate) activities and non-essential activities. Do this work in an open Council session, or two if need be. Tax payers need to see a scrub-down in action, so that there is no doubt this work was completed by Council.

Improve the community for all. Increase taxes to pay for an improved community. Moving forward it is apparent that current and future employees of Whistler will require more and more subsidies in order to survive. Increase in taxes will be needed to ensure that the tourist and landowners have staff to serve the community.

COMMUNITY FIRST (not visitors).

Increases at this time are only going to hurt the locals.. They will wish to move to areas that they can afford.

Focus more on permanent residents instead of visitors, they get it all like free summer weekend busses but what about us working here for not much money, where is the locals free everyday bus pass and free parking

Our youth need a varied level of support and programs within the community and the youth centre. They also need fun events and programs (offered outside of the drop-in schedule at The youth centre created by the youth centre drawing on other community resources) for our diverse local youth with varied interests to foster further connection and youth engagement. These extra fun events outside of youth operations ( Ski days/ Bike Clinics via WB grants, Tofino Surf adventures (great youth team building events), shopping and Movie night trips to Van, Suicide Alertness Training Programs, health and wellness teen specific clinics, a mix of Fun events and Learning opportunities) Programs both within the youth centre walls as well as special programs created by the youth centre can help bring kids with varied Interests to the youth centre (not just a drop in centre) . With varied programming youth who may be hesitant to come to The youth centre will realize it's a great place to meet new/ existing friends and that it's a resource with great mentors to help support our youth. In essence, not all kids are comfortable walking down the stairs to the youth centre, programs outside the drop-in times allows for another way for kids/parent to become familiar with the youth centre indirectly. Kids and adults can find it uncomfortable walking into a basement where they can't see who is there (can't scope the joint out first) if they have never been beforehand. Also, the space is a great resource for visiting kids and needs more access marketing and should be noted on the WayFinder signs in town. Ideally the youth centre would have it's own website as it had before that caters to youth specific needs, is youth friendly (designed for youth and fun, not Corporate brand but that will attract youth, speaks their language, not adult like and dry) featuring events, and important resources they can access (mental Health, physical health, sexual health, supports it all kinds for youth). Support a youth led blog on the page and the youth can help run fun contests to drive people to the site and social so they know what resources the site has for reference. As well, a subpage for parents and resources for them to access. Parenting is a tough job, especially during the teen years. In addition, as a future wish, an expansion to the youth centre with added indoor skate facilities and basketball hoops etc would be a bonus if ever they could find more space. Perhaps convert part of the RMOW public works yard by Alta Lake for a new youth centre in the future. Dream big right! In addition, casual staff wages within the RMOW do not support retention and neither does the breadcrumb # of hours offered to the casual staff

It's okay to tax more for innovative active transport pilots and the expansion of community-focused amenities and housing.

Keep property tax increases to 3%.

Ensure you continue fund the things that make Whistler successful -tourism infrastructure, resort experience - both which also benefit community life.

be practical

Be bold and brave!

Take a risk and make bold decisions and not just think about how to stay as neutral as possible so as not to ruffle too many feathers so I can be re-elected.

Focus on the absolute needs versus nice to haves

Consider what we truly need- not just what we want. Ask yourselves do other towns of our size need this?

Thanks VERY much for all your efforts. Balancing the needs of all while staying fiscally prudent in the face of unending criticism is an extremely tough job.

Don't get too bloated in services (ie bylaw, bike storage) and certain climate change initiatives, instead focus on long term infrastructure goals and allowing tourists and purveyors of the outdoors the opportunity to easily share our resort and amenities. Providing ROI/measurable forecast metrics and look-back on investments would be helpful, including on climate change initiatives

Continue to support housing development- market and affordable- by reducing permitting/rezoning etc times.

Be fiscally responsible, do not increase property taxes

Have greater accountability over Whistler 2020 Development Corporation and their spending.

Stop with the overanalyzing - just get something done in regard to housing locals, increasing transit and keeping tourism alive. This year has not been strong for tourism and businesses will suffer - as will all of us.

Resident restricted housing for purchase

Stop spending money like it comes from a money tree.

1). We don't need five committees, 12 engineers, and a bunch of consultants to work on every project. This goes from permitting a new deck all the way to transport solutions. 2). For transport we don't need zillion dollar pie in the sky solutions, we need Vail, Tourism Whistler, and the province to work with RMOW on better using existing infrastructure, so people get used to better habits. We can be leaders in this.

Please engage and listen to your residents more. Take lessons learned from rainbow park and apply them to the next project

Short term rental (ie Airbnb) has to be reined in. It is decimating the affordable housing stock in this town. The worker shortage will get worse without it being controlled. No worker, no service, no resort... plain and simple

I would like to see a bylaw where density for single family home is increased a bit like what Vancouver just passed. I would like to be able to have a suite AND a coach house on lots that can accommodate it.

Community - there one word!

Reduce spending for tourist and invest in the local residents. Partner with agencies that can provide more services for seniors.

We are in the climate adaptation phase. You cannot protect the community by reducing emissions. You must protect the community from a tragic climate event such as a wildfire. Be a leader in this area. Pay for assessments, conduct drills, communicate with and educate the community, partner with companies that will provide key housing and transportation during an event, fund the community services we will all need during such an emergency. Ban all fires from the community and enforce the ban. You must change the idea that a small campfire near a residential neighbourhood in Whistler is a nice way to relax after work. Same for flooding and heat domes and arctic blasts etc. etc. This is where we are with climate. Lives are at risk. Property is at risk. The Whistler industry as we know it is at risk. And so much is in your control.

We appreciate the work you put in. Having said that there sometimes is the feeling that expenses are not as closely monitored by municipal staff as other businesses are forced to.

Spend more time and money on finding a solution to our housing crisis!!!

Protect our Jewel

Use money wisely, please don't waste it to beautify parks that are fine the way they are when there are more pressing issues .

There is literally no bigger problem in this town than housing so do whatever you can at the expense of everything else to fix that.

Keep priorities to what matters most for residents and visitors. Stop re-imagining , re-inventing re-making tourism industry, Canada and planetary weather patterns. Too many ideologues on staff and council. Rational policies would be a welcome change.

Prioritize transit! And let's get regional transit up and running!

Do not raise taxes.

Dear Council Members, as you deliberate on the 2024 budget, I urge you to prioritize resilience and sustainability. The climate crisis is not a distant challenge but a current reality. Investing in climate adaptation and mitigation now will not only protect our community and its assets but also ensure economic stability and enhance the quality of life for our residents in the long run. Please consider this an investment in our collective future.

Core services and existing service levels should be a priority. Focus on the loudest user groups should be tempered.

Listen to the community. Invite input! Get out of the office and meetings and talk to people about the real needs facing the residents of Whistler. There's a strong sense from the ordinary people I talk to that the municipal staff are hiding from the public and making decisions without proper consultation (ie Rainbow Park) . Spend money on the important things first, communicate your priorities to the community with evidence to back them up. This survey is a perfect example of how you say you want input but it is really difficult to find out how to give it. I had to search the muni website to find it and it wasn't there. Only Braden Dupuis was able to help me find the link.

You do not have a resort municipality without prioritizing community. Smart Tourism does not exist without supporting the people who make it happen

The community still needs support as we recover from COVID impacts. Keep this in mind in regard to provision of services and tax increases.

Tough job, good luck making the majority happy

Overtourism sucks

You need to invest now to stay relevant. Diversify the local economy-arts and culture plus circularity. be bold and take difficult decisions. look at levying the big hotel chains to channel some of that revenue here

Tax home owners that leave their home empty throughout the year! Also speed up new housing permits. Pretty much blowing how long it takes for permits to go through.



Facilitate low cost housing

Without the locals, there is no 'whistler' hence there is no council

You should be able to spend under your budget and not try to spend every cent because you can.

Lets finally fix the housing needs of seasonal resort workers. This will also open more options for affordable housing for those who want to stay in Whistler longer, even if it is in a rental - it's a rent that makes sense.

cost of living!

Improve efficiency of Muni operations to minimize necessary tax increases

Tourist bookings so far are low for the coming winter season. Slow down the crazy spending, be conservative, things are fine as they are.

focus more on adequate housing

Be smarter in how our money is spent and supervise projects more closely - ie. be proactive.

(Note that question 13 felt like a false choice.) For your identified priorities: Decide on meaningful and specific actions (and time periods involved), document and communicate them. The more "real" and clear the actions are, the more honest the feedback (and buy-in/or not) you will get.

Serious answers to the housing crisis.

Build new buildings in new locations. Stop spending millions of dollars on your two main buildings that are poorly built for your needs just to get by. Stop being afraid to spend a lump sum of money and don't be worried about moving the municipal hall to a new location.

Find a way to improve traffic flow and remove the traffic jams.

Terminate the leadership who continues to increase our taxes and overspend

Please DECREASE the bus routes on Northlands Boulevard, especially during "quiet" hours (10pm - 8am). And purchase quieter buses. Residents on this street are at breaking point.

Be bold on climate. And on smart tourism, given that it is by far our primary industry. We need all leaders to step up so other will follow. It's time to chart an ambitious, brave, and equitable course to reduce emissions and provide another example to the world of how it can be done.

I think RMOW is doing a great job today and would like to see spending / services remain as they are today more or less.

Keep Costs down

Decide what Whistler wants to be and can actually be

Continue and enhance our relationships with the Lilwat Nation and the Squamish Nation, with sincerity and meaning. We get stuck in our ways of “doing business” and let slide the gaining of knowledge from our first peoples - we lose out on gaining deep wisdom.

We need to keep local arts alive and funded, we are a creative community and you need to support it.

Build more houses or places for long term residents

We are loosing our community. We feel more like we are now tourist who happen to live here. This is not that bad perhaps but Whistler is not becoming the place we want to stay.

As a relatively new permanent resident, both highway and municipal signage is a disaster, welcome signage, street signage both highway and local, infrastructure including additional and improved stop lights, all in need of investment

Any tax increase should be within rate of inflation or 3% max.

Take care of infrastructure then prioritize forest protection

Thank you for all your work on this

dont be intimidated by angry motorists! we need more traffic demand management!

Think long term. Reduce "culture-war" discussions and activities, important but taking up too much oxygen.

I can't comment/allot an increase and or decrease on specific spending without understanding all the needs/ wants and what projects might be in the pipeline. Health of the community/environment is #1.

Don't overlook the impact that funding for small community groups and non-profits for their programs and services could have on community wellbeing and the RMOW bottom line long term.

Lobby for more RMI funding given how much money the town generates each year to the provincial coffers

Keep/expand community space by being smart about transit around the area. Don't be like Vancouver or squamish who failed to support their volume by not planning.

Stop overspending.

Don't run again please. Let non corrupted people get in. The last election was steamrolled by the elite to keep the status quo's



# Survey Questions

# Building the 2024 Budget

Engage Whistler

---

Select the statement that applies to you:

(Choose any one option)

- ☐ I am a permanent resident and own market housing
- ☐ I am a permanent resident and rent market housing
- ☐ I am a permanent resident and rent an employee-restricted home
- ☐ I am a permanent resident and own an employee-restricted home
- ☐ I own a home in Whistler, but do not live here full time
- ☐ I am a seasonal/temporary resident
- ☐ I do not live in Whistler
- ☐ Other (please specify)

What neighbourhood do you live in?

(Choose any one option)

- ☐ Alpine Meadows
- ☐ Alta Lake Station
- ☐ Alta Vista
- ☐ Bayshores and Millar's Pond
- ☐ Blackcomb Benchlands North
- ☐ Blackcomb Benchlands South
- ☐ Blueberry Hill
- ☐ Brio and Sunridge Plateau
- ☐ Cheakamus Crossing
- ☐ Emerald Estates
- ☐ Function Junction
- ☐ Kadenwood
- ☐ Mons Crossing
- ☐ Nesters
- ☐ Nicklaus North
- ☐ Nita Lake Estates
- ☐ Nordic
- ☐ Rainbow and Baxter Creek
- ☐ Spring Creek
- ☐ Spruce Grove
- ☐ Stonebridge
- ☐ Tapley's Farm
- ☐ Twin Lakes
- ☐ Whistler Cav Estates

# Building the 2024 Budget

## Engage Whistler

---

- ☐ Whistler Cay Heights
- ☐ Whistler Cay Heights
- ☐ Creekside
- ☐ Whistler Village
- ☐ White Gold
- ☐ Other (please specify)

How long have you lived in Whistler?

(Choose any one option)

- ☐ Less than one year
- ☐ 1 to 5 years
- ☐ 5 to 10 years
- ☐ 10 to 15 years
- ☐ 15 to 25 years
- ☐ 25+ years

How do you identify? Check all that apply.

(Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

It is critical that we hear diverse voices from all backgrounds when seeking input and feedback. Do you personally identify as someone in the following group(s)? Select all that apply.

(Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Indigenous Peoples
- ☐ Francophones
- ☐ 2SLGBTQ+
- ☐ Immigrant
- ☐ Senior
- ☐ Person living with a disability
- ☐ Person living in poverty
- ☐ Racialized person
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Council has set its 2023-2026 strategic plan that includes four key focus areas Climate Action, Smart Tourism, Housing and Community Engagement. Rank the importance of each of these items to you.

(Rank each option) (Required)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Smart tourism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Climate action
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community engagement

What are your investment priorities for the 2024 budget? Rank from most important to least important

(Rank each option) (Required)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Provision of Protective Services (Bylaw, RCMP, Emergency Management)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provision of Water and Sewer Services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Solid Waste Management
- \_\_\_\_\_ Climate Mitigation and Adaptation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investments into Active Transportation Infrastructure (snow clearing on Valley Trail, Bike Valet, secure bike storage)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transit

# Building the 2024 Budget

## Engage Whistler

- \_\_\_\_\_ Resort Operations (Village and Parks maintenance, horticulture, pedestrian snow clearing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Whistler Public Library
- \_\_\_\_\_ Festivals, Events and Arts (Summer Concert Series, VSO, New Year's Eve, Canada Day Family Apres)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recreation and Facilities (Meadow Park Sports Centre, Recreation Programming, Kids on the Go, Youth Centre))
- \_\_\_\_\_ Building and Development Services (Building permits, new developments)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Investments (grants to community groups)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Infrastructure Improvements (park upgrades, Valley Trail expansion, new recreation amenities)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roads (snow clearing and maintenance)

Note: Department

Thinking about your priorities in Question #7, give your reason(s) for your **first priority**.

Thinking about your priorities in Question #7, give your reason(s) for your **last priority**.

What do you see as being the biggest challenge for the 2024 budget? Do you have ideas or recommendations for addressing this challenge?

What do you see as being the biggest opportunity for the 2024 budget? Do you have ideas or recommendations taking advantage of this opportunity?

Thinking about the current level of service, indicate if you think each service should have additional funding, decreased funding or should remain the same.

Questions	Decreased funding	Keep current funding	Increased funding	Not sure
-----------	-------------------	----------------------	-------------------	----------

# Building the 2024 Budget

Engage Whistler

Provision of Water and Sewer Services				
Solid Waste Management and Depot				
Climate Mitigation and Adaptation				
Investments into Active Transportation				
Transit				
Resort Operations				
Whistler Public Library				
Festival Events and Arts				
Recreation and Facilities				
Building and Development Services				
Roads and maintenance				
Community Investments				
Community Infrastructure Improvements				

In general terms, how would you like to see the RMOW make its financial decisions? Please select one.

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- ☐ Plan and save for the future through adding to reserves (save more)
- ☐ Balance spending on critical needs of today, while also saving for the future (balance spending and saving)
- ☐ Reduce contributions to reserves (savings) and focus on needs and wants of today

If you had **one key message** to share with Council regarding the 2024 budget, what would it be?