

Support Local Businesses this Municipal Election

During the pandemic Whistler rallied to support local businesses, now the community can continue that support with their vote.

As the Voice of Business, the Chamber understands the needs of the business community through ongoing member engagement and consultation. To better gauge what action business owners want to see from elected officials ahead of the Municipal Election, The Whistler Chamber conducted a survey of the business community in August – September 2022. Our key findings show that the same historical issues are still at the forefront for Whistler businesses. The Chamber has provided priority suggested solutions for the candidates to better understand these priorities as this is not an exhausted list.

REDUCING MUNICIPAL RED TAPE: *simplified, consistent, and fair administration and policies increase commercial investment, improve operational efficiency and support climate action*



83%

are concerned about local businesses closing due to rising costs, including property taxes

56%

believe it has become harder to do business in Whistler over the past four years, as it relates to municipal policies and decisions

SOLUTIONS:

- Include Whistler businesses as a key consideration when reviewing and assessing all new and amended policies and bylaws
- Improve the processing times for development permits through modernization of bylaws and streamlining permitting procedures
- Simplify and enforce commercial bylaws around infrastructure improvements, signage and waste management
- Manage or reduce taxes on commercial space – the cost of which is passed on through commercial lease arrangements

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

locally housed workers leads to improved mental health, talent retention, community engagement and climate action



TRANSPORTATION:

safe and affordable transportation options lead to improved mental health, talent retention, safe and less congested roads and climate action



95%

believe affordable housing is the number one business related issue this election

99%

believe elected officials should make zoning changes that allow multi-family units to be built in areas currently zoned for single-family detached homes

SOLUTIONS:

- Develop policy and build housing for the seasonal workforce
- Build additional housing options for locals including a substantial supply of family-oriented housing
- Dedicate resources to eliminate illegal short-term rentals
- Amend zoning to increase densification in areas traditionally reserved for detached homes

95%

of survey respondents support regional transit in the corridor

SOLUTIONS:

- Make regional transit a reality
- Recognize the importance of transportation of goods and services to drive and support the economy, including:
 - commercial parking zones
 - improved traffic congestion
 - parking considerations in housing for trade and construction workers