

Whistler Community Services Society

Food Bank

The Whistler Community Services Society Food Bank exists to provide assistance to people and families who need help. Food Banks are a temporary solution for people who are doing all that they can to become self-supporting.

People Served:

- In 2016 the Food Bank served people 2,804 times
- 733 of them were children

Demographics:

- 57% of users are male
- 3% are 16-19-year-old individuals, 31% are 20-29 years old, 40% are 30-49 years old, and 26% are 50 years old or more

Living Situation:

- 26% are seasonal workers having lived in Whistler for less than 1 year
- 13% have lived in Whistler for more than 3 years
- 25% lived here more than 10 years
- 24% live in the Pemberton or Mount Currie areas (see notes below)

Reasons for use:

- #1 reason cited for use is injury or illness - short term or long term, physical or mental health (36% of users)
- #2 reason is underemployment (16%)
- #3 reason is unemployed, looking for work (13%)

64% of users only needed the food bank 1-2 times in 2016

For more information about the food bank visit www.mywcss.org or call 604-935-7717.

When Whistlers economy is doing well, who needs help?

Whistler is doing well right now, and there are a lot of jobs to be filled. So why do people still need the food bank? Whistler is an active community, and with that comes injury. Young adults and others living with low wages may not have the financial reserves to deal with missed work, or medical bills if they are not covered or need to pay up front with funds they can't afford to spare. Like all communities there are also people who deal with long term disabilities and injuries. Some of these individuals get assistance through Government Disability Pensions, but the amount they receive often does not cover their basic needs, and there is always a waiting period when applying that leaves people with no income at all.

Feeding Our Neighbours – Why are so many people from outside Whistler using our services?

Whistler has a lot of resources (grocery stores, visitors, businesses) compared to Pemberton and Mount Currie, and since we have more jobs available, we also have less of a demand on our Food Bank. Sea to Sky Community Services provides a food bank in Pemberton, but with only two grocery stores, and less businesses and individuals to financially support their work and a much higher demand on services they are not able to provide as much food as we are. The majority of people we see in Whistler coming from northern communities are families and most carpool in or come when they are already visiting Whistler for other reasons (work, appointments, etc).