

Whistler Chamber of Commerce (WCC) Bylaws Report

Background

In 2020, the members approved the recommended bylaw changes that addressed the requirement imposed by the RMOW elected council that in order to qualify for its Fee for Service funding program - the core funding of the guest experience training program provided by the Chamber – an elected council member was required on the Chamber’s Board of Directors.

The requirement to have an appointed elected official to the Board is prohibited by the Boards of Trade Act, therefore the member approved bylaws were rejected by Corporations Canada. As a result of the comprehensive review of the bylaws, Corporations Canada outlined a number of areas that had been grandfathered that would no longer be accepted. To address the concerns outlined by Corporations Canada, the Board undertook a complete rewrite of the bylaws.

At the 2023 AGM, members adopted significant amendments to the Chamber’s bylaws to ensure that the Chamber is in compliance with the Boards of Trade Act. Following endorsement by the membership, the revised bylaws were submitted to Corporations Canada for Ministerial approval. Corporations Canada have requested two additional changes.

Supporting reconciliations efforts, the WCC had expanded the term “District” to recognize that WCC operates on Squamish Nation and Lil’wat Nation land. When the Chamber was incorporated, our boundaries of operation were defined by specific longitude / latitude variables. Therefore, we cannot change wording that could suggest a change to our boundaries. Secondly, the term “audit” is required.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Act, the above changes have been made to the bylaws, to be used alongside a WCC Bylaw Guide, which allows inclusion of the land acknowledgement and clarification of the WCC’s accepted procedures for a number of sections contained in the bylaws.

The proposed bylaws require further review and augmentation of the Chamber’s policies to outline additional key processes and procedures not captured or removed from the bylaws due to the requirements of the Boards of Trade Act.

Whistler Chamber of Commerce (WCC) Bylaws Guide

The intention of this guide is to provide clarification of accepted WCC procedures for sections of the bylaw that need further explanation.

Definitions and Interpretation

1. **"District"** means the area within and for which the Chamber was established as set out in the Chamber's Certificate of Formation, and includes the Resort Municipality of Whistler which sits on the traditional, unceded and shared territories of the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation.

Business of the Chamber

4. **Location of the registered office** is 201-4230 Gateway Drive, Whistler, BC
7. **Financial year end.** The fiscal year is September 1 to August 31.
9. **Appointment of Auditor** is the appointment of a chartered professional accountant by the members. The annual financial statements of the Chamber must be audited, reviewed or compiled by the accountant that has been appointed at the AGM. No Director and no employee can be the accountant. It is recommended that a full review is conducted every five years.

Membership in the Board of Trade

16. **Admission of Members** will be reported bi-monthly to the Board for review and recommendations. A list of new members will be presented at the AGM for approval by special resolution.

Meetings of Members

22. **Quarterly Meetings of the Members** can include the AGM, meetings prior to events (e.g. Lunch & Learns) and electronic meetings.

Board of the Chamber

36. **Number of Directors** shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and eight other Directors. For further clarity, nominations for board positions are made fall/early winter. If there are more than eleven (11) nominations then board elections are needed and electronic voting will take place. Members will be asked to vote on the candidates and a slate will be developed for members to elect at the AGM. The Board of Directors can recommend individuals for continuity reasons.