

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 2014 the Food Bank served 2,292 people
- 444 of them were children

Demographics:

- 56% of users are male
- 4% are 16-19 year old individuals, 43% are 20-29 years old, 32% are 30-49 years old, and 21% are 50 years old or more.

Living Situation:

- 33% are seasonal workers having lived in Whistler for less than 1 year.
- 33% have lived in Whistler for more than 3 years.
- 74% of users only need the Food Bank once or twice within a 12 month period. Only 2% of users needed it more than 10 times in a year.

Reasons for use:

- #1 reason cited for use is injury or illness - short term or long term, physical or mental health (21% of users)
- #2 reason is unemployed, looking for work (%18)
- #3 reason is underemployment (%15)

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.

Why do young seasonal workers need the Food Bank?

Young seasonal workers are the backbone of the Whistler economy. They fill the jobs that have the least amount of pay and are often the first to have their hours cut or be laid off during slow periods. Since they are usually young they do not have savings built up yet that they can depend on in tight times, and they are still learning some important life skills, like how to save for a rainy day. They may not have family or an extended support network that they can depend on for financial help.