



August 2021

SUPPORT US

Support For A Healthy Community



A Note From Our Executive Director

At Whistler Community Services Society, we continue to develop and strengthen our staff and volunteers to cultivate a strong sense of belonging within our teams as well as our clients, customers, donors and community stakeholders. Belonging is the feeling of security, support and a sense of acceptance, inclusion and a place where people can bring their authentic self to work, live and play.

Although COVID 19 restrictions remain in place, we continue to put safety at the forefront and for over a



year have offered in person support as much as possible. This includes crucial in person group meetings, our storefronts of our social enterprises open, activities such as our new parenting programs and seniors. We have had volunteers return to our building to support our food bank program and we have seen in person client meetings outweigh virtual and conference call connections. We have also shifted and focused on inviting and touring stakeholders, donors, and community members through our building so they can learn about our services and programs. Our staff has also prioritized social gatherings to support togetherness and cohesion such as our slow pitch tournament and blueberry picking in Pemberton to support the food bank. Our Outreach Team can also be found two days a week providing in person drop-in support at the Whistler Public Library and working collaboratively with that staff to specifically support our most vulnerable, underhoused and marginalized populations. We hope these “pop-up Outreach Sites” in the village will continue to exemplify our commitment to meet with people where they are at and listen, learn, and connect with those around us in an effort to support a strong sense of belonging and inclusivity in our community.

We hope these efforts continue to identify the importance of keeping our staff, clients and patrons safe during a pandemic while also recognizing in person support is crucial and for many a life line to a strong sense of belonging, support and togetherness.

With Gratitude,
Jackie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

New Program - Immigration Services

The goal of this program is to provide low income

earning Whistler residents with access to a 30 minute free consultation from Whistler Immigration to ask questions and receive guidance on immigration eligibility criteria and processes to make informed decisions on next steps.



[Learn More](#)



Food Security With Farming Partners

We are proud to work with our neighbours in the farming community to build a healthy and robust food security program at the Whistler Food Bank. Recently some of our team were fortunate to pick Blueberries with Blueberry Bliss at Meadowland Farm in the Pemberton Valley. More than 35lbs of berries were harvested and are being enjoyed by food bank clients!

[More Info on U Pick Blueberries](#)

LIFTing The Community: Online auction now live!

Have you seen those crazy, artsy chairlifts all over the Village? Local artists transformed 15 retired Catskiner ski lift chairs into works of art, reflecting the theme of belonging as perceived by 15 community groups. We're one of those groups!



Now, YOU have a chance to take our incredible chair home. Bid on this beauty created by and you could own a piece of unique art and Whistler history. Bid here: artswhistler.com/lifting

The silent auction runs until September 7th at 7pm. Auction proceeds from the chair come directly to us,

helping us to continue to support and advocate for a healthy community.

[More Info](#)

[Watch The Video](#)



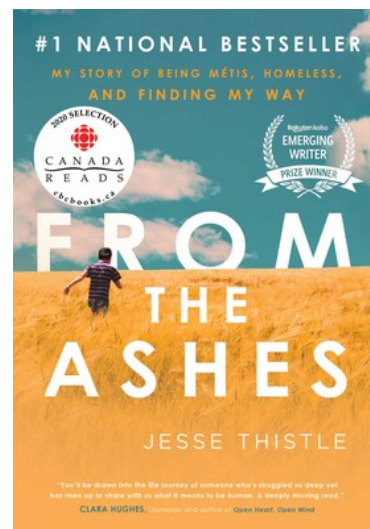
Outreach Services Now Available At Whistler Public Library

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease in British Columbia we are pleased to announce that our Outreach team is returning to the Whistler Public Library as an alternate location to meet with one of our team members. Outreach assistance is available on a drop in or appointment basis. An Outreach worker is available during library hours on Wednesday and Thursday each week.

From The Ashes - Jesse Thistle

One of the most popular books in the WCSS staff learning library, From The Ashes comes recommended for its storytelling which helps share and better understand the lived experience of some of the indigenous peoples of this land.

In this extraordinary and inspiring debut memoir, Jesse Thistle, once a high school dropout and now a rising Indigenous scholar, chronicles his life on the streets and how he overcame trauma and addiction to discover the truth about who he is.



[Order From Armchair Books](#)

Getting To Know Us

Re-Build-It staff member Rhawnie shares a bit about herself. Next time you are in the store, be sure to say



Hi!

Not only is she a super-hero in our social enterprises, Rhawnie also wears her cape as an employee representative on the WCSS Board of Directors Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

- How long have you worked at WCSS? ***Since December 2020***
- What is your favorite part of working for WCSS? ***A lot of time it doesn't feel like work. It feels like family.***
- Why did you choose Whistler as your place to live? ***For the Mountain and outdoor lifestyle***
- What are your favorite pastimes in summer and winter? ***Summer hikes, and swimming in glacial lakes. Winter skiing, hikes and or snowshoeing, touring, and all with my partner and dogs!***
- What is your favorite food? ***Cucumbers, and any homemade soups!***

Whistler Community Services Society provides inclusive support to build a resilient community. Following our values of *Trust, Respect, Inclusion, Advocacy, and Collaboration*; we aim to work with the community to deliver low barrier services for healthy living.

Considering leaving an estate gift to Whistler Community Services Society?

Learn more on how to do so [here](#).

Thank You



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Our mailing address is:

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