



Whistler Blackcomb Foundation makes major donation to Centrepoint

UNDER EMBARGO until June 17, 2013, 1pm

Whistler Blackcomb Foundation (1) has donated \$300,000 to Sea to Sky Community Services (2) to help it build Centrepoint (3).

In recognition of the generous donation, which was the first to the capital campaign (4), a portion of Centrepoint will be called The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Learning and Community Hall.

“We were so grateful when Whistler Blackcomb Foundation chose to support this project – the first donors, actually. It was early days in our project planning but they saw the potential and huge benefits of this project and agreed to support it. We’re pleased today to be able to celebrate this important, generous donation. With it, we’re that much closer to being able to construct a building which will enable us to greatly improve the services we provide to thousands of people in the Corridor,” says Lois Wynne, Executive Director of Sea to Sky Community Services.

“We are really thankful for this donation from such a well-respected organization. This support reflects the Corridor-wide nature of this project. We hope the generosity inspires other philanthropic organizations and individuals to support this campaign,” says Owen Carney, who co-chairs the volunteer fundraising team for Centrepoint. (5)

“We are very pleased to make this donation towards the construction of Centrepoint, which we know will greatly benefit families throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor. It is our hope that our founding donation will inspire others to give generously and support this much-needed social services building,” says Mei McCurdy, Executive Director of the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

The announcement of this donation will be made at the future site of Centrepoint (38014 Fourth Avenue, Squamish) from 1-2pm on Monday June 17, 2013. Journalists are welcome to attend this event, where senior staff and volunteers from both organizations will be present and happy to answer questions regarding the building and our efforts to fund and build it. Photographs will be available afterwards. Please contact Sea to Sky Community Services for more information.

(1) Whistler Blackcomb Foundation is the largest fundraising organization in the area, having raised over \$7 million for Sea to Sky charities. Its mandate is to support larger, more everlasting community projects within the Sea to Sky Corridor, as well as to build a stronger relationship with residents of the community. The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation is dedicated to providing financial support to organizations whose activities provide benefit to residents of the Sea to Sky Corridor in the areas of health, human services, education, recreation, arts and culture and the environment with a special emphasis placed on youth and family programs. Over the years, Whistler Blackcomb Foundation has supported many programs run by Sea to Sky Community Services. <http://www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com>

Whistler Blackcomb Foundation's donation was the first donation to the capital campaign.

(2) Sea to Sky Community Services is one of the largest and most impactful charities in the Corridor, strengthening communities and individuals through an unmatched breadth of vital programs, helping people through a crisis and with everyday challenges.

The organization formed in 1978 to provide social services programming at a grassroots, local level. Today it offers more than 40 programs, helping 4,000 people a year, in the areas of childcare, child development, parenting and family development, youth services, Community Living (for children with special needs and adults with developmental disabilities), counselling and assistance, addiction recovery and affordable housing. www.sscs.ca

(3) Centrepoint is a planned new building on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Victoria Street in downtown Squamish. The project is a partnership between Sea to Sky Community Services and Squamish United Church, where the church is donating the land for Centrepoint. While this is a collaborative partnership, the two organizations are running separate fundraising campaigns and, once Centrepoint is built, will continue to operate separately and run separate programs.

Centrepoint will contain community rooms, programming and office spaces and affordable housing. This project also includes the construction of a new church for Squamish United. An image of Centrepoint is available upon request. A website is being launched today in support of the capital campaign: www.buildingopportunities.ca

(4) Sea to Sky Community Services is working to raise \$3 million through a capital campaign in order to build Centrepoint. The organization hopes to reach its fundraising goal by winter 2014. In addition to the \$300,000 from Whistler Blackcomb Foundation, the organization has received \$250,000 from Squamish Savings, a division of Vancity.

(5) A group of committed community members is leading the fundraising efforts. The team is comprised of Owen Carney, Anne Carney, Ron Anderson, Paul Lalli, Sonja Lebars, Corinne Lonsdale, Drew Meredith and Jen Schorz. In addition to giving their time to this project, every member of the leadership team has made a financial donation.

For more information

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