

Squamish Economic Leadership Team (ELT)

Terms of Reference

Intention: To provide advice and expertise in Squamish, aligning with the 2023-2026 Economic Development's focus areas.

Economic Development and its selected team will use doughnut economic principles, a [circular economy approach](#), and through a lens of reconciliation:

- Focus its efforts on developing emerging Green Economy and Outdoor Recreation clusters, and;
- Work in partnership to strengthen core and enabling sectors of the economy.

The department's focus areas will be on scaling micro and small businesses by:

1. Understanding needs
2. Enabling innovation
3. Fostering collaboration
4. Attracting investment
5. Supporting workforce development

The Economic Leadership Team will help build on existing strategic work by the District of Squamish and its partners while considering all necessary elements of diversity and inclusion and honouring the traditional, ancestral and unceded Indigenous territories of the Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish) people. With a diverse team, we hope to be able to consider all necessary elements of diversity and inclusion.

Commitment

The extent and type of work will vary depending on the team and at the teams discretion. At a minimum, the team is expected to convene four times a year. The term is ongoing.

As the Economic Leadership Team is voluntary, members are asked to commit to a minimum one-year term and a maximum of four years. Should a member wish to resign, one month's notice is requested, advising the Economic Development Officer should the need arise.

Group Size, Recruitment & Composition

- The composition of the Economic Leadership Team is not to be a representative group, but instead, a skills-based group comprising of members with local expertise and passion in economic development-related fields from innovation to fostering entrepreneurship, and partnership development, to marketing, land use and development, and policy. Team composition shall strive to be:

- no more than 60% representation for a single self-identified gender on the Board of Directors
- no more than 60% representation for a single self-identified ethnicity on the Board of Directors
- include representation from equity-seeking, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, or disabled groups.
- As a place-based organization, the team is honoured to collaborate on the traditional, ancestral and unceded Indigenous territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) people. There shall be a minimum of one ELT position reserved to provide perspectives and experiences from an Indigenous viewpoint. Such person providing this perspective and acting as a Team member shall self-identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis and possess the skills and experience necessary to serve on the team.
- While the team is a skills-based group, it may include private, non-profit, and public representation.
- The team will consist of up to 10 members with additional ex-officio representation from all levels of government as required.
- The District's Economic Development Officer will also participate in the group with up to (two) additional staff members.
- The group will be chaired by the Economic Development Officer.

Group Selection

- We are committed to the principles and practices of an inclusive and equitable employment process. Our goal is to be representative of the communities we work with, and we encourage applicants from communities structurally marginalized based on race, colour, religion, nationality, social or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression. We welcome applicants from all communities.
- Our committee, consisting of District staff representatives, the Squamish Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures Howe Sound, will recommend members for the Economic Leadership Team to the District's Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer will have final approval in appointing these members to the Economic Leadership Team and will also have the power to remove members from the team should the need arise.

Description of Role

Development and assessment of plans and projects: this team will support the development of economic development plans and projects and help evaluate plans and projects currently underway. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Monitoring business conditions:** *this team will support understanding of business impacts resulting from changing socio, economic and environmental conditions.*
- **Performance measurement:** *this team will support the evolution of key performance indicators to measure the social, economic, and environmental performance of business expansion and investment in the District of Squamish.*

About Economic Development

The Economic Development Department, operating under the [District of Squamish](#), collaborates internally and externally with partner organizations and the business community to cultivate a vibrant, diverse, and environmentally conscious economy. Through research, expertise, and policy support, we assist in shaping investment and business decisions. Our focus is on promoting strategic investment and the development of priority sectors, generating employment opportunities and economic resilience. We actively position Squamish as an ideal location to live, work, and conduct business. From 2023 to 2026, our efforts will concentrate on developing the emerging Green Economy and Outdoor Recreation clusters while strengthening the Core and Enabling sectors of the local economy. Using the principles of doughnut economics, a circular economy approach, and through a lens of reconciliation, we aim to facilitate the growth of scalable micro and small businesses by understanding their needs, fostering innovation, encouraging collaboration, attracting investment, and supporting workforce development.