

## Herbert Vesely

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**From:** Karen Elliott <kelliott@squamish.ca>  
**Sent:** November 13, 2020 5:51 PM  
**To:** herbert@vesely.ca; nwinterburn@telus.net  
**Subject:** Community Conversation Project

**Categories:** Red Category

Dear Herbert and Nelson,

Over the last several months I have been part of a team helping to design a community building project to enable Squamish businesses, organizations and governments to respond to and recover from the pandemic. The project is called *Your Story – Our Community*, and its purpose is to use an online, anonymous app to collect pandemic-related experiences from Squamish residents in order to:

- Create a positive avenue for discussion to create solutions together.
- Help locals feel listened to, supported and connected to others.
- Create community data that all agencies, First Nations and local government can use to chart a path forward.
- Help build additional resilience within the community.
- Build empathy.

**This is where you come in. I need your support in two ways.** The first, is to ask you both to share an experience or two that you have had during the pandemic on the online app here: <http://bit.ly/SquamishStories> The second, is to ask for your help in spreading the word to your friends and family, but more broadly we want to reach as many seniors as possible for this project. I am hoping that you can share the web site, the link to the online app and the background information with members of the Squamish Senior's Centre Society and encourage them to participate and share their pandemic-related experiences. Many of our local not for profit organizations are participating and will be finding no-tech and low-tech ways to reach seniors as well. We want to collect hundreds of stories and experiences, if not thousands, from people of all ages and backgrounds and I know people would be more apt to share when they are asked by a trusted friend and community leader. Folks can read more about the project and share their story here: <http://www.yourstorysquamish.ca/>

### Background Information

The first phase of the project, which runs until the end of this year, invites residents of all ages to submit their experiences via an anonymous online app. All types of experiences are welcome - whether good, bad, happy, sad, uplifting or stressful. The key is that they must be about specific things that residents have experienced during the pandemic. We want to hear a wide range of stories – from personal, school or work life. These might be anecdotes or experiences that you would share with a friend on a walk, around a fire pit or with family over dinner, or that you might converse about on a job site, or during a break with work colleagues.

The second phase of the project will take place in early 2021 and will involve convening small groups of people either virtually or safely face-to-face. This might be a group of neighbours, youth, teachers and youth organizations, seniors and the organizations that support them, small business owners, or local government,

among others, to look at a group of stories shared by the community, work together to make sense of the experiences shared and identify wise action for moving forward.

You can find more information, examples of stories already shared, and a list of who has been involved in designing this program at <http://www.yourstorysquamish.ca/> I am also happy to answer any questions you have about why I am excited about this project.

Thank you for considering my invitation to participate.

Warmest regards,  
Karen

**Karen Elliott** | Mayor  
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*I acknowledge that I work on the traditional territories of the Squamish Nation, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw.*