Tourism Whistler media release For immediate release - October 15, 2019

Tourism Whistler announces \$3.5M Whistler Conference Centre renovation

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Whistler, B.C. – Tourism Whistler has announced plans for a \$3.5 million dollar renovation to the Whistler Conference Centre, the resort's signature conference facility located in the heart of Whistler Village.

"Recognizing group and conference business is a critical priority for the resort, our Board of Directors has approved this significant renovation to the Whistler Conference Centre to elevate it to a four-star facility," says Barrett Fisher, president and CEO of Tourism Whistler. "Conference business is the number one strategy for growing Whistler's shoulder seasons, buoying the resort's tourism economy with groups who book in advance and fill need periods."

The Whistler Conference Centre renovation will include design and technical upgrades including lighting, acoustical treatments, floor and wall coverings, furnishings, and artwork, in order to create a contemporary, sophisticated aesthetic that complements Whistler's natural mountain environment.

"Adding high quality finishes and furnishings to the conference centre's already iconic features such as the beautiful cathedral ceilings and Rumford rock fireplace, will not only enhance Whistler's group business opportunities, but will ensure Whistler remains competitive as a world-class meetings and conference destination," says Karen Goodwin, vice president of destination and market development at Tourism Whistler. "The Whistler Conference Centre is utilized by a diverse selection of groups, including business from the corporate, incentive and association sectors, which drive 30 per cent of the resort's total room nights during the spring, summer and fall periods. The conference centre upgrades will not only be beautiful, but practical and functional in design to suit a variety of conference and event needs," adds Goodwin.

The Whistler Conference Centre will remain closed during the renovation, scheduled to happen during the conference centre's low winter season beginning in January. The project is expected to be completed by mid-March 2020.

The Whistler Conference Centre offers more than 40,000 square feet of versatile meeting space with the ability to host a wide variety of conferences and events both in size and scope. More information about the Whistler Conference Centre and meeting and conference business in the resort can be found at <u>whistler.com/meetings</u>.

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Whistler is Canada's premier year-round leisure and meeting destination located in the Coast Mountains 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Consistently rated the top ski resort in North America, Whistler was the Host Mountain Resort of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The resort offers an extensive range of accommodations totaling 10,000 bedrooms among 24 hotels as well as townhomes, condos, B&Bs and chalets. Whistler also boasts more than 100 restaurants and bars, 200 retail shops, 25 spas and countless activity options from world-renowned skiing and snowboarding, mountain biking and golf, to hiking, rock climbing, and watersports. The Resort Municipality of Whistler is home to a diverse community of more than 10,000 permanent residents.

Tourism Whistler is the member-based marketing and sales organization representing Whistler, operating the <u>Whistler Conference Centre</u>, <u>Whistler Golf Club</u>, Whistler Visitor Centre, as well as 1.800.944.7853 and <u>whistler.com</u> - Whistler's official source for visitor bookings and information. As the convention and visitors bureau for the Resort Municipality of Whistler, Tourism Whistler represents more than 7,000 members who own, manage and operate properties or businesses on resort lands including hotels, restaurants, activity operators and retail shops.

Media can visit <u>whistler.com/media</u> for Whistler facts, media releases, story starters, local personality profiles and access to images and B-roll.

Broadcasters: Whistler now has the capability to take you live with our enhanced fibre network. The significantly expanded network of more than 200 kilometres of fibre optic cabling throughout the resort allows instant transmission of HD signals to any location at any time. Details on how to access, and book the fibre are available on our <u>media site</u>.

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