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REPORT SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF Thursday, June 05, 2025

SUBJECT Reopening the Rainbow Recreation Centre on Statutory Holidays

ISSUE SUMMARY

To review the financial and social implications of re-opening the Rainbow Recreation Centre on statutory holidays beginning in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The CRD assumed operation of the Rainbow Recreation Centre in 2018. Operating hours were extended to seven days a week with the addition of Saturdays and the facility was open for reduced hours from 10am-3pm on Statutory Holidays. Statutory holidays were well attended with an average of over 50 patrons per day in attendance in 2019.

In March 2020, the Rainbow Recreation Centre was closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The facility was eventually reopened in July 2020 for a reduced schedule of five days a week, as part of the Covid Safe Restart Plan.

In January 2021, the facility reopened on Saturdays for a sixth day of operation but remained closed on Sundays and Statutory Holidays through the end of 2024.

In 2024 the LCC approved funding to open the facility on Sundays in 2025. Consideration to opening on statutory holidays was deferred to 2026.

With Covid implications no longer in effect and revenues and attendance exceeding pre 2020 numbers, requests have been received from the public and visitors to reopen on statutory holidays. Positive feedback has been received with the addition of opening on Sundays, however remaining closed on statutory holidays limits recreation opportunities for families and users of the facility.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

There are 13 annual statutory holidays observed by the CRD. Opening the Rainbow Recreation Centre to the public for 5 hours on 10 of these dates (excluding New Years Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day), starting in 2026, would cost approximately \$14,500 per year in additional staff wages and generate approximately \$3,725 in additional revenue to offset these costs.

CRD staff receive time and a half for working on a statutory holiday. The majority of recreation facilities in Greater Victoria are open on statutory holidays but for limited hours to reduce overtime costs.

Fixed costs associated with operating the Rainbow Recreation Centre excluding wages are approximately \$436,257 annually or \$1,195 per day.

	Per Day	STATS 2026	Total
Expenses:			
• Staff Wages	\$1,450	10	\$14,500
Revenue:			
• Admissions (\$7.45 x 50)	(372)	10	(\$3,725)
NET:			\$10,775

Social Implications

The Rainbow Recreation Centre provides valuable space and opportunities for patrons to explore and expand their health, fitness, wellbeing and sense of belonging. The facility and programs are utilized by patrons of all ages, including seniors, children, and families. Adding additional days to the pool schedule, will provide an increase in opportunities for these benefits to be experienced.

The facility also provides opportunities for gainful employment for school aged staff. Opening the facility on statutory holidays will provide these staff with additional shift opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has incrementally expanded the Rainbow Recreation Centre public swimming schedule, since the 2020 Covid-19 closure. Opening the facility on statutory holidays will allow the public the same access to the facility that they had in pre-Covid years (2018-2019).

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, BSc, Senior Manager, CRD Real Estate, the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, and the Salt Spring Local Community Commission

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A – 2025 CRD Payroll Calendar (including Stat holidays)