



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

SUBJECT Economic Development Initiatives Project Funding

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider funding requests to support promotion of economic development on Salt Spring Island (SSI).

BACKGROUND

The 1.124 SSI Economic Development Sustainability Service was established to promote, provide information and assist local service agencies with economic development initiatives. Activities that are not considered “promotion” are those activities that are non-seasonal and more than three years in length.

Examples of what has been considered “promotion” to date include:

- Pilot program for industry and worker coordination under three years;
- Seasonal funding to tourism societies to increase service levels;
- Contracts for service for research or coordination (housing feasibility, rental coordination, encouragement o business);
- Workshops and advisory services, promotional programs, marketing strategies, consideration of economic diversification and resiliency; and
- Improvement of public spaces, or private spaces where there is a secured public right to utilize the space.

Examples of what would not be considered “promotion” to date include:

- Graffiti removal from private property;
- Improving, beautifying, or maintaining private property;
- Security cameras or surveillance equipment;
- Where ongoing funding is requested to support a business undertaking (e.g. contribution of funds to make business viable; and
- Funding of Citizens’ On Patrol-style initiatives, mental health outreach, or social work.

Ultimately the decision on what is “promotion” is up to the SSI Local Community Commission (LCC) who have been delegated authority over this service. If the LCC were to engage outside this authority such a decision may be challenged. All such projects are subject to the restriction on assistance to business as set out in the *Local Government Act*.

In 2025, Economic Development “Contribution Projects” funding was allocated to support initiatives led by Housing Now, the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce, and members of the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance (Appendix A, Table 2). These contributions supported community based economic development activities aligned with local priorities. For 2026, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has received funding requests from each of these three organizations again, which are summarized for consideration in (Appendix A, Table 1).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve 2026 requests for funding from the 1.124 Salt Spring Island Economic Development Service in the amount of \$55,180 as listed in Appendix A, Table 1.

Alternative 1

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve 2026 requests for funding from the 1.124 Salt Spring Island Economic Development Service in a different amount as listed in Appendix A, Table 1.

Alternative 2

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refer this report back to staff for additional information

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The Economic Development Service has allocated \$66,896 of funding in 2026 to support not-for-profit organizations that contribute to local economic development through program development, memberships, contribution-projects and third-party payments. The SSI Economic Development Operating Reserve has a projected ending balance of \$11,113 in 2026.

Economic Implications

Supporting community groups to promote economic development provides cost-effective economic benefits by coordinating local efforts, reducing barriers to participation in the economy, and leveraging additional funding and partnerships. Time-limited, promotion-focused contributions enable pilot projects, sector coordination, workforce and housing initiatives, and targeted outreach that support business retention, labour stability, and economic diversification without providing direct assistance to individual businesses.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the 2026 funding requests under the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Economic Development Sustainability service for the SSI Local Community Commission's consideration. The proposed requests support short-term, promotion focused initiatives delivered by community organizations and do not exceed the approved 2026 budget amounts.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve requests for funding from the 1.124 Salt Spring Island Economic Development Service in the amount of \$55,180 as listed in Appendix A, Table 1.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, P.G.Dip.Eng, BSc, General Manager, Electoral Area Services

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Economic Development Funding Summary Tables 1 & 2
- Appendix B: Economic Development Fund Request for 2026
- Appendix C: 2025 Funded Initiatives Final Reports