

REPORT TO ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

SUBJECT **Accessibility Reviews for three Salt Spring Island Recreation Facilities**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To review recommendations identified in the 2025 Accessibility Reviews for the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Salt Spring Island Rainbow Recreation Centre (RRC), Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) and Salt Spring Island Portlock Park (PP) and seek a letter of support for a grant.

BACKGROUND

In September 2022, the Accessible BC Regulation came into force requiring public sector organizations to establish an accessibility committee, develop an accessibility plan and implement a tool to receive public feedback. As of September 1, 2023, these requirements were prescribed for regional districts.

Through the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Local Community Commission's SSI Parks and Recreation Service 2025 Capital Plan, included funding to conduct an accessibility assessment for the SSI RRC, SIMS, and PP.

In September 2025, Meaningful Access Consulting was contracted to conduct a facility accessibility review of three CRD SSI facilities that were identified as having high-use public sites with known accessibility barriers reported by users.

The reviews took into consideration the perspectives of people with mobility, cognitive, auditory, and learning, sensory, and visual disabilities. The review criteria was developed by the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program and best practices offered by CSA-B651-23 guidelines. The scope of these reviews included public and staff-only areas of these two facilities including pathways, parking, entrances, access hallways, offices, meeting rooms, washrooms, change rooms, gymnasiums, pools, program spaces, playgrounds and emergency systems.

The three reports provide recommendations to improve inclusivity and enhance accessibility focusing on parking and facility access, wayfinding, lighting, emergency systems, washrooms, changerooms and program spaces. The reports do not include any cost estimates for accessibility improvements. To assist with implementation of some of the recommendations in the Accessibility Reviews, staff are seeking approval to proceed with an application for the Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant program to support up to \$25,000 in funding. The next funding intake for Sparc funding is in March 2026. Recommendations exceeding available grant funding will need to be phased into future capital plans.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends the Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair provide a letter of support for the Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant Program.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The Accessibility Reviews for the RRC, SIMS and PP are in alignment with the CRD Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Purpose:

b) Identify barriers of access to CRD service and programs for persons with disabilities in the community and recommend solutions for consideration by the CRD.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implications

The recommendations of the Accessibility Reviews are intended to increase inclusivity and reduce barriers to participation for Salt Spring Island community members to access programs and services in these two recreation facilities.

Financial Implications

The Accessibility Reviews for the RRC, SIMS and PP contain a number of recommendations that exceed available grant funding and will need to be incorporated into future capital plans for facility upgrades over several years. If the grant application is successful, the funding from the Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant program could assist with implementation of basic recommendations identified in the reviews.

CONCLUSION

Accessibility reviews were completed in September 2025 for the Salt Spring Island Rainbow Recreation Centre, Salt Spring Island Multi Space and Salt Spring Island Portlock Park in accordance with the Province of BC's Accessible BC Regulation. The assessments incorporated the perspectives of individuals with mobility, cognitive, auditory, learning, sensory, and visual disabilities. The resulting recommendations are intended to enhance accessibility and promote greater inclusivity across these facilities and provide a roadmap for future capital plans for facility upgrades. Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant program funding will help to support implementation of some of the recommended improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends the Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair provide a letter of support for the Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant Program.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, P.G.Dip.Eng, BSc, General Manager, Electoral Area Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Salt Spring Island Rainbow Road Recreation Centre Accessibility Review

Appendix B: Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) Accessibility Review

Appendix C: Salt Spring Island Portlock Park Accessibility Review