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REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

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

ISSUE SUMMARY

To receive 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).

BACKGROUND

In September 2022, the Accessible B.C. 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, changing 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.

Following approval of the Accessibility Reviews, staff will proceed with an application for Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant to support up to \$25,000 in funding for implementation of basic recommendations. The next funding intake for Sparc BC funding is in March 2026. Recommendations exceeding available grant funding will need to be phased into future capital plans.

The Accessibility Reviews have been reviewed by the CRD Accessibility Committee and a letter of support has been provided as a requirement of the Sparc BC grant application. Once approved by the LCC staff will proceed with submitting the full grant application in the amount of \$25,000.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Accessibility Reviews for the Rainbow Recreation Centre, Salt Spring Multi Space and Portlock Park be received for information and direct staff to progress an application for a Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant to fund priority recommendations from these reports.

Alternative 2

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refers the report back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The Accessibility Reviews for the RRC, SIMS and PP are aligned 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 solution 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 will inform the application for grant funding from the Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant Program in March of 2026 for possible funding for the implementation of basic recommendations. Recommendations that exceed available grant funding will need to be incorporated into future capital plans.

CONCLUSION

Accessibility reviews were completed in September 2025 for the SSI RRC, SIMS, and Portlock Park in accordance with the Province of B.C.'s Accessible B.C. 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. A successful grant application to Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility grant funding will support implementation of selected recommended improvements from these reports.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Accessibility Reviews for the Rainbow Recreation Centre, Salt Spring Multi Space and Portlock Park be received for information and direct staff to progress an application for a Sparc BC Local Community Accessibility Grant to fund priority recommendations from these reports.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

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