

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

SUBJECT Salt Spring Island Foundation Grants-In-Aid Review Committee

ISSUE SUMMARY

To appoint a representative of the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Local Community Commission (LCC) to the SSI Foundation Community Grants – Grant-in-Aid Review Committee.

BACKGROUND

Grants-in-Aid (GIAs) are one-time allocations funded through tax requisition to support special projects and activities delivered by community non-profit organizations that benefit electoral areas such as Juan de Fuca, SSI, and the Southern Gulf Islands. These grants are intended for initiatives that fall outside the scope of existing CRD services and are considered an appropriate use of tax dollars to enhance local communities, subject to eligibility criteria and additional considerations established by the LCC.

The SSI Foundation has submitted a donation letter indicating its intention to contribute \$20,000 to the CRD's SSI GIA Service in 2026. This contribution would expand the GIA program's capacity to support community projects and initiatives.

Although donations to the CRD cannot include binding conditions, the SSI Foundation has requested that the CRD follow a consistent process for the 2026 GIA intake. Specifically, the Foundation has asked that:

- CRD manages the GIA applications and approval process.
- CRD to send GIA applications to the SSI Foundation for confidential review within **seven** business days of the GIA intake due date.
- SSI Foundation to review GIA application and submit GIA recommendations to the CRD **seven** business days ahead of GIA review meeting.
- SSI Foundation to attend GIA review meeting as a delegation to put forward recommendations.
- CRD to recognize the contribution from SSI Foundation to the GIA program in all communications.
- CRD and SSI Foundation to review donation requests following award of the fall GIA intake.

As part of the review process the SSI Foundation is creating a Community Grants – Grant-in-Aid Review Committee. The Committee is made up of 5 - 7 members including a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 community volunteers, one SSI Foundation Board member and one representative from the SSI LCC. Community volunteers will be invited from among existing Foundation grant review volunteer committees and may be changeable between GIA cycles.

SSI Foundation recommendations are likely to account for any other SSI Foundation funding to that same group for a similar or related project in the same general timeframe and are likely to be made through the lens of the criteria for assessment that it uses for Community Grants and Neighbourhood Small Grants.

The LCC would not be bound by recommendations of the SSI Foundation but should consider eligibility requirements, LCC consideration and SSI Foundation recommendations as part of the review process.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission appoint the Chair of the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission to sit on the Community Grants – Grant-in-Aid Review Committee.

Alternative 2

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission appoint an alternative Salt Spring Island Local Community Commissioner to sit on the Community Grants – Grant-in-Aid Review Committee

Alternative 3

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

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The volume of GIA applications received in 2024 exceeded the approved budget, resulting in several applicants receiving reduced awards. In response, the GIA budget was increased by \$15,000 for 2025, from \$53,986 to \$68,986. Demand again surpassed available funding in 2025, requiring the SSI Local Community Commission to approve awards below the amounts requested. For 2026, the GIA budget has been increased by \$1,244, bringing the total to \$70,230. If a potential \$20,000 donation is secured, the total GIA funding available in 2026 would rise to \$90,230.

Table 1: Salt Spring Island 2026 Grant-In-Aid Provisional Budget

2026 GIA Provisional Budget	Budget		
	Budget	Donation	Total
SSI (\$)	70,230	20,000	90,230

CONCLUSION

The establishment of the Community Grants – Grant-in-Aid Working Group provides an opportunity to strengthen coordination between the LCC and the SSI Foundation during the 2026 GIA intake. Appointing an LCC representative will ensure that Commission perspectives are incorporated early in the review process and that eligibility requirements and community priorities are consistently applied. The anticipated \$20,000 donation from the SSI Foundation would significantly enhance the GIA program's capacity to support local initiatives, making collaborative review even more valuable. For these reasons, appointing an LCC member to the Working Group will support transparent decision-making and help maximize community benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission appoint the Chair of the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission to sit on the Community Grants – Grant-in-Aid Review Committee.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
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