



Making a difference...together

BRIEFING NOTE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

SUBJECT **AVICC RESOLUTION: INCLUSION OF SALT SPRING ISLAND AND SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS IN THE ISLANDS COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST (Directors Holman & Howe)**

ISSUE SUMMARY

Since 2014 the Capital Regional District (CRD) has advocated for a change in the rural designation from urban to rural for Electoral Areas within the CRD to be included in the Islands Coastal Economic Trust in order to diversify their economy.

BACKGROUND

The small rural communities of Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands continue to struggle with economic sustainability and are excluded from some rural economic development and infrastructure funding programs as a result of being a part of the Capital Regional District (CRD), which is otherwise characterized by mostly urban municipalities.

The Capital Regional District has requested the BC government classify the electoral areas as rural so that they may qualify and receive the benefits from Provincial and Federal Government rural funding programs. Only Juan de Fuca has been granted that inclusion in 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

Whereas the Capital Regional District has advocated for a change in the rural designation from urban to rural for the Electoral Areas of Salt Spring Island, Southern Gulf Islands, and Juan de Fuca as they are not eligible to participate in support programs to help diversify their economy;

And whereas the province made a regulation change in 2020 to include only the unincorporated Electoral Area of Juan de Fuca, in the Islands Coastal Economic Trust territory;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the provincial government include the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area within the North Island-Coast Development Trust Region Regulation.

CONTACT

Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer
Capital Regional District | Email: rlapham@crd.bc.ca | Tel: (250) 360-3124

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: May 8, 2019 Staff Report: Update on Rural Definition and Western Diversification
Appendix B: July 30, 2020 letter from SSI, SGI, and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Directors
Appendix C: March 19, 2019 letter from Colin Plant, Chair, CRD Board
Appendix D: November 13, 2019 letter from SSI, SGI, and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Directors
Appendix E: January 4, 2018 letter from Steve Price, former Chair, CRD Board
Appendix F: February 21, 2018 letter from Honourable Selena Robinson, Ministry of Municipal

Affairs and Housing

- Appendix G: February 28, 2018 letter from Claudia Trudeau, Director, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Appendix H: June 19, 2018 letter from Steve Price, former Chair, CRD Board
- Appendix I: July 11, 2018 letter from Susan Morrison, former Acting Chair, Islands Trust Council
- Appendix J: July 30, 2018 letter from Honourable Selina Robinson, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Appendix K: January 31, 2014 letter from Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
- Appendix L: August 2, 2013 letter from Alastair Bryson, former Chair, CRD Board
- Appendix M: December 23, 2013 letter from Honourable Shirley Bond, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour