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REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

SUBJECT Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission - Union of BC Municipalities and Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Membership

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to identify membership eligibility and costs associated with full participatory membership in the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC).

BACKGROUND

At its June 18, 2026 meeting, the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Local Community Commission (LCC) passed the following motions:

“That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission directs staff to report on options for obtaining full participatory membership for the LCC in the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), either as a stand alone or in conjunction with other SSI elected bodies and include the initial and ongoing costs in the appropriate budget funded by requisition.”

“That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission directs staff to report on options for obtaining full participatory membership for the LCC in the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) either as a stand alone or in conjunction with other SSI elected bodies and include the initial and ongoing costs in the appropriate budget funded by requisition.”

Following this direction, staff contacted both AVICC and UBCM regarding membership eligibility. The responses received indicated that membership is generally limited to recognized local government bodies, such as regional districts, municipalities, First Nations and other entities specifically identified within their governing bylaws and membership provisions. Community commissions, associations and similar bodies are not eligible for direct membership.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is a member of both organizations, and SSI is represented through the CRD Electoral Area Director. In addition, Islands Trust is a member organization, and its elected Trustees are able to participate through that membership.

A Local Community Commission such as the SSI LCC is not itself a municipality, regional district, First Nation, Islands Trust body or separate local government. Rather, it is a commission established by the CRD under the *Local Government Act*. As a result, it does not fall within the categories of entities that are eligible to hold membership directly in either UBCM or AVICC. Both organizations confirmed that participation and representation for SSI occurs through the memberships held by the CRD and Islands Trust, rather than through the SSI LCC as a separate member entity.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The LCC may not have full voting member representation, however commissioners can still attend UBCM and AVICC conventions and events.

The UBCM Tradeshow is typically held in Vancouver, over two days in September. The 2026 regular registration rate to attend is \$1,060 plus travel and accommodation.

The 2027 AVICC Annual General Meeting and Convention is scheduled to be held in Nanaimo April 16 - 18, 2027 at the Vancouver Island Convention Centre. Registration costs are not yet publicly available with registration opening in February 2027.

Should one or more commissioners wish to attend these conferences, additional funding would need to be added to the 2027 LCC training budget with approval coming from the Electoral Area Director.

CONCLUSION

Based on the membership criteria established by both Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and Union of BC Municipalities, the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission is not eligible to obtain independent voting membership as it is a commission established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) and not a separate local government entity. Salt Spring Island continues to be represented within these organizations through the CRD, the SSI Electoral Area Director, and Islands Trust representatives who are eligible voting delegates. Should the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission wish to support commissioner participation in these events, additional funding would need to be considered through future budget processes and approved in accordance with established CRD authorities.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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