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

SUBJECT Transition Salt Spring Funding Request

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider a funding request from Transition Salt Spring (TSS) through the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Economic Development Sustainability EDS Service.

BACKGROUND

TSS has requested a three-year funding commitment through the SSI EDS Service to replace funding previously received through the Province of BC's Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). The requested funding would support community education, communications, engagement and coordination activities related to climate action, emergency preparedness, water conservation, local food security and community resilience.

Between 2023 and 2026, TSS received annual LGCAP funding of \$14,000 through the Capital Regional District (CRD). According to TSS, the organization leveraged this funding with additional fundraising revenues and delivered a broad range of communications and engagement initiatives focused on climate adaptation and resilience. With the provincial funding program no longer available, TSS is seeking continued support through the EDS Service.

The 1.124 SSI EDS Service was established to promote, provide information and assist local service agencies with economic development initiatives. Activities that are not considered "promotion" are those activities that are non-seasonal and more than three years in length.

Examples of what has been considered "promotion" to date include:

- Pilot program for industry and worker coordination under three years;
- Seasonal funding to tourism societies to increase service levels;
- Contracts for service for research or coordination (housing feasibility, rental coordination, encouragement of business);
- Workshops and advisory services, promotional programs, marketing strategies, consideration of economic diversification and resiliency; and
- Improvement of public spaces or private spaces where there is a secured public right to utilize the space.

Examples of what would not be considered "promotion" to date include:

- Graffiti removal from private property;
- Improving, beautifying or maintaining private property;
- Security cameras or surveillance equipment;
- Where ongoing funding is requested to support a business undertaking (e.g., contribution of funds to make business viable; and
- Funding of Citizens' On Patrol-style initiatives, mental health outreach or social work.

The EDS service supports initiatives that enhance the long-term economic, environmental and social well-being of SSI.

The requested funding would support public education and engagement activities related to:

- Climate adaptation and resilience;
- Water conservation and drought response;
- Emergency preparedness and wildfire awareness;
- Local food security initiatives;
- Energy conservation programs; and
- Community capacity building.

If the LCC were to engage outside this authority, such a decision may be challenged. All such projects are subject to the restriction on assistance to business as set out in the *Local Government Act*.

In 2026, Economic Development “Contribution Projects” funding was allocated to support initiatives led by Housing Now, the SSI Chamber of Commerce, and members of the SSI Agricultural Alliance. These contributions support community based economic development activities aligned with local priorities.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve funding for Transition Salt Spring through the 1.124 Salt Spring Island Economic Development Sustainability Service in the amount of \$14,560 in 2027, \$15,142 in 2028 and \$15,749 in 2029, and direct staff to include the funding commitment in the 2027-2029 financial plan.

Alternative 2

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refer this report back to staff for additional information

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

TSS is requesting funding of:

- 2027: \$14,560
- 2028: \$15,142
- 2029: \$15,749

The EDS Service allocated \$65,174 of funding to support “promotion” in 2026:

2026 Approved Funding		
Program Development	Housing Now	\$23,724
Contribution Projects	Agricultural Alliance	\$3,000
	Farmland Trust	\$10,000
	Island Natural Growers	\$3,000
	Farmers Institute	\$3,000
	Abattoir Society	\$2,450
	Chamber Visitor Centre	\$10,000
Third Party Payments	Destination Marketing Management Organization	\$10,000
TOTAL		\$65,174

The EDS Service’s 2027 Provisional Budget includes the following funding:

	Core Budget	Ongoing Supplementary
Program Development	\$20,000	
Contribution Projects	\$30,000	\$30,000
Third Party Payments	\$10,000	
TOTAL	\$60,000	\$90,000

Staff were directed to increase Contribution Funding by \$30,000 in the provisional budget however, at that time, it may not have been flagged that the existing \$51,716 in funding was made up of \$30,000 funded by requisition, and \$21,716 carried forward from 2025 to support the Integrated Housing Strategy. At its June 11, 2025 meeting, the SSI LCC passed the following motion:

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission directs staff to prepare the 1.124 Salt Spring Island Economic Development Preliminary Five-Year Financial Plan by increasing Project Costs from \$51,716 in 2026 to \$60,000 in 2027 as an ongoing supplementary item funded by requisition.

To support this request in 2027, previously funded requests under the core budget would need to be reduced or an ongoing supplementary item of \$14,560 or more would need to be included in the final budget.

CONCLUSION

Transition Salt Spring has requested a three-year funding commitment through the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Sustainability Service to replace funding previously provided through the Provincial Local Government Climate Action Program. Activities proposed support community resilience, climate adaptation, emergency preparedness and public engagement. Approval of the request would require the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission to allocate funding within future economic development budgets, either through reallocation of existing program funding or by increasing the available contribution funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission approve funding for Transition Salt Spring through the 1.124 Salt Spring Island Economic Development Sustainability Service in the amount of \$14,560 in 2027, \$15,142 in 2028 and \$15,749 in 2029, and direct staff to include the funding commitment in the 2027-2029 financial plan.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
Concurrence	Stephen Henderson, MBA, P.G. Dip.Eng., BSc, General Manager of Electoral Area Services

ATTACHMENT:

Appendix A: Transition Salt Spring Funding Request