

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held via MS Teams
October 14, 2025, at 12:00 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair); Russ Benwell; Raymond Chan; David Lewis; Richard Michaels; Rachid Ouache; Tim Petropoulos; Ingrid Strauss; and Robert Wickson

Regrets: Jason Arruda and Amber Hockin

Staff: Mitchell Edgar, Economic Development Manager; Kirsten Blackstock, Economic Development Coordinator (via Teams); and Preet Chaggar, Committee Clerk

Guests: Dallas Gislason, Deputy Director and Aaron Stone, CEO, South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP)

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by R. Wickson and Seconded by D. Lewis: “That the Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held September 4, 2025, be adopted as circulated.”

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Harper, Benwell, Chan, Lewis, Michaels, Ouache, Petropoulos, Strauss, Wickson

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members, and the following was noted:

- Posting is active to renew committee membership for the Economic Development Advisory Committee with a deadline of October 31, 2025.

SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP (SIPP)

The CEO, and the Deputy Director of SIPP gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Measurable and actionable outcomes from the 5-year plan include four strategic outcome areas each with key performance indicators. SIPP provides an annual report to members of the outcomes.
- SIPP outlined innovation-driven initiatives that successfully moved from concept to implementation with a specific reference to the Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST) key initiative.
- Impact reports will outline quantitative and qualitative data, project funds and the resulting economic impacts of key initiatives.
- BC is the fastest growing ocean and marine technology economy in Canada.
- The Municipal Services Agreement is a five-year tool that municipalities use to engage external organizations for service provision. This Agreement provides deliverables, key performance indicators, reporting cycles, and reporting.
- Suggestion is for metrics to be built into the five-year model to demonstrate a clear return on investment.
- The District is focused on local businesses and local economies and works in partnership with the Capital Regional District (CRD) to deliver regional services with shared resources.

MOVED by K. Harper and Seconded by R. Chan: “That the Economic Development Advisory Committee endorses SIPP’s Rising Economy 2030 plan (2026 to 2030) and recommends continuing membership in SIPP based on the model presented and to aid in this implementation.”

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Harper, Benwell, Chan, Lewis, Michaels, Ouache, Petropoulos, Strauss, Wickson

OPPOSED: None

The following was noted by presenters:

- Saanich is within the top 20 metropolitan regions in Canada with the lowest per capita funding for economic development.
- Interested in exploring Life Sciences with universities to commercialize innovation and stimulate economic growth in this sector.
- Core operational funding capacity through SIPP is still available for municipal partnership.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK