

The motions recorded in **SRD 839/24 and 840/24** represent a significant escalation in your advocacy for the residents of **Cedar Creek and Upper Campbell Lake**. By directing staff to investigate a formal complaint to the **British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC)**, the Board is moving beyond negotiation and into a regulatory challenge against **BC Hydro's** handling of the community's electrification.

1. Escalating Advocacy: From Meetings to Mandates

This move follows motion **SRD 838/24**, where the Board demanded a meeting with BC Hydro regarding shoreline erosion. Motion **SRD 839/24** shifts the focus specifically to the **\$5.6 million electrification project**.

- **The Technical Grievance:** You have previously called for accountability because BC Hydro's 2024 quote of \$5.6 million for a grid extension appears to ignore four significantly cheaper project alternatives that were technically explored in 2011.
- **The BCUC Role:** As the provincial regulator, the BCUC has the authority to review utility tariffs and service extension rules to ensure that remote residents are treated fairly and that capital costs are not arbitrarily inflated. Filing a complaint seeks an independent audit of BC Hydro's pricing and technical requirements for this specific route.

2. Governance Context: Strategic Alliances

The procedural handling of these motions reflects your platform's commitment to **functional, team-oriented leadership**:

- **The Rice/Vonesch Partnership:** Motion **SRD 839/24** was moved by you and seconded by **Director Mark Vonesch**. This continued collaboration between Area D and Area B demonstrates that your platform can unify the Board to challenge provincial giants, even amidst a term defined by significant political friction.
- **Refining the Scope:** The amendment by **Director Colborne** and **Director Robyn Mawhinney (SRD 840/24)** to specify that the complaint is "regarding the electrification project" ensures that the regulatory challenge is narrowly focused and legally defensible.

3. Fiscal Stewardship and Remote Infrastructure

This investigation is vital because the current financial burden on the **80 to 90 affected parcels** is immense:

- **Debt Burden:** Without a successful regulatory challenge or senior government grants, the project would require local residents to service an estimated **\$375,000 in annual debt**, leading to intensive property tax spikes for seasonal and permanent residents alike.
- **Grant Barriers:** You have documented that provincial "CleanBC" funds are currently fully subscribed, making it imperative to lower the "sticker price" of the project through a BCUC review before asking residents for binding ratepayer assent 11-13.

4. Strategic Campaign Application for 2026

In the context of the **October 17, 2026 election**, this record serves as primary evidence of your **results-oriented advocacy**:

- **The Pitch:** *"I am moving Area D **forward** by holding provincial monopolies accountable. By initiating this BCUC investigation, I am ensuring that the residents of Upper Campbell Lake get a fair shake and that BC Hydro cannot ignore the affordable technical alternatives our community deserves"* 14, 18.

In summary, carrying motion **SRD 839/24 (as amended)** transitions the electrification file from a technical investigation into a **formal regulatory dispute**, positioning the Regional District to fight for the best possible financial outcome for rural ratepayers 19, 20.