

The motions recorded in **SRD 964/24 through 966/24** represent a definitive move to exercise the **contractual audit rights** of Electoral Area D within its 45-year-old fire protection agreement with the City of Campbell River. By formally demanding detailed budgets and financial statements from 2022 to 2024, the Board is transitioning from passive participation to active, **data-backed oversight** of a service whose costs have now escalated to nearly **\$700,000 annually**.

1. Technical Context: Invoking the 1979 Agreement

These motions, moved by you (**Director John Rice**) and seconded by **Director Gerald Whalley**, specifically invoke **Paragraphs 2 and 3** of the original 1979 service contract Query.

- **Budgetary Transparency (SRD 965/24):** This directive forces the disclosure of detailed operational, maintenance, and capital budgets for **2023 and 2024**. It ensures the Regional District can scrutinize exactly how the City is calculating the "efficient operation" of the department.
- **Fiscal Accountability (SRD 966/24):** By requesting full financial statements for **2022 and 2023**, you are closing the loop on historical spending to identify whether Area D taxpayers have been over-requisitioned for services or capital items that do not directly benefit them.

2. Strategic Urgency: The \$21 Million Liability

The timing of these requests is critical for protecting the financial interests of your residents against looming urban infrastructure debts:

- **The Fire Hall No. 1 Project:** The City of Campbell River is planning a **\$21,000,000 replacement** of Fire Hall No. 1 in 2025–2026 3, 4.
- **The 7% Burden:** Under the current assessment structure, Area D property owners are responsible for roughly **7% of the capital costs** for City fire infrastructure 3, 5.
- **Preventing Tax Spikes:** Securing these financial records allows you to evaluate the feasibility of establishing an **independent Area D fire service** *before* these massive capital costs are downloaded onto local tax tranches.

3. Regulatory Drivers: The Fire Safety Act

Beyond the \$21 million hall, the Board is preparing for the new provincial **Fire Safety Act**, which removes previous exemptions for regional districts.

- **Mandatory Inspections:** Once in force, the SRD will be legally required to manage fire inspections for all public assembly spaces.
- **Compliance Audit:** The requested reports will help determine if the current contract fee already covers these inspections or if the SRD must budget for separate staff to meet these new legal mandates.

4. Governance Dynamics: Functional Alliances

The procedural handling of these motions is a primary exhibit of your **"Forward"** platform's commitment to **corporate stability**:

- **Unifying the Board:** This partnership demonstrates that you can unify with rural colleagues to demand **professional transparency**, even amidst a term defined by

significant political friction elsewhere 6. It shows that the Board is moving past "targeted administrative friction" to focus on the **essential safety infrastructure** residents depend on.

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 964/24 to 966/24** fulfills a core safety and fiscal mandate of your term. It positions Electoral Area D to make an informed, data-backed choice between continuing its 1979 urban partnership or moving toward a **modern, independent fire protection model** 4, 11.