

The motions **EASC 95/24 and 96/24** represent a significant move by the "rural block" to expand the list of events for which they can claim taxpayer-funded remuneration. These records highlight a fundamental divide in the 2026 election narrative:

The Current Compensation Framework

Under the existing Strathcona Regional District (SRD) rules, Electoral Area Directors are already compensated through two primary bylaws:

- **Bylaw No. 167 (General Compensation):** Provides a flat rate of **\$160 per meeting** for attending Board, Committee of the Whole, and EASC meetings.
- **Bylaw No. 359 (Supplemental Compensation):** An exclusive supplemental bylaw for rural directors that already allows them to bill for town halls, meetings with staff at the corporate office, sessions with senior government officials, and major annual conventions like **UBCM, FCM, and AVICC**.
- **Public Hearings:** Directors also receive a flat annual rate of **\$2,500** for attending at least one public hearing per year.

The Expansion Request (EASC 96/24)

The motion moved by **Director Robyn Mawhinney** and seconded by **Director Mark Vonesch** sought to add seven new categories to the list of compensable meetings:

1. Electoral Area Director Forum
2. LGLA Leadership Academy Conference
3. BC Broadband Conference
4. Keeping it Rural Conference
5. Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA)
6. Island Health Conference
7. Island Health Climate Gathering

Governance Context: Fiscal Responsibility vs. "Billing" Politics

Director John Rice's **opposition** to this motion (recorded in EASC 96/24) is a central pillar of his **"Building Tomorrow Together"** campaign.

- **The "Forward" Argument (Fiscal Discipline):** Director Rice argues that at a time when residents are facing high inflation and economic fragility, the Board should focus on securing external funds—like the **\$2.8 million water meter grant** or the **\$99,999 transit shelter grant**—rather than increasing the cost of political representation.
- **The Taxpayer Subsidy Scandal:** This move to expand billing categories comes in the wake of **Mayor Kermit Dahl's** stinging criticism. Dahl pointed out that Campbell River taxpayers already cover **70% of the salaries and travel expenses** for rural and small-community directors. He specifically reprimanded the rural block for "billing the SRD for travel" only to walk out on their responsibilities during the **Strathcona Gardens "hot mic" incident**.

In summary, **EASC 96/24** is the official record of the rural block's attempt to broaden their compensable activities, a move that Director Rice opposed to maintain **corporate stability**

and protect the interests of taxpayers.