

The motions recorded in **SRD 897/24 through 899/24** represent a definitive legislative victory for **corporate efficiency** and a primary fix for the "administrative red tape" that previously threatened to delay the **\$122 million to \$131 million REC-REATE project**. By increasing the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) purchasing authority to **\$3,000,000** for this specific project, the Board has moved to align the district's procurement rules with the massive scale of its largest-ever capital build **SRD 898/24**.

1. The \$3 Million "Bridge" to Efficiency (SRD 898/24)

Motion **SRD 898/24**, moved by **Director Susan Sinnott** and seconded by you (**Director John Rice**), amends **Bylaw No. 521** to modernize procurement for the expansion Query.

- **Fixing the "Waypoint" Hurdle:** This amendment directly addresses the crisis triggered by **Waypoint Insurance Invoice No. 871180**. Because that essential insurance invoice was **\$261,023.00**—just \$11,023 over the CAO's former \$250,000 limit—it could not be paid administratively, forcing a Board-level vote simply to keep the project insured.
- **Scale-Appropriate Governance:** The new **\$3,000,000 limit** ensures that routine, multi-million-dollar progress payments to contractors and professional service providers (like engineers and brokers) do not clog the Board's agenda or face interest penalties due to payment delays.
- **Fiscal Safeguards:** The authority is strictly limited to the **REC-REATE project** and is legally bound to never exceed the limits already established in the Board-approved **financial plan bylaw** **SRD 898/24**.

2. Balancing Efficiency with Accountability (SRD 899/24)

While the CAO now has the authority to pay invoices up to \$3 million, motion **SRD 899/24** ensures rigorous Board oversight.

- **Mandatory Reporting:** A listing of all paid invoices **in excess of \$250,000** must now be included in periodic updates to the **Strathcona Gardens Commission** **SRD 899/24**.
- **Transparency vs. Micromanagement:** This represents a "Forward" approach to transparency. Instead of the **"Backward" tactic** seen in motion **SRD 775/24**—where the rural block attempted to force *all* invoices over \$250,000 to be presented to the Board for *approval* before payment—this model allows staff to pay bills on time while providing the Commission with a clear audit trail of where the money is going.

3. Governance Context: The "Pro-Stability" Alliance

The procedural handling of these motions reinforces the partnership between **Electoral Area D** and the **City of Campbell River**:

- **The Sinnott/Rice Partnership:** You and Vice-Chair Susan Sinnott moved and seconded the substantive reforms, proving that the urban/Area D majority is committed to **functional governance** that protects regional investments.
- **Cross-Block Receipt:** Notably, motion **SRD 897/24** to receive the report was seconded by **Director Gerald Whalley**. This suggests that even fiscal hardliners in the rural block eventually recognized that a \$250,000 cap was an unworkable "procedural trap" for a \$131 million construction project.

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 897/24 to 899/24** provides the **administrative continuity** required to transition the REC-REATE expansion from a construction site to a finished health and wellness hub, protecting regional taxpayers from the costs of political gridlock.