

The motions recorded in **SRD 719/24 through 721/24** represent a secondary procedural battle in the ongoing effort to professionalise the **Grant in Aid (GIA)** process. These records document a direct attempt by the "rural block" to halt the adoption of **Policy CP-027 (Financial Assistance to Organizations)** and the Board's subsequent decision to defer the complex matter to committee for deeper structural review.

1. The Obstruction: Attempting to Halt CP-027 (SRD 720/24)

Motion **SRD 720/24**, moved by **Director Gerald Whalley** and seconded by **Director Robyn Mawhinney**, was an explicit attempt to end the pursuit of a formal grant policy.

- **The "Backward" Strategy:** This move aligns with the rural block's documented pattern of preferring "legacy" processes. Proponents of your platform argue that by moving to *not* pursue the policy further, these directors are fighting to maintain an informal system where financial disclosures are "optional" rather than mandatory.
- **Defending Discretion:** Under the legacy framework, grants are often awarded at the **sole discretion of the Area Director**, a model critics argue is vulnerable to "political bias, ideological favoritism, or 'vote-buying' mechanisms".

2. The Deferral: Committee-Level Scrutiny (SRD 721/24)

By carrying motion **SRD 721/24**, the Board moved to defer the entire matter to the **Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC)** and the **Municipal Services Committee**.

- **Structural Review:** This deferral follows an August 7, 2024, EASC recommendation to draft a bylaw establishing a formalized **Grant in Aid service** for all electoral areas.
- **Resolving the Conflict:** Moving the debate to the committee level allows the Board to address the "informational equity" gaps that triggered this review, specifically regarding funding requests for the **Cortes Island School and PAC** that raised concerns about regional funds being used for **School District 72** responsibilities.

3. The Policy Stakes: CP-027 vs. Legacy Guidelines

The outcome of this committee review will determine whether the SRD adopts the professional standards outlined in **Policy CP-027** or remains with the legacy procedures:

- **Mandatory Transparency:** CP-027 would make **financial statements and current year budgets mandatory** for all applicants.
- **Strict Prohibitions:** The policy explicitly bans using regional funds for core operations (rent, utilities), wages, or multi-year commitments—safeguards that do not exist in the current legacy website guidelines.

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 719/24 and 721/24** ensures that the drive toward transparent governance remains alive in the committee phase, despite the rural block's efforts to revert to legacy "billing politics".