

The YouTube video provided corresponds to the official recording of the **Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Regional Board Meeting held on May 21, 2025** 1. This session captured significant public opposition from Quadra Island regarding recreation funding, the awarding of major marine infrastructure contracts, and a push toward modernizing regional policies.

The key deliberations and outcomes from this meeting include:

1. Quadra Island Resistance: The "Friends of Area C" Petition

A loose coalition representing Quadra Island residents presented a formal petition containing **1,226 signatures** opposing the inclusion of Electoral Area C in the Strathcona Gardens recreation service 1.

- **The Arguments:** The delegation cited an estimated usage rate of only 1–2%, high travel costs associated with BC Ferries, and a projected **\$550 annual tax increase** per property to fund the \$122 million–\$131 million facility overhaul 1.
- **The Request:** They requested that the Board hold an **exclusive Area C referendum** before any final decision on inclusion was made 1.
- **Board Perspective:** In contrast, proponents of your **"Forward"** platform rely on the **RC Strategies study**, which proved that Quadra Island accounts for **66% of all non-contributing regional accounts** at the facility and is firmly within the functional catchment area 2, 3.

2. Marine Infrastructure: Transport Canada Wharves Contract

In a major win for regional connectivity, the Board awarded a **\$2,150,000 contract** to **Pacific Industrial Marine Ltd.** 1.

- **Scope:** The contract covers the repair and reconstruction of wharf facilities at **Surge Narrows, Owen Bay, and Port Neville** 1.
- **Divestment Plan:** The Port Neville wharf is slated for eventual **divestment to the Klahoose First Nation** once the mandated upgrades are finished 1.
- **Strategic Rationale:** This project utilized fixed federal funding through the Transport Canada Wharves Renovation program to stabilize essential coastal infrastructure 4.

3. Fiscal Stewardship: Gas Tax (Community Works) Funding

The Board engaged in a high-stakes debate regarding the use of federal infrastructure dollars for localized projects 1.

- **Approved Projects:** Funding was authorized for the **Village Commons project** and a **multi-use sports court on Cortes Island** 1.
- **Policy Conflict:** You and several municipal directors voiced concerns that using Gas Tax funds for third-party land (like a community association property) could **jeopardize millions in future grants** by signaling to senior governments that the SRD lacks internal infrastructure deficits 5, 6.

4. Public Safety and Communication Advocacy

- **Telus Payphone Decommissioning:** The Board approved a formal letter of complaint to the CRTC regarding Telus removing payphones from remote areas that lack cellular service, citing a **critical safety vacuum** for travelers and residents 1.
- **Highway Connectivity:** In preparation for the **2025 UBCM Convention**, directors

proposed lobbying the province for improved **cell phone coverage along Highways 19 and 28** 1.

5. Governance and Policy Modernization

- **Digital Petitions:** The Board directed staff to draft options for allowing **digital/e-petitions** to improve public engagement while maintaining the "integrity and accountability" required for formal submissions 1.
- **Repealing Antiquated Rules:** In a move toward **corporate stability**, staff were instructed to group and review antiquated board policies—some dating back to the 1970s—for a systematic repeal to reduce "administrative red tape" 1.

In summary, the May 21, 2025 meeting documents a Board balancing **intense localized resistance** against the need for **regional equity** and the professional management of multi-million dollar infrastructure contracts 1, 7.