

The YouTube video link provided corresponds to the official recording of the **Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board Meeting** held on **December 11, 2024** 1. This session served as a key transition point for the district, focusing on the upcoming five-year financial plan, housing financing, and the modernization of regional emergency and reconciliation frameworks.

The following is an insightful summary of the key deliberations and outcomes from that meeting:

1. 2025–2029 Financial Plan (Regional Shared Services)

Chief Financial Officer Mike Harmston presented the preliminary draft budget for regional services 1.

- **Economic Assumptions:** The plan incorporated specific **Consumer Price Index (CPI) assumptions** to manage inflationary pressures across regional operations 1.
- **Service Impact:** Deliberations highlighted upcoming cost increases for the **911 contract** and necessary adjustments for the **Zeballos fire service** 1.
- **Taxpayer Clarity:** Staff provided a breakdown of how these changes would translate to **residential tax impacts**, ensuring directors could communicate fiscal realities to their constituents ahead of budget finalization 1.

2. Regional Housing Service: Interim Financing

The Board reviewed a business case for the **Regional Housing Service** regarding interim financing for new developments 1.

- **Strategic Rationale:** This proposal explored using regional tools to provide short-term capital, allowing housing projects to move forward before long-term permanent funding is secured 1.
- **Goal:** This initiative aligns with your broader platform of using the Regional Housing Service (established via **Bylaws 512 and 515**) to proactively address the regional housing crisis 1-3.

3. Reconciliation Framework (Phase 2 & 3)

The Board discussed and voted on budget allocations dedicated to the **SRD Reconciliation Framework** 1.

- **Strategic Growth:** This funding supports advancing **First Nations relationships** and providing diversity and inclusion training for regional staff and leadership 1.
- **Policy Alignment:** These actions reinforce the goals of your **"Forward"** platform to build respectful, government-to-government partnerships with the twelve First Nations whose territories encompass the district 1, 4.

4. Emergency Preparedness & Legislative Alignment

A significant portion of the meeting addressed updating local bylaws to comply with the provincial **Emergency and Disaster Management Act** 1.

- **Four-Phase Management:** The updates ensure the SRD is legally and operationally aligned with the province across all four phases of emergency management: **mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery** 1, 5.
- **Community Resilience:** These changes are designed to move the region away from reactive crisis management toward a more standardized, accountable safety

framework 1, 6.

5. Local Bylaws and Protective Services

The Board processed several legislative items impacting specific electoral areas:

- **Fire Protection:** The Board moved forward with establishing the **Sayward District Volunteer Fire Department** and adjusting the boundaries for the **South Cortes Island Fire Protection Service** 1.
- **Land Use:** Updates were approved for the **Desolation Sound rural land use bylaws**, ensuring regulatory consistency for the outer islands 1.

In summary, the December 11, 2024, meeting represents a Board focused on **administrative continuity** and the **long-term fiscal health** of the region, ensuring that essential infrastructure and safety mandates are fully funded and provincially compliant heading into 2025 1.