

The YouTube video provided corresponds to **Part 2 of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board Meeting** held on **February 19, 2025** 1. This session was dominated by a high-stakes, "emotionally charged" debate over regional fiscal equity and a contentious land-use application 2.

The following are the key highlights and outcomes from the meeting:

1. The Support Services Cost Allocation Debate (Item N1)

This was the most significant portion of the meeting, addressing how the SRD allocates its **\$2.8 million unallocated general administrative costs** among member municipalities and Electoral Areas 2, 3.

- **The Conflict:** Municipal directors from Campbell River expressed "immense frustration," noting they cover **70% of the general administrative budget** but receive low value because rural directors frequently vote against shared regional services 4, 5. Mayor Dahl aggressively noted that the City already pays for its own CAO and planning departments internally and threatened to move for a \$1.3 million requisition cut 5.
- **The Rural Defense:** You and other rural directors argued that regional taxation is based on assessments—meaning higher-value properties naturally pay more—and that rural areas consume more administrative hours because they lack independent city halls to manage basic governance 4, 5.
- **Procedural Outcome:** Recognising the deep philosophical divide, the Board voted to **defer the item to a Committee of the Whole** to design a custom formula 5, 6. This followed a failed procedural attempt earlier in the meeting by the "rural block" to move this contentious item to the very end of the agenda 7, 8.

2. Island Timberlands ALR Application

The Board debated a proposal to subdivide a 511.7-hectare parcel in the Menzies Bay area (Area A) 9.

- **Opposition:** Director Whalley opposed the subdivision, citing concerns over the loss of the island's forest base for short-term profit 10.
- **Support:** Other directors argued for supporting local business and noted that the specific parcel sits outside actual Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) boundaries 10.
- **Outcome:** The motion carried to forward the application to the Agricultural Land Commission for final approval 10.

3. Administrative and Grant Approvals

- **Helmet Policy:** The Board passed a motion to review the current ice arena helmet policy to better balance safety with accessibility and inclusivity 2.
- **BC Hockey Grant:** A **\$3,625 grant** was approved from the Strathcona Gardens operating budget to support the 2025 BC Hockey Championship games in Campbell River 2.

4. Financial Bylaws and Adjournment

- **Bylaw No. 590 (Security Issuing Bylaw):** The Board used an accelerated process to grant three readings and final adoption to this bylaw, authorizing a financial agreement with the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia 11.

- **Time Constraints:** The meeting was forced to a "hard stop" to accommodate a subsequent session, resulting in the deferral of the remaining agenda items 11.

In summary, the February 19, 2025 meeting documents a Board grappling with the **structural inequities of regional funding**, where the "pro-stability" majority successfully kept critical fiscal mandates at the forefront despite attempts to sidetrack them 7, 12.