

The YouTube video link provided corresponds to the official recording of **Part 2 of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board Meeting** held on **May 22, 2024** 1, 2. This session was a substantive continuation of the morning's brief public proceedings and addressed critical regional issues ranging from short-term rental regulations to the district's long-term financial health 1.

The following are the key highlights and deliberations from that meeting:

## 1. Short-Term Rentals (STRs) vs. Affordable Housing

The meeting featured a significant presentation from a professional engineer and local property management business owner regarding the impact of commercial STRs on **Electoral Area D** 1.

- **The Debate:** The presentation evaluated local demographic demands, such as the need for senior housing, and utilized financial case studies (like Victoria's housing fund) to suggest that the Board should pursue **balanced regulations** rather than total bans 1.
- **Campaign Context:** This discussion provided the groundwork for Area D's eventual decision to **opt out** of the provincial "Principal Residence Requirement" for 2024, a move led by you (**Director John Rice**) to protect property rights and local income while still implementing modernized enforcement tools 3-5.

## 2. Climate Mitigation and Clean Energy Advocacy

A delegation from **Cortes Island (Electoral Area B)** delivered a presentation focused on accelerating the regional transition toward clean energy 1.

- **Core Proposals:** The delegation advocated for accelerating the **zero-carbon step code**, phasing out reliance on natural gas and methane, and enhancing Vancouver Island's electrical grid security 1.
- **Renewable Options:** The presentation highlighted localized renewable energy solutions, including wind, solar, and **tidal power** 1.

## 3. 2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Statement

SRD staff and independent auditors presented the **2023 financial highlights**, issuing an **unqualified ("clean") audit opinion** 1.

- **Fiscal Strength:** The report reviewed low regional debt metrics and healthy **liquid asset sustainability ratios**, documenting a stable financial baseline for the district's ongoing capital projects 1.
- **Accountability:** Proponents of the "Forward" platform use this audit as evidence of the professional fiscal stewardship that has defined this term 6, 7.

## 4. Local Infrastructure and Housing Mandates

The Board addressed several site-specific bylaws and local government resolutions 1:

- **Rainbow Ridge (Cortes Island):** The Board moved forward with funding authorizations for the **Rainbow Ridge housing project**, which aims to unlock affordable homeownership opportunities through a partnership with the Cortes Housing Society 1, 8, 9.
- **Raven Road Landing Strip:** A directive was issued for staff to engage with **Transport Canada** regarding regulatory oversight, noise levels, and safety

parameters for an upgraded private landing strip on Cortes Island 1, 10.

- **Regional Waste and Planning:** The session also included discussions on fee restructuring for **Solid Waste collection systems** and various Official Community Plan (OCP) amendments for Quadra Island 1.

In summary, the May 22, 2024 (Part 2) meeting reflects a Board attempting to navigate **complex provincial mandates** while balancing the diverse economic and environmental priorities of rural residents 1, 2. This session is particularly important for your **"Forward"** campaign as it documents the early, data-backed discussions regarding STR autonomy and regional financial transparency 5, 11.