

Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society
STRATEGIC ACTION FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITIES
 (Approved by the VEHS Board June 11, 2026)

MISSION STATEMENT
To protect and advance the harbours’ social, economic, environmental, and cultural vitality as Working Harbours through advocacy, stewardship and community engagement.
UNDERLYING VEHS VISION
VEHS is a united group of harbour stakeholders committed to providing vision, knowledge and guidance for vibrant activities and commerce requiring the connection between land and sea.
STRATEGIC PATHWAYS (SP-A through SP-F) and Initiatives

INITIATIVE CRITERIA

Initiatives for 2026/27 should be:

INFLUENCEABLE – Initiative(s) should be within a great deal of control of VEHS board. Something VEHS can influence that does not mostly rely on action from others.
ATTAINABLE – Initiative(s) should be something we can achieve within 2025. Something we can use as an example of an accomplishment to gain traction from. Think smaller scale, not larger.
SPECIFIC – Initiative(s) should be something we can measure the success of. Think project, not policy initiatives.
RELEVANT – Initiative(s) should be relevant to the working harbour.
MANAGEABLE – in terms or resources, particularly people , being available.

SP-A	<i>Harbour Stakeholder Engagement</i>	
Strategic Objectives	To encourage active involvement of a diverse & committed society membership; To ensure that effective cohesion and communication between and among VEHS members	
Initiatives		
2026-A1	Have speakers at member meetings (members, Harbour Master, New CEO of GVHA etc.(phone each member to tell them who is the speaker, membership comm.)	
2026-A2	President & VP. Go have coffee with 5 members this year that don't or seldom come to VEHS meeting. (White Hall, Ralmax etc.) Listen to their concerns or issues.	
2026-A3	Have a social event for members and guests.	
2026-A4	Create Membership profile database.	

SP-B	<i>Harbour Public Awareness</i>	
Strategic Objective	To foster public awareness of the character, attributes, uses and values of Victoria & Esquimalt Harbours	
Initiatives		
2026-B1	To tell the broader story of the VEHS and its role in the community through eg. on VEHS website, thru newsletters, press releases, letters to the editor, or other mechanisms.	
2026-B2	Co-Lead the campaign for Greater Victoria as an Ocean City with the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society—Vancouver Island Centre.	

SP-C	<i>Promotion of Marine Commercial, Industrial & Other Appropriate Uses</i>	
Strategic Objective	To actively promote proposed and potential harbour uses which will optimize the resource potential and economics of the Harbour(s)	
Initiatives		
2026-C1	Support and advocacy for redevelopment of Huron St. Pier, including continuing and improving a viable fuel dock.	
2026-C2	Support for the Maritime Museum.	

SP-D	<i>Influence on Planning and Regulatory Initiatives</i>	
Strategic Objective	To actively identify and influence ongoing and foreseen planning initiatives and regulatory initiatives and actions on the part of prevailing jurisdictional authorities and others.	
Initiatives		
2026-D1	Input to the City of Victoria Official Community Plan update.	
2026-D2	Stay current, and if decided, participate in consultation processes on Victoria and Esquimalt harbour-related municipal zoning initiatives.	

SP-E	<i>Specific Project & Program Advocacy</i>	
Strategic Objective	To identify and support harbour development initiatives which are in keeping with the stated Goal	
Initiatives		
	None for 2026	

SP-F	<i>Issue Management & Input</i>	
Strategic Objective	To influence the management & resolution of harbour issues which impede and impair the attainment of VEHS objectives	
Initiatives		
2026-F1	Keep watching brief on issues, and respond opportunistically.	

Initiative Assignment – 2026/27

SP-A	<i>Harbour Stakeholder Engagement</i>
2026-A1	President
2026-A2	Membership Committee
2026-A3	Mel, Nathan
2026-A4	Membership Committee (Jonathon Sector)
SP-B	<i>Harbour Public Awareness</i>
2026-B1	Secretary with the support of Board Members, all Committees (notably Harbour Mapping Committee), and the Membership.
2026-B2	Committee For Greater Victoria as an Ocean City Les, Ryan
2026-B3	Secretary
SP-C	<i>Promotion of Marine Commercial, Industrial & Other Appropriate Uses</i>
2026-C1	Victoria Fuel Dock Committee (Don Prittie, Nick)
2026-C2	All Board members
SP-D	<i>Influence on Planning and Regulatory Initiatives</i>
2026-D1	OCP Committee, Board and/or Harbour Advocacy Committee
2026-D2	OCP Committee, Board and/or Harbour Advocacy Committee
SP-E	<i>Specific Project & Program Advocacy</i>
	None for 2026
SP-F	<i>Issue Management & Input</i>
2026-F1	Harbour Advocacy Committee

CURRENT COMMITTEES/MEMBERS		
COMMITTEES	CHAIR(s)	MEMBERS
Huron St. Pier Redevelopment & Fuel Dock	Nick Banks & Eric	Nick Banks
Victoria Fuel Dock Committee		
Official Community Plan (OCP) Committee	Nick Banks	Jonathan Sector + Bernie Talbot
Membership Committee	Nick Banks & Jordan Welch	Geoffrey Denman
Harbour Advocacy Committee	Nick Banks	Board members (ex officio), + members TBD
Greater Victoria as an Ocean City	Leslie Welsh	Ryan Burles
Social Committee	TBD	TBD

Initiatives and areas of focus to be considered in the future.

(all categories, no particular order):

	Support and advocacy for a viable fuel dock.
	Huron street pier
	Ogden Point importance of a marine centre.
	To focus on triple-bottom line sustainability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life with respect to Harbour support and activities.
	Collaboration with Friends of Victoria Harbour Bird Sanctuary.
	Trespass Moorage.
	Derelict Vessels.
	Land-side Traffic Restrictions to Ogden Point.
	To work with relevant stakeholders on the development of vision for the working harbour, specifically for facilities and community amenities in the Inner Harbour.
	Mapping of the Harbour properties to identify owners, potential development sites and all additional resources.
	Participation in South Island Prosperity Partnership’s Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST).
	Community engagement both with members and non-members.
	Serve as a united group of stakeholders.
	Be a conduit for marine, coastal and harbour use knowledge.
	Serve as a united voice dedicated to a sustainable harbour, ensuring commercial and-sea connections.
	Serve as a spokesperson for the harbour as a holistic resource.
	Community engagement both with members and non-members.
	Collaboration with Friends of Victoria Harbour Bird Sanctuary.
	Fuel Dock, Huron Street Pier
	Importance of Ogden Point as a marine resource for Vancouver Island for decades.
	Public Information Brochures / Website pages—e.g. on Waterfront dependency, etc.
	To support the long-term goal of partners in the working harbour to become the greenest harbour and port in North America.
	To support the redevelopment of the Belleville Terminal.

	Importance of water interface (working harbour)
	To understand needs of harbour uses and then promote. Fuel dock etc.
	Ogden Point as a Marine resource
	To support the redevelopment of the Belleville Terminal.
	To support the Cruise Ship industry, including advocating for sustainability.
	To support the long-term redevelopment of the Breakwater District at Ogden Point
	Waterfront dependent uses.
	Support for the Maritime Museum.
	Input to the City of Victoria Official Community Plan update.
	To support and influence Ogden Master plan. The importance of the water interface for generations.
	City of Victoria Official Community Plan Implementation
	To support the GVHA in opposing amendments to the Jones Act.
	City of Victoria—GVHA Harbour Plan initiative. [I don't know what this is.]
	GVHA Expansion Plans—Internal & External.
	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Property Plans.
	Harbour-front Neighbourhood Association Initiatives.
	To focus on triple-bottom line sustainability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life with respect to Harbour support and activities objective here.
	Mapping of the Harbour properties to identify owners, potential development sites and all additional resources.
	To support the long-term goal of partners in the working harbour to become the greenest harbour and port in North America.
	To focus on triple-bottom line sustainability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life with respect to Harbour support and activities objective here.
	Mapping of the Harbour properties to identify owners, potential development sites and all additional resources.
	To support the long-term goal of partners in the working harbour to become the green harbour.
	To support the long-term goal of partners in the working harbour to become
	the greenest harbour and port in North America.

	To develop an Indigenous Reconciliation path to move forward, unique to the VEHS
	Ross Bay developments by First Nations.
	To support the vision for a West Shore passenger ferry between the Inner
	Harbour, CFB Esquimalt, and Colwood.
	Victoria International Marina.
	Continued Harbour Aircraft Services.
	Water Interface (working harbour). Foster awareness and promote projects on the harbours that utilize the water interface through multiple channels.
	Create an inventory of environmental remediation projects undertaken over the past century in the Harbours (including costs and results) along with the contemporary environmental status of the Harbours. (as suggested by Jacque Soirois)