

TOURISM VICTORIA

April 19th, 2018

Bill Brown, MCIP
1229 Esquimalt Rd.
Esquimalt, BC
V9A 3P1

Re: Esquimalt's Official Community Plan – Circulation for Comments

bill.brown@esquimalt.ca

Dear Mr. Brown,

I write in response to your letter of April 4th, 2018, asking for input into the Township of Esquimalt's draft Official Community Plan (OCP).

Tourism Victoria supports the OCP as it is written. The Township of Esquimalt's commitment to tourism is noted in section 14.1.1(v), where it states, "Support economic development that: Expands tourism-related businesses that promote Esquimalt's unique regional offerings, including sports facilities, First Nations, military history, and saltwater recreational opportunities." This policy objective aligns with Tourism Victoria's objectives for growth, especially around sport tourism and First Nations tourism.

Tourism Victoria also supports section 14.4 (Tourism) and the policy objectives listed. One particular policy where Tourism Victoria would be pleased to have further conversations relates to short-term vacation rentals. Our organization recently lobbied the City of Victoria for increased regulations on short-term vacation rentals, including limiting short-term vacation rentals to principal residences. These changes were passed by City of Victoria council last month.

Tourism Victoria values our relationship with the Township of Esquimalt. As the visitor economy grows there are opportunities for attractions, restaurants and hotels outside the downtown core. Esquimalt is well-positioned to take advantage of growth in the visitor economy and the benefits it would bring.

Sincerely,



Paul Nursey
President and CEO – Tourism Victoria