




Photo by Adriana Pritchard

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OUR JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS NOW COMPLETE!

After eight months of hard work and community engagement, we are proud to say that both Councils have agreed on a plan of action, and a shared economic vision for the island.

The plan currently focuses on these five areas:



HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

- Additional marina space for recreational boaters
- Support fuel dock
- Could include ice plant, processing etc.



BUSINESS SUPPORT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Entrepreneurship workshops
- Review tax structure
- Business incubator
- Support for artists
- Business networking
- Others




QUALITY OF LIFE

- Retain and expand core businesses and services
- Local seafood
- Assisted living
- Others



DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

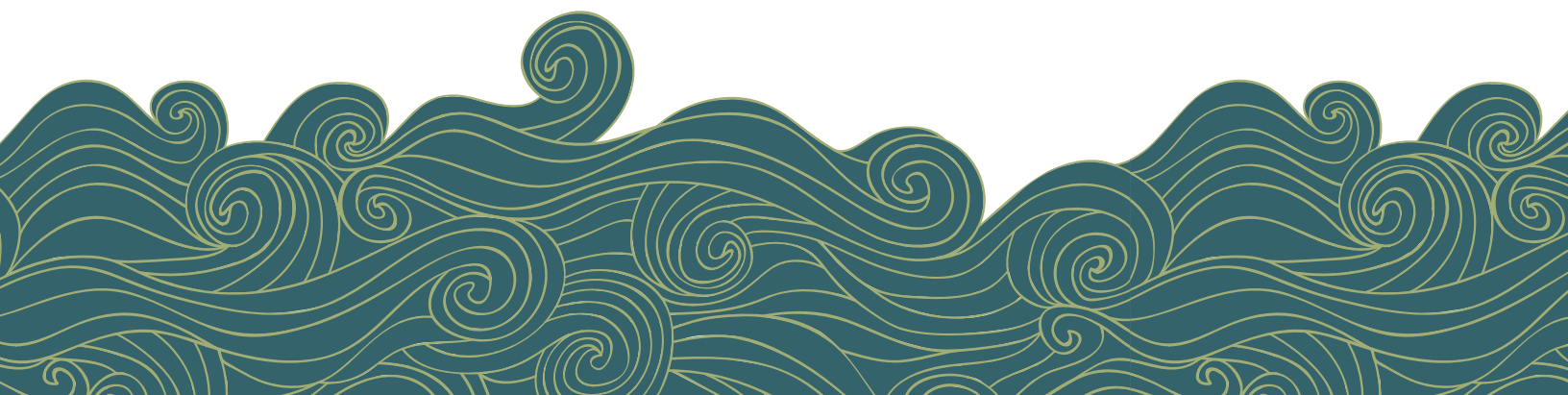
- Litter control
- Historical signage
- Farmers market
- Retail space
- Others



TOURISM

- Branding
- Promotion
- Tourism strategy
- Cruise ship attraction
- Others

Details on each action are available on the project website (cormorantisland.wix.com/cormorantisland) or from the Village or Band offices.



IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

We will start implementing some of the smaller actions right away. Colleen from EcoPlan has been here for a month working on some of the 'quickstart' actions like historical signage, litter control, a farmers market, grant writing, and others. We are looking into hiring a dedicated staff person to implement the plan in the longer run.

Going forward, it will be important that both Councils integrate these actions into their long-term planning. Both Councils have agreed to do this.

Starting soon, Reconciliation Canada (a First Nations run non-profit) will be supporting our plan implementation by running a business incubator for potential entrepreneurs on the island.

REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS WITH YOU

One thing we heard loud and clear from the community was that it is important to communicate our progress and the results.

To do this, we'll produce quarterly updates letting you know where things are at, and sharing information with you through the 'Namgis Facebook page, in community newsletters, and online (cormorantisland.wix.com/cormorantisland). Keep an eye out!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Contact Adriana Pritchard at the Village of Alert Bay (apritchard@alertbay.ca, 250-974-5213) or Sharon Gordon of 'Namgis First Nation (sharong@namgis.bc.ca).

February 26th Event Update

Over 55 people came out on February 26th to review the draft plan, provide comments, and discuss implementation.



Highlights and common themes from the workshop were:

- *Vancity announced that it would be opening a branch on the island, hiring two part time positions, and providing workshops and courses on financial topics.*
- *Community members were generally in support of the plan, and provided some additional elements that they would like to see included.*
- *Although opinions varied, a popular configuration for harbour redevelopment was to have a marine fuel dock and ice plant near the old net loft, extensions to the Alert Bay Marina (more fingers), repairs to a small number of fingers at the 'Namgis dock for local use, and have mooring buoys in the harbour.*

The event report is available in the Village or 'Namgis offices, or for download on the project website (cormorantisland.wix.com/cormorantisland).

