The Vicious Poodle is currently in operation as a pub style restaurant with a food primary license with patron participation endorsement. We opened during the pandemic in June of 2020 and it has been an interesting ride to say the least!

We are a dedicated LGBTQ+ venue. When we opened, we were Vancouver Island's only queer venue offering a street level location with windows and a patio. We currently offer a full menu for lunch, brunch and dinner with table service. We offer drag shows and comedy shows (when not restricted by pandemic health orders).

We don't have any plans to change our business model with the switch to a liquor primary license. The entertainment will remain the same with the possible addition of a DJ on weekend nights. Also, we will keep our full menu, continuing to serve lunch, brunch and dinner and will continue table service.

While we have had success with a focus on food, we have found within the community a demand for a pub style venue later at night where the focus moves on to liquor service. Also, we have found that demand to favour a 19+ crowd. There is currently no venue on Vancouver Island that provides the LGBTQ+ community with this option. As the general population becomes more accepting of the queer community, it is easier for us to exist in mainstream spaces. But the community craves and needs a dedicated space that is not a nightclub and isn't in a basement.

The location on Johnson Street is mostly a commercial block. There is a newly renovated building across the street with commercial on the main floor and residential above. There is also a single room occupancy building at one end of the block. This has been a difficult block for some time now. With the Cool Aid Access Health Centre nearby, the back of the Odeon theatre, the Johnson Street Parkade and low profile commercial that closes early, this block has been quite sketchy. The City of Victoria has been interested in cleaning up this block and upgrading the strip of retain in the parkade. Already our presence on the block has helped change the flavour. We are part of the retail in the Johnson Street Parkade and the City of Victoria has been very supportive. Many of the residents in the new building across the street are our regulars.

Any establishment that serves liquor must be very sensitive to noise and be a good neighbour. We are fortunate to have a storefront of entirely windows to keep a sharp eye on patrons outside. Staff can immediately intervene to be sure neighbours aren't disturbed. We are lucky to have a large overhang in front of the building. While providing cover from rain, it also contains sound from rising as the front door opens and closes. There is no residential in our building. We

have a car park above and the businesses directly adjacent on both sides are only open regular office hours.

The LGBTQ+ community is quite pacifist. While we will certainly have security as necessary, it is rare to have any violence in queer venues. I ran gay bars in NYC for almost a decade and never once had an actual fight. We also run a very tight ship. Setting strict limits for alcohol service and tolerated behaviour is the key to preventing disturbances before they happen. We also have cameras throughout the space and out front for both deterrent and to solve problems quickly.

We are already a well loved establishment and member of the downtown community. We hope to enhance our offering to the queer community and provide them with the first ground level, pub style liquor primary experience on Vancouver Island.

Fire Department ter Current BC Fire Code Only 3 0 INCREASED OCCUPANT LOAD APPLICATION FOR B **EXISTING RESTAURANT / BAR SPACE - NO CONSTRUCTION PROPOSED** CODE REVIEW - EXITING REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED INCREASED OCCUPANCY: Area of Interior Space - 171.4 sq.m. (1,845 sq.ft.). Area of Patio - 26.5 sq.m. (285 sq.ft.) 3.4.2.1 - GROUP A - 2 exits required (3 existing exits provided) Fire Prevention Officer Name: M. CARE Date: MARCH 3.4.2.3. Minimum distance between exits = 1/2 diagonal dimension or 9m whichever is greatest. Existing diagonal dimension = 19,500mm (63'-10") Signature: Existing distance between exits = 17,225m (56'-6") 3.4.2.5. Travel distance to at least one exit does not exceed 30m (98'-0") 3.4.3.1./2. Exit width required =  $6.1 \text{mm} \times 150 = 915 \text{mm}$ Existing exit width (3 existing exits) = 863mm + 863mm + 863mm (3 x 2'-10" doors) = 2.589mmPersons Load is: Persons Persons City of Occupant Load R Maximum Occupant I. Main Floor: //3 3 Patio/Deck: Total

**Entrance Area** 

Elevated Floor Dining / Lounge Area

INTENDED OCCUPANT LOAD CALCULATION: 98 seats inside + 24 seats outside = 116 seated occupants 10 staff members / occupants 18 standing room occupants for entrance / waiting area etc. 150 TOTAL OCCUPANCY

**CODE REVIEW - OCCUPANT LOAD BASED ON WASHROOM FACILITIES:** 

WASHROOM AREA UNCHANGED

KITCHEN / SERVICE AREA UNCHANGED

**EXIT** 

3.7.2.2.1) The number of WC's should be equally divided between males and females "unless the proportion of each sex expected can be determined with reasonable accuracy".

Business is a gay bar / restaurant with males outnumbering females by more than 2 to 1.
"Female" Washroom - 2 wc fixtures + 1 lav = 50 females

"Male" Washroom - 2 wc fixtures + 1 lav = 100 males

Occupant load permitted: 150 (50 female / 100 male)

o Kitchen

Ramp to Restrooms

Note: The washroom signage at this business is gender neutral rather than traditional M / F signage.

PREVIOUS OCCUPANT LOAD: An occupant load of 68 was approved for the previous business (A Japanese Restaurant) This number was used by the Vicious Poodle in order to get their business up and running quickly, and is the current occupant load.)



Existing Patio w/ fixed railing in place - no new construction proposed.



Gender Neutral Washroom Signage.



Existing Interior View w/covid seating - no new construction proposed.





PATIO AREA UNCHANGED

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**Existing Sidewalk** 

Dimensions in red required for Sidewalk Cafe Licence application

The Vicious Poodle 726 Johnson Street, Victoria, B.C. Dining / Lounge Area

34'-10"

DINING / LOUNGE AREAS UNCHANGED revised seating plan shown

Bar Area

53'-10 1/2"

