

PUT 7.1 INTO ACTION

Step 1 – Are you eligible?

- Only a **local authority** may request VORR 7.1 — e.g., a municipality, regional district, First Nation government, etc.
greatersudbury.ca+4laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+4georgianbay.ca+4gazette.gc.ca.
 - The restriction applies **only to wake-surfing activities** in specified waters
gazette.gc.ca+7laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+7georgianbay.ca+7.
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2. Identify and assess the problem

- Document why wake-surfing is an issue: safety (drownings, near-misses), environmental impacts (shore erosion, wildlife disturbance), or public conflict.
 - Use the **preliminary assessment form** (see *Local Authorities' Guide*) to gather essential info like boat numbers, user types, complaint reports, etc. tc.canada.ca.
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3. Explore alternatives

Before applying, try non-regulatory solutions:

- “Please watch your wake” signage, education campaigns, speed zones.
 - Enforce existing rules under *Small Vessel Regulations* for careless or hazardous operation
laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+9tc.canada.ca+9tc.canada.ca+9.
 - These must be tested and shown insufficient before moving forward.
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4. Do public and Indigenous consultations

- Engage boaters, residents, Indigenous communities, tourism operators, and enforcement agencies.
- You’ll need consultation summaries: who was consulted, how, when, and what feedback was received tc.canada.ca+1georgianbay.ca+1georgianbay.ca.

5. Prepare your formal application

Include all of the following:

1. **Preliminary assessment form** with factual data
2. **Local authority resolution** (e.g. council vote)
3. **Map** with exact boundaries (GPS coordinates)
4. **Alternatives considered**, and why they weren't enough
5. **Rationale**: why is VORR 7.1 needed
6. **Consultation report**
7. **Cost–benefit summary**: highlight benefits (safety, environment) vs. costs
[tc.canada.ca+1laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+1georgianbay.ca+1tc.canada.ca+1](https://tc.canada.ca/1laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/1georgianbay.ca/1tc.canada.ca/1)
8. **Signage & communication plan**
9. **Enforcement plan**: who will enforce, with commitment letter
10. **Evaluation plan**: how you'll measure effectiveness [tc.canada.ca+1tc.canada.ca+1](https://tc.canada.ca/1tc.canada.ca/1)

6. Submit your application

- Send the package before the next boating season to your **regional TC Marine Safety office** [gazette.gc.ca+3tc.canada.ca+3canlii.org+3](https://gazette.gc.ca/3tc.canada.ca/3canlii.org/3).
- Before that, do a **preliminary assessment** via form and email/mail it to the same office.

7. Transport Canada's review process

- **Step 3**: TC regional office checks completeness. Complete ones go to HQ by **Sept 15** .
- **Step 4**: TC HQ drafts a **Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement**, seeking approval via Treasury Board tc.canada.ca.
- **Step 5**: Public notice published in **Canada Gazette, Part 1**, then after 30–90 days, finalized in **Part 2** georgianbay.ca.
- Once approved, **Schedule 7.1 becomes law** and applies to your water body.

8. Signage and enforcement setup

- After approval, TC **authorizes placement of official signs or buoys**—you can't place them before authorization [laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+6tc.canada.ca+6canlii.org+6](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/6tc.canada.ca/6canlii.org/6).
 - Signs must use the **Schedule 7.1 wake-surf symbol**, meet size, color, and bilingual specs (with the TC “signature block”) [laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+2tc.canada.ca+2laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+2](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/2tc.canada.ca/2laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/2).
 - You handle **manufacture, placement, maintenance, and removal** at your cost [tc.canada.ca+1laws-lois.justice.gc.ca+1](https://tc.canada.ca/1laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/1).
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9. Launch & evaluate

- Deploy your signage at strategic locations before enforcement begins.
 - Monitor compliance and impacts—collect data and stakeholder feedback to measure success.
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Quick Checklist (for your inbox or file cabinet)

| Task | Done? |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ Preliminary assessment form | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ Council/Municipal resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ Mapping with GPS coordinates | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ List of alternatives tried | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ Consultation summaries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ Cost–benefit summary | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ Signage & enforcement plans | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ✓ Applications submitted by August 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Latest update on Schedule 7.1

- It was **introduced in Dec 2023**, targeting **wake-surfing only** tc.canada.ca.
- It is **not a blanket towing ban**—regular water-skiing still allowed if zones permit.
- Always check the **Gazette publications** to confirm timelines and enforceability.

POTENTIAL DOCUMENTS

1. **Municipal Resolution**
 2. **Preliminary Assessment Form**
 3. **Consultation Summary Form**
 4. **Cost–Benefit Summary Table**
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1. Draft Municipal Resolution

(Use this for Council or Band Council)

[Municipality/Band Name] Resolution No. [###]

**Re: Application to Transport Canada for Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation (VORR)
Schedule 7.1 – Wake Surfing**

WHEREAS:

- Wake surfing activity on [insert waterbody name] has created ongoing concerns relating to public safety, shoreline erosion, and user conflicts;
- Non-regulatory measures such as signage, public education, and existing enforcement efforts have been attempted and found insufficient;
- Section 7.1 of the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) allows local authorities to request targeted restrictions on wake surfing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of [insert municipality name] hereby supports an application to Transport Canada for the establishment of a wake surfing restriction on [insert description of waterbody or specific location];
2. Staff be directed to complete the application and supporting documentation, including maps, consultation reports, and enforcement plans;
3. The Mayor and/or Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign all related documents on behalf of Council.

PASSED THIS [insert date]

 **2. Preliminary Assessment Form (Sample Template)**

Applicant Info

- Municipality / First Nation: _____
- Contact Person & Title: _____
- Email / Phone: _____

Water Body Info

- Name: _____
- Location: _____
- GPS Coordinates: _____
- Size (approx): _____
- Jurisdiction (e.g., shared with other regions?): _____

Current Usage Profile

- Primary uses:
 - Recreational boating
 - Wake surfing
 - Canoeing/kayaking
 - Swimming
 - Other: _____
- User volume during peak season:
 - Motorized boats per day: _____
 - Wake surfers per day: _____
 - Complaints per year (if known): _____

Existing Efforts

- Education efforts tried? Yes No
 - Local enforcement active? Yes No
 - Other restrictions in place? Yes No
If yes, explain: _____
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3. Consultation Summary Form

Stakeholder Consultation Summary – VORR 7.1 Application

| Group Consulted | Date(s) | Format (meeting, letter, etc.) | Key Concerns / Support |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Residents/Property Owners | June 3, 2025 | Online survey + public meeting | Concerned re: erosion, safety |
| First Nation(s) | June 10, 2025 | Formal letter + Zoom meeting | Request for shared management |
| Tourism Operators | June 15, 2025 | 1-on-1 calls | Mixed views: want balance |
| Local Boaters Assoc. | June 20, 2025 | Focus group | Strong support if signage clear |
| Enforcement Agencies | Ongoing | Email & in-person briefings | Ready to assist if authorized |

Summary of adjustments made following consultation:

→ [Example: Reduced restriction zone to exclude marina access point.]

4. Cost–Benefit Summary Table

| Category | Estimated Cost | Anticipated Benefit |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Signage (design/install) | \$3,000 | Improved compliance, clarity |
| Public communication | \$500 | Reduced conflicts |
| Enforcement (seasonal) | Staff time, in-kind | Safer waterways |
| Environmental gains | — | Reduced shoreline erosion |
| Tourism impact | Neutral or positive | More family-friendly image |

Net Community Benefit: **Strong Positive**
(especially in terms of safety and sustainability)