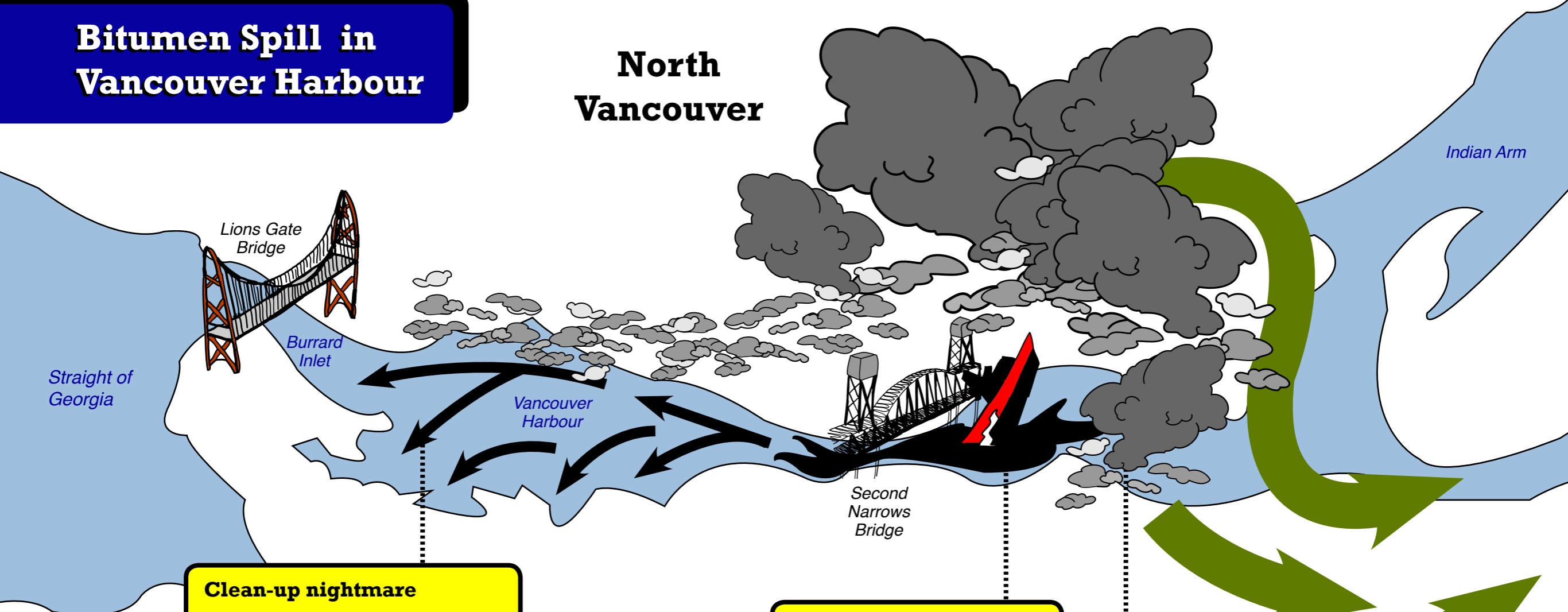


Bitumen Spill in Vancouver Harbour

North Vancouver



Clean-up nightmare

Pushed by tides, heavier bitumen would sink beneath skim booms while solvents produce a toxic cloud, possibly explosive close to spill.

Grounded, leaking tanker

Powerful fast-shifting tides, slim clearance pose hull-cracking risk for larger, more frequent tankers at Second Narrows.

Toxic cloud

Compared to spilled crude, diluted bitumen releases far more airborne poisons, in summer weather likely to drift down Fraser Valley, back to Vancouver.

Vancouver

Few escape routes

2.5 million Lower Mainlanders fleeing toxic cloud would clog main routes bottlenecked by bridges: Sea-to-Sky, Highways 1 and 99.