

Orthography, Terminology

First Nations Orthography

Several First Nations used the land that became the early settlements Hastings Mill and Granville (Gastown), and eventually the early Vancouver. While just one spelling is given in the Historical Context Statement for the First Nations' names for the place, it is important to note here other names/spellings:

- Lek'lek'i (Squamish orthography) or Luq'Luq'i (Musqueam orthography), variously translated as "Maple Leaves Falling," and "Grove of Beautiful Trees"
- K'emk'emlay' (Squamish orthography) or Q'umq'umal'ay' (Musqueam orthography), translated as "Big Leaf Maple Trees"

First Nations orthography was provided to Savannah Walling in 2003 by Peter Jacobs (Squamish orthography) and Frank Point and Victor Guerin (Musqueam orthography)

"Japantown"

"Japantown" is a comparatively recent term applied to the Powell Street–Oppenheimer Park area. A question has been raised as to whether "Japantown" is a variant of the old pejorative term "Jap Town" and as such unsuited as a name to be given to the area. Since the consensus among the Japanese Canadians consulted at the Advisory Group was that "Japantown" did not carry a pejorative meaning, and is a literal translation of the commonly used Nihon machi – the Advisory concluded that the term was in fact a suitable way of helping keep the story of the Japanese Canadian presence in the area alive, the name stands.

Tangible Heritage

Tangible heritage is real property under the purview of community planning. Under the Vancouver Charter (1974), this includes buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and open spaces that are attached to private or public land. In Canada, legal definitions of heritage do not include moveable or intangible aspects of cultural expression, e.g. First Nations' artifacts, a dance piece, an historical event or books of literature.

Intangible Heritage

In 2003 the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage introduced a widely accepted definition of intangible heritage. It defines intangible heritage as practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills, as well as associated tools, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces that communities and groups recognize as part of their history and heritage.