# Worksheet: Making Indigenous Peoples and Cultures More Visible in Vancouver

## BACKGROUND

Our city was named after Captain George Vancouver, an explorer of Dutch descent, who sailed under a British flag in a race with the Spanish, to map the west coast of North America. Captain Vancouver arrived in Burrard Inlet in 1792. Burrard Inlet gives Vancouver a safe, deep anchorage to ship and receive goods from all over the world. Vancouver is the largest port in Canada, the largest port on the west coast of North America, and a gateway to the Pacific.

It is a common error to describe Captain Vancouver's landing in these territories as a "discovery" when in fact Indigenous Peoples have been living on these lands and navigating these waters since time immemorial. There is ongoing public debate about the number of city assets, buildings and streets that are named after Vancouver's colonial "forefathers." Returning appropriate Indigenous place names to significant locations in Vancouver is one way the City has worked toward supporting Indigeneous visibility and cultural redress.

In 2022, the City of Vancouver, xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) announced two new names for prominent spaces in Vancouver.

Acknowledging the colonial legacy of naming in Vancouver, returning naming rights to the original inhabitants of this land aims to bring more visibility to the local Indigenous languages and cultures.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Do you think place names have a role to play in shaping our public spaces, communicating values, and assumptions about who "belongs" in a place? Can you think of a site, building or street that you think should be renamed? What would you rename it?

# Worksheet: Making Indigenous Peoples and Cultures More Visible in Vancouver

## GROUP ACTIVITY

Listen to the pronunciation recordings from the links below:

https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/musqueamview-st.aspx

https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/rainbow-park.aspx

Try pronouncing the names in sθəqəlxenəm and ts'exwts'áxwi7 languages.