

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT  
on the Proposed Name Change for the  
POWELL RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM and ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION**

Compiled for the PRHMA Board of Directors by:  
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**Part A: Background**

On October 18, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Powell River Historical Museum and Archives Association (the Museum) passed a motion to move forward with a name change. All qualifying names must meet the Core Criteria as identified by the Museum Board and thereafter released to the public through approved media releases and advertisements.

**Core Criteria:**

- Improving relationships in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nations through adjusting the name as a positive step (implied removal of Powell to acknowledge past harms).
- To reflect more accurately the geographic range that the Museum serves. This includes the traditional territory of the Tla'amin, shíshálh, Klahoose, Homalco, and K'ómoks First Nations, the City of Powell River and the qathet Regional District. (See Note #1.)

The Province of British Columbia has established the legal process for changing a museum's name in British Columbia through the BC Registry. A vote by two-thirds of the Museum's membership is required by Special Resolution at an AGM or Special General Meeting.

**Part B: Requests for Public Input**

The Powell River Historical Museum and Archives Association website and social media links have provided the general public with details of the name change process that started in the summer of 2021 and was unanimously supported by the Board of Directors at its meeting in October 2021.

The media process included press releases, ads, and correspondence with First Nations, the City of Powell River, the qathet Regional District as well as notifications to museum members and interested parties. The public was invited to mail or email written submissions to the Museum at [info@powellrivermuseum.ca](mailto:info@powellrivermuseum.ca). The cut-off date for public input was midnight February 15, 2022.

## **Part C: Summary of Public Input by email:**

Total number of email submissions: 36

(Some individuals provided more than 1 suggested name per submission.)

The majority of comments received from the public by email were in favour of the process and a name change for Powell River Historical Museum and Archives Association.

There were 30 positive submissions in favour of the name change and the process.

There were 6 submissions with concerns about the name change and process.

### **Summation of Comments**

- 15 emails suggested the word *qathet*.
  - qathet museum and archives (7)
  - qathet region/regional museum (5)
  - qathet museum (3)
  
- 10 emails were in support of a new name, but a new name or qathet was not specified.
  
- 3 Tla'amin names that were suggested:
  - tiwsem (to learn) (1)
  - toxtoxnomot (always making sure of the facts) (1)
  - gat°epten (steering paddle, guides where we are going) (1)
  
- 5 emails of support did not meet the suggested geographic boundary criteria (See Note #1.)
  - Upper Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives (1)
  - North Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives (1)
  - Salish Shores Museum and Archives (1)
  - Westview Historical Museum and Archives (1)
  - Golden Stanley Historical Museum (1)
  
- 6 emails indicated concerns about the name change and process.
  - Keep name Powell River Historical Museum and Archives. (1)
  - Continue to use Powell River in conjunction with a new name for the museum. (1)
  - Wait until the City of Powell River makes a decision on a name change for the city. (4)

\*Email copies of the submission transcripts (minus personal identifiers) are available by request from the Museum at [info@powellrivermuseum.ca](mailto:info@powellrivermuseum.ca).

## **Part D: Summary of Social Media**

The Museum's Facebook page became active soon after the posting of the Museum Name Change Process: Phase 4 on January 20, 2022.

45 Emotional Responses (emojis) to the Announcement of the Name Change Process were quickly registered. 26 participants recorded comments in a conversation string.

### **Summation of 45 Emojis**

29 Likes      6 Loves      5 Angry Faces      2 Hugs      2 Sad Faces      1 Surprised Face

### **Summation of Comments by 26 Participants**

#### 12 Positive Comments:

These were comments that indicated support for the process - or for a name change - or put forward a suggestion for a new name - or agreed with another positive comment.

#### 11 Negative Comments:

These were comments that did not support the process - or opposed any name change at all - or made fun of the idea.

#### 3 Non-Aligned Comments:

The responder's intent was not clear – was off-topic – or was silly.

### **Suggestions for Names in Social Media Comments**

The following list of names was suggested or “liked” in the social media comments. The total number of individuals who “liked” a name cannot be verified as some participants may have “liked” more than one name.

-Powell River Historical Museum	19 likes
-qathet Regional Museum (Powell River Branch)	3 likes
-t'ox'tomotot (very long time ago)	3 likes
-North Salish Sea Museum and Archives	7 likes
-qathet Regional District Museum and Archives	
OR Upper Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives	10 likes
-Golden Stanley Historical Museum	12 likes

### **Social Media Response: Observations**

- Although many people (45) reacted with emojis to the announcement of the Name Change Process underway, only 2 of these individuals also provided written comments.
- A larger number of individuals (37) “liked” and “loved” and “hugged” the announcement of the process.
- A smaller number of individuals (8) felt “angry” or “surprised” by the announcement of the process.
- 19 individuals “liked” a name very similar to the current name of the Museum (Powell River Historical Museum), indicating non-support for a name change.
- 35 individuals “liked” a new name, indicating support in principle for a name change.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

### Conclusion

The majority of responses to the invitation for public input were in support of a name change, and many specific names were suggested. Written responses to [info@powellrivermuseum.ca](mailto:info@powellrivermuseum.ca) were overwhelmingly positive as were the emoji responses on Facebook, although comments made on social media were equally split between positive and negative opinions.

The Board of Directors can now approach the membership with confidence knowing that the community has been made aware of the name change process and has indicated overall support for a name change in writing.

Of the names submitted, those that include the word “qathet” readily meet the Core Criteria to most accurately reflect the Museum’s geographic service area. (See Note #1.) It is a recognizable name that has been in use since the Powell River Regional District's name was changed in 2018 to qathet, meaning "working together." Permission to use indigenous language in a name will be requested.

Based on the names suggested by the public which meet the Core Criteria, the following list of names is recommended for review and discussion.

- qathet Museum and Archives
- qathet Regional Museum
- qathet Region Museum and Archives
- qathet Historical Museum and Archives
- qathet Museum

The decision to proceed with the name change process now rests squarely in the hands of the Board of Directors, regardless of the results of public input, as specified by the BC Registry and the BC Societies Act. Once a name selection is finalized by a vote of the Board, it can be brought forward by Special Resolution to the membership at the Special General Meeting (SGM) for a vote by members in attendance identified through a roll call. The membership decides.

The Special General Meeting will be held on March 31. It will be conducted by Zoom. Alternate access to this meeting will be provided to members who are unable to access Zoom privately.

NOTE #1:

The boundaries of the qathet Regional District encompass approximately 8,323 hectares of treaty settlement lands that were transferred to the Tla'amin Nation in April 2016. The transfer is recognized as Tla'amin Nation lands.

The qathet Regional District also includes the City of Powell River which covers 17.31 square kilometers and includes the communities of Westview, Cranberry, Wildwood and the original Townsite.

**Area A:** Covers the area northwest of the city boundary to Desolation Sound, and includes the Malaspina Peninsula, the community of Lund and Savary and Hernando Islands, and excludes Tla'amin Nation lands.

**Area B:** Covers the area southeast of the city boundary to Whalen Road and includes Paradise Valley and properties outside the city on Nootka, Covey and Tanner Streets, and excludes Tla'amin Nation lands.

**Area C:** Covers the area southeast from Whalen Road to Jervis Inlet, and includes the communities of Black Point, Kelly Creek, Lang Bay, Stillwater and Saltery Bay.

**Area D:** Covers all of Texada Island and includes the communities of Blubber Bay, Van Anda and Gillies Bay, and excludes Tla'amin Nation land.

**Area E:** Covers all of Lasqueti Island and some small surrounding islands.