



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: June 17, 2025  
Contact: Michelle Bryant-Gravelle  
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: June 17, 2025  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Reconciliation and Language Revitalization: Renaming Trutch Street to šxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm Street

### Recommendations

- A. THAT Trutch Street, as shown on the maps attached as Appendix A, be renamed šxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm Street, in recognition of a request by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band) to change the name of the street, the gift of a hənqəminəm name from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, and the City's work toward Reconciliation and strengthening relations with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward, for Council enactment, an amendment to the Street Name By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

### Purpose and Executive Summary

Staff recommend that Trutch Street be renamed šxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm Street. The name for the street was gifted to the City of Vancouver by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm on September 30, 2022.

### Council Authority/Previous Decisions

February 26, 2013 –Vancouver City Council passed a [motion](#) to proclaim June 21, 2013, to June 20, 2014, as the Year of Reconciliation. Vancouver City Council passed a [motion](#) to endorse UNDRIP.

June 20, 2013 – Vancouver City Council announced the [Year of Reconciliation](#) in an intercultural event with First Nations and multicultural leaders.

July 8, 2014 – Vancouver City Council reaffirmed its commitment to designate Vancouver as a [City of Reconciliation](#) and directed staff to report on next steps for healing and moving forward together.

July 7, 2021 - City Council passed a motion, attached as Appendix C, to rename Trutch Street with an alternative name chosen by xʷməθkʷəy̓ə Chief and Council to reflect a reconciled relationship with First Nations Peoples.

March 9, 2021 - City Council unanimously adopted a [motion](#) to create a UNDRIP Task Force, who worked in partnership with xʷməθkʷəy̓ə, Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), to develop the City's UNDRIP Strategy and UNDRIP Action Plan.

October 25, 2022 - Vancouver City Council passed the [City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy](#) and 79 calls-to-action, which were the first of their kind for a municipality in the world, making Vancouver a world leader in implementing a clear strategy towards UNDRIP and Reconciliation.

### City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

### Context and Background

Trutch Street is a residential north-south street in Vancouver spanning approximately 18 blocks with 100 unique addresses. It is named after Joseph Trutch, the first Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia who was a racist and the chief architect of racist policies which inflicted immense and long-standing harm to First Nations Peoples. Trutch championed a colonial government policy which denied First Nations' title to their lands, blocked their right to acquire lands held by non-Indigenous residents, and massively reduced previously established reserve boundaries - effectively establishing a 10-acre (40,000 m<sup>2</sup>) maximum reserve size.

xʷməθkʷəy̓ə has long advocated for a change to the Trutch Street name to acknowledge Trutch's racist legacy, reduce the prominence of his name, and advance reconciliation efforts. In 2021, Vancouver City Council formally called for the change to take place and on September 30, 2022 xʷməθkʷəy̓ə gifted the name ṣxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm Street to the City, translated in English as "Musqueamview Street."

In accordance with xʷməθkʷəy̓ə wishes, the legal name of the street will be solely ṣxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm Street, making this Vancouver's first street named in hə́nqəmiṇəm, the language of xʷməθkʷəy̓ə. With no fluent speakers left, this change is a landmark moment for the revitalization of the xʷməθkʷəy̓ə language, weaving the display of hə́nqəmiṇəm into the public fabric of city life.

Supporting hə́nqəmiṇəm to once again be heard and seen throughout these lands and waters is a powerful tool for reconciliation and affirming the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Language is an essential part of culture and identity and it connects people to land and place. According to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and a framework for reconciliation, "Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons" (Article 14). The TRC's Calls to Action 13 asserts that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.

## Discussion

## Legal, Technology, and Emergency Services Implications

## Addressing Implications

x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm's chosen addressing option is:

Joe Jones  
4110 ʃxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm St  
4110 Musqueamview St  
Vancouver BC V6N 4C8

### Resident Notification

This change will impact 100 unique addresses. A resident notification letter was hand delivered to every address on June 6, 2025 to advise of the street name change two weeks prior to the scheduled day for the official street renaming, including information about addressing, mail forwarding service and other key details. Direct contact information for a community liaison was also included to support questions residents may have as well as a website link where information about the street renaming and an audio pronunciation of ʃxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm St developed by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.

### Public Inquiries

Ten public inquiries have been received over the past 3 years asking for updates and encouraging the City to implement the name change, including three inquiries from current residents on the street.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications.

### **Legal Implications**

If the Recommendations in this report are adopted by Council, Trutch Street will be renamed.

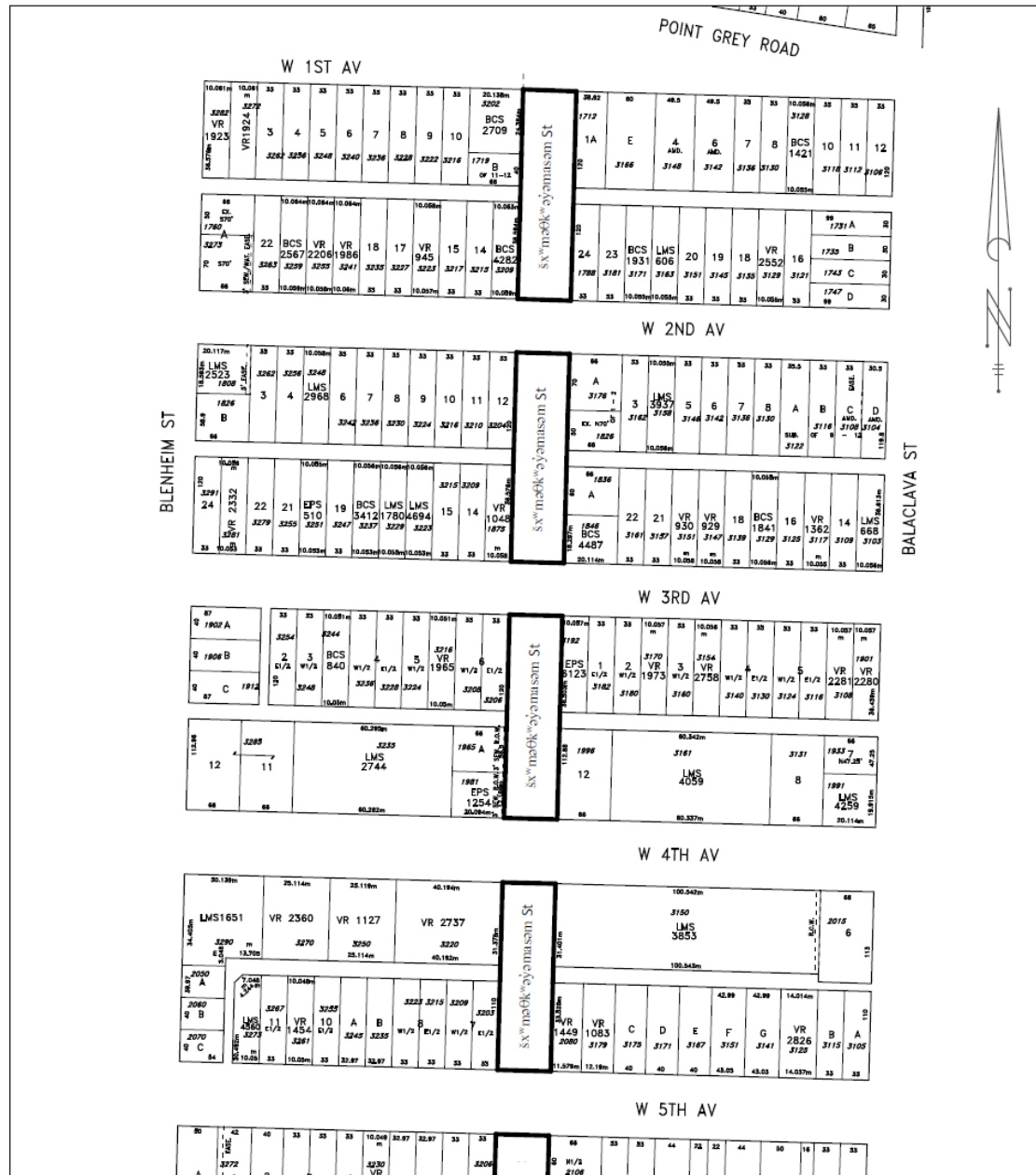
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## APPENDIX A – Maps of Street Segments to be Renamed

LF12201

# PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054.

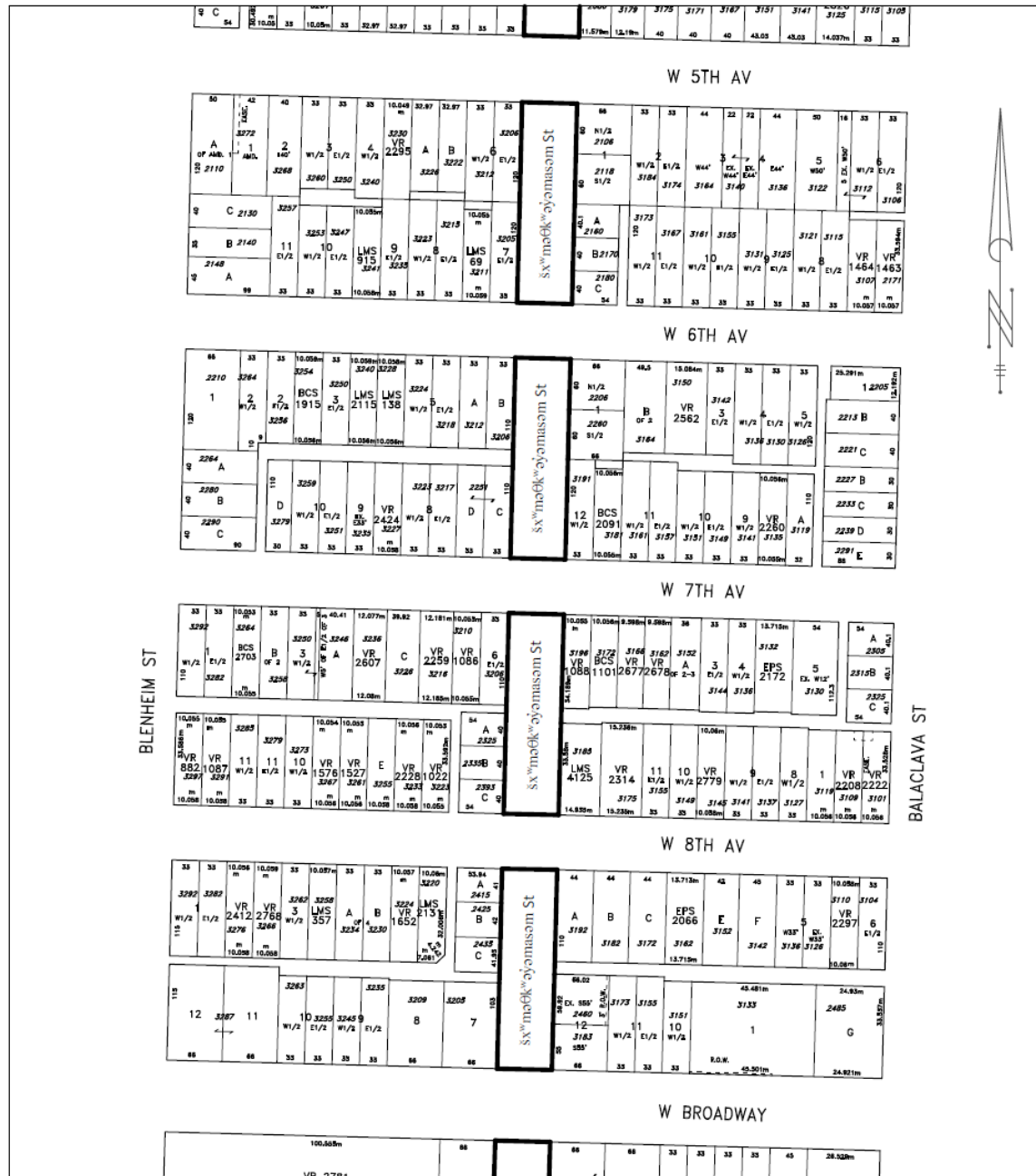
DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



LF12201

# **PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054.**

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



JAS MAP: J-11, J-12

ENGINEERING SERVICES  
May 12, 2025

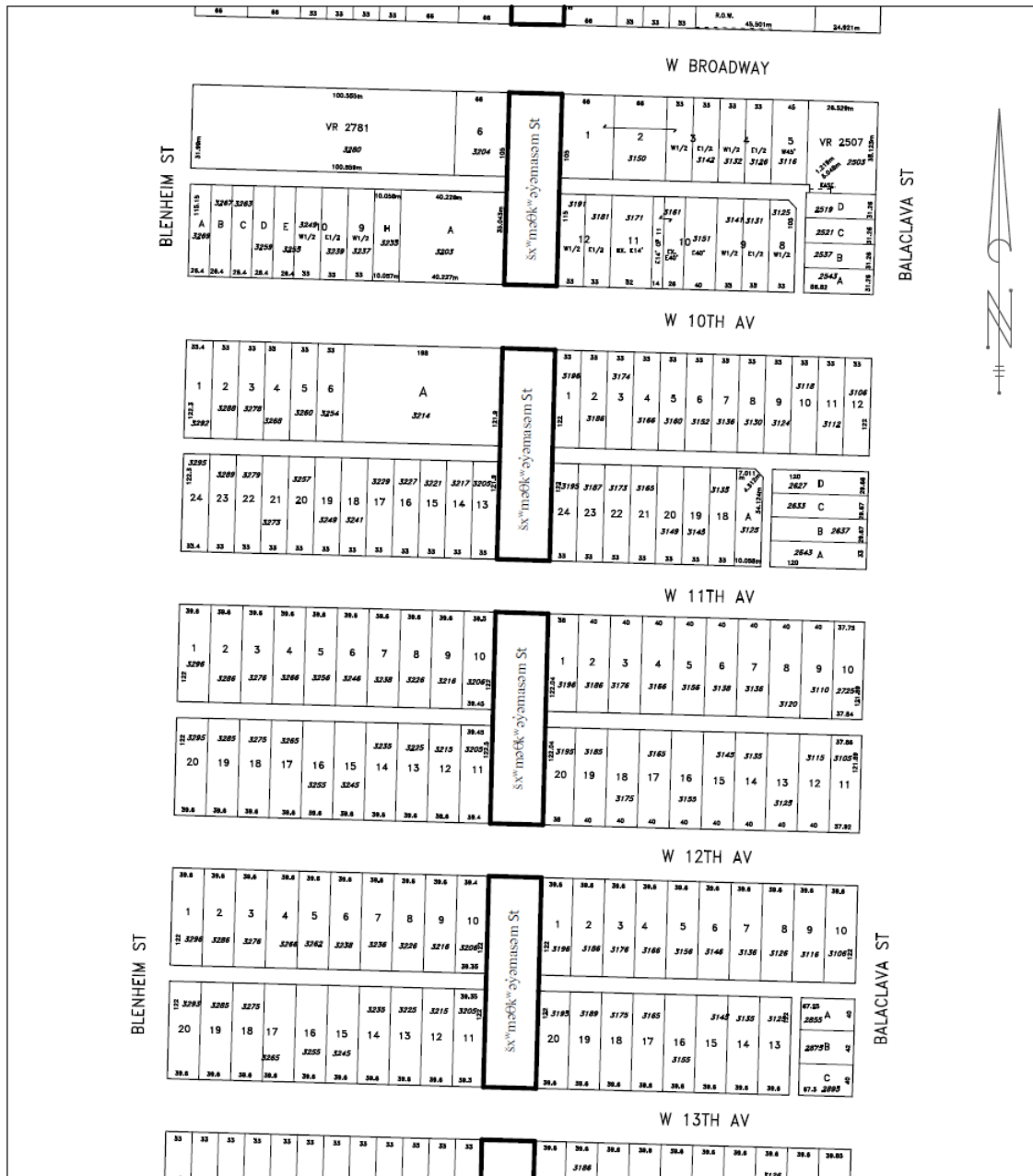
Y:\LAND\_SURVEY\JAS\Street Name\LF12201- šxʷməθkʷəy̓əməsəm St - v2.dwg

LF12201

LF12201

# **PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054.**

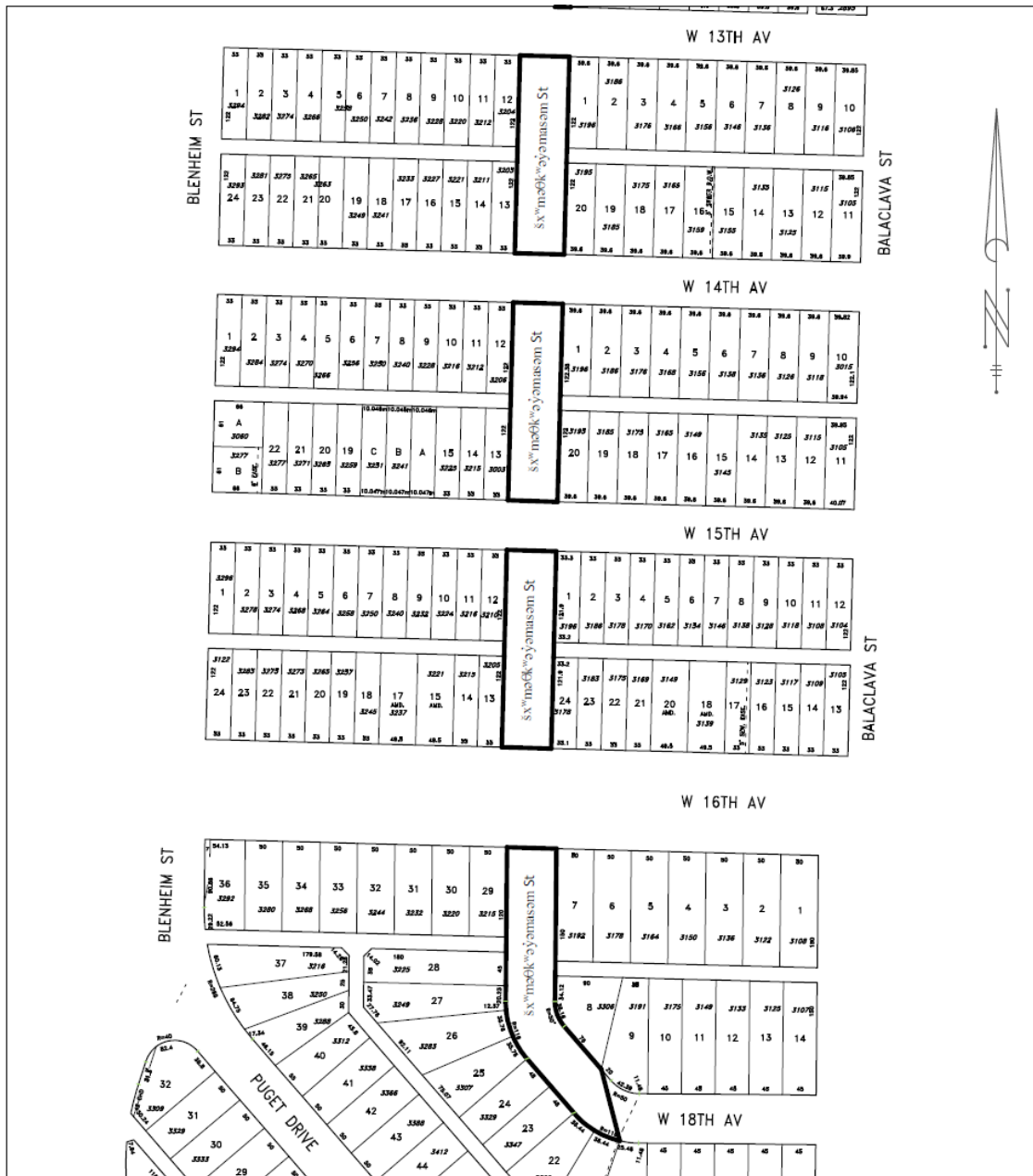
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LF12201

# **PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054.**

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JAS MAP: J-13, J-14

ENGINEERING SERVICES  
May 12, 2025

Y: \LAND\_SURVEY\JAS\Street Name\LF12201- šxʷməθkʷəy̓əmasəm St-v4.dwg

LF12201



City Clerk

## APPENDIX C – Council Motion from July 2021

### MOTION

#### 4. Toward Reconciliation: Renaming Trutch Street (Motion B.3)

At the Council meeting on July 6, 2021, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on July 7, 2021, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

MOVED by Mayor Stewart

#### WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a North-South street in Kitsilano named after Joseph Trutch called Trutch Street;
2. Joseph Trutch was an English-born engineer and surveyor who served as the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works under Governor Frederick Seymour and the first Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia;
3. Joseph Trutch was a racist and the chief architect of racist policies which inflicted immense and long-standing harm to First Nations People;
4. Trutch championed a colonial government policy which denied First Nations' title to their lands, blocked their right to acquire lands held by non-Indigenous residents, and massively reduced previously established reserve boundaries - effectively establishing a 10-acre (40,000 m<sup>2</sup>) maximum reserve size;
5. The City of Vancouver became a City of Reconciliation in 2014 and promises to review Vancouver's colonial and racist past as well as make changes to reflect a reconciled relationship with First Nations People; and
6. The Musqueam Indian Band has requested the City of Vancouver rename Trutch Street.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back on the most expeditious way to rename Trutch Street with an alternative name chosen by the Musqueam Indian Band;

FURTHER THAT Council direct the Mayor to undertake appropriate consultation with Musqueam Chief and Council;

AND FURTHER THAT Council confirms it is open to considering similar requests from the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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