

Aboriginal Place Names in British Columbia

Chilliwack: "Going back up" in Halqemeylem. Other translations are "quieter water on the head" or "travel by way of a backwater of slough"; all a reference to the broad marshlands and sloughs of the Chilliwack area.

Coquitlam: "Small red salmon" in Halqemeylem.

Kinuseo Falls, from the Cree for "fish". (Near Tumbler Ridge.)

Kamloops: anglicization of the Shuswap word *Tk'emlups*, meaning "where the rivers meet".

Kelowna: "Grizzly bear" in the Okanagan language.

Nakusp: from the Sinixt or Okanagan language word "Neqo'sp" meaning "closed-in" or "safe".

Osoyoos: From *suius* in the Okanagan language, meaning "Narrowing of the waters".

Penticton: "Place to stay forever" in Okanagan

Spuzzum: from the local variant of the Chinook Jargon *spatsum*, a reed used in basketry

Tsawwassen: "Looking toward the sea" in North Straits Salish

Ucluelet: "people of the safe harbour" in the language of the Nuuchahnulth.

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Atlin: "big lake" in Inland Tlingit.

Canim Lake: "canoe" in the Chinook Jargon.

Cassiar: a remote adaptation of Kaska, definition debatable, but possibly "old moccasins".

Chilcotin River: "red ochre river people" in the Chilcotin language

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Comox: either from the Chinook Jargon for "dog" (*kamuks*), or from the Kwak'wala for "place of plenty".

Coquihalla River: "stingy container" (of fish), a reference to black-coloured water spirits who would steal fish right off the spear.

Coquitlam: "Small red salmon" in Halqemeylem.

Cultus: "bad, of no value, worthless" in Chinook jargon. In First Nations legend, this popular recreational lake south of Chilliwack was said to be inhabited by evil spirits.

Esquimalt: North Straits Salish for "the place of gradually shoaling water".

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Qualicum Beach: "Where the dog salmon run" in Comox.

Sechelt: the town is named after the Shishalh people who live in the area

Sicamous: "river circling mountains" in the Shuswap language.

Skookumchuck: "strong (skookum) ocean/water (chuck); that is: "strong tide, strong ocean current, rapids" in Chinook Jargon

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