

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the 1,400+ local Victoria residents (1,415 total signatures) who signed this petition, I would like to formally request that you vote to remove Joseph Trutch's name from Trutch Street.

During his time as Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Trutch systematically removed Indigenous Peoples from their land. He called the Lekwungen-speaking Peoples "the ugliest and laziest creatures I ever saw, and we should think of being afraid of our dogs as of them," and stated that "these utter savages" have "no rights to the lands they claim."

Today, the racist man who made those comments and turned his racism into policy, is commemorated on a small street here in Victoria. Street signs are not neutral symbols within our society - they bestow honour on the individual they commemorate. Victoria acknowledged this truth when the city removed the John A. Macdonald statue. Now it is time to take another step towards reconciliation by choosing to condemn racism, rather than celebrate it.

If you choose to support the removal of Trutch's name, we request that you consult with the local First Nations before the street is renamed. This act of reconciliation needs to be done consensually. While it is a settler's responsibility to decolonize this land, it is essential to confirm that our local Indigenous Peoples do not oppose this action.

Further information is provided in the introduction to the petition. If you have questions about decolonization or concerns about 'erasing history,' you will find answers there.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Jade Baird, Sicily Fox, Rachel Dufort, Ashley Yaredic