



## **Committee of the Whole Report** **For the Meeting of February 17, 2022**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** January 27, 2022  
**From:** Philip Bellefontaine, Director Engineering & Public Works  
**Subject:** Renaming of Trutch Street

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to change the name of Trutch Street to Su'it Street, the Lekwungen translation for "Truth";
2. Seek input from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on any further cultural considerations relating to the renaming process;
3. Direct staff to notify residents and businesses located on Trutch Street of the name change and provide them with guidance on the process for an address change, and;
4. Direct staff to proceed with the administrative requirements for a change of street name and installation of new street signage.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In June 2021, Council directed staff to report back on the implications of changing the name of Trutch Street to Truth Street and to invite comments from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, the City Family, residents of the street, and the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association. This report outlines the outcomes of this work and the administrative considerations of the proposed name change.

Trutch Street is a two-block, 200-metre long street in the Fairfield neighbourhood that runs between Richardson Street to the North and Fairfield Road to the South. A total of 116 addresses are registered to Trutch Street including private homes, suites in house conversions, and one multi-family residential building with 32 units. Twelve business licenses are registered to Trutch Street, the majority being housing rentals.

On August 3, 2021, the City mailed a letter to all addresses registered to Trutch Street inviting comments on the proposed name change. A total of 31 responses were received with 21 of the responses indicating support for changing the name of Trutch Street. Eight of the respondents supported a change of street name but did not support the proposed name of "Truth". This was primarily related to the uncertainty around the relevance of the name to local First Nations. The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association Board indicated their support for the name change.

The Mayor and individual Councillors discussed the proposed name change with the Chiefs and Councils of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations and the City Family. The Songhees and Esquimalt Councils indicated support for the name change with a desire to use the Lekwungen translation for “Truth”. Elder and Lekwungen language speaker, Dr. Elmer Seniemten George M.S.M., offered *səʔit* (pronounced suh-eat) for the translation, which is a verb meaning to be true or real, and an adjective as in “*his words were true or truthful*”. *səʔit* is written *suʔit* in English letters.

Under section 39 of the *Community Charter*, a Council may, by bylaw, assign a name or number to a street. Staff are recommending that Council direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to change the name of Trutch Street to Suʔit Street as recommended by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. This name change also aligns with most of the written feedback received from the residents of Trutch Street that indicated support for a name that is endorsed by the local First Nations. Street signage would align with current City standards and include both the Lekwungen (*səʔit*) and English (suʔit) spellings to support revitalizing, maintaining, and strengthening the Lekwungen language while also allowing it to be read by non-Lekwungen speakers and to enable integration with address and mapping systems.

There are no direct costs for individuals to complete a residential address name change with government agencies. Address Change BC is a free Provincial service that allows residents and businesses to notify multiple government agencies of an address change. Separate address change notifications are required for Autoplan brokers, MSP and Pharmacare and must be notified directly by the account holder. Canada Post has indicated that their mail redirect service would be offered at no cost for 12 months if the City initiated a street name change.

There are 12 city-licensed business on Trutch Street, the majority being housing rentals, who may incur some additional costs associated with the street name change. Staff will work with any individual businesses seeking support with the transition. Guidance will also be provided to residents to support them with the administrative process for the address name change.

The financial impacts of the recommendations presented in this report can be accommodated within existing budgets and as a result there are no implications to the Financial Plan.

### **Alternate Option (Not Recommended)**

Alternatively, Council may consider maintaining the existing name of Trutch Street. This option is supported by less than one-third of residents on the street who submitted written feedback and does not support reconciliation efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory Tooke  
Manager, Sustainability, Assets &  
Support Services

Philip Bellefontaine  
Director, Engineering & Public Works

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.**