



April 9, 2025

File: 10280-60 (92G/6)

Islands Trust
Southern Office (Victoria)
200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8
Sent by email to:
information@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dear Islands Trust:

The BC Geographical Names Office has received a request from the Bowen Island Municipality, with support from Squamish Nation, to officially recognize two place names for geographical features within their municipal boundaries. At this time, we are inviting you to comment on two proposed changes as detailed in Appendix A and on the attached map.

Official names are labelled on Provincial and Federal maps and charts and included in the Province's official names datasets. The history of all past and present official names is maintained in the BC Geographical Names Information System and accessible through the BC Geographical Names Web App: <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/web/>.

In accordance with the BC Geographical Naming Policy and Procedures, before any naming decisions are made it is important to ascertain a) if there are known traditional names for these features, and b) that the proposed names reflect the heritage values in the area. Requesting input from governments, communities and relevant organizations potentially impacted by a feature's official name is a vital step in the geographical naming process.

As an identified organization, we are requesting any comments you have on behalf of your agency on these proposed official name changes.

Adoption of these names would not prejudice legitimate claims to the land.

Please redirect this request to the appropriate contact within your organization as needed or let me know if it should be sent elsewhere. Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your comments; your response before July 13, 2025, would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trent Thomas".

Trent Thomas
Provincial Toponymist
Trent.thomas@gov.bc.ca

Enclosure

cc: Distribution

Appendix A: Name Change Requests

1. Make "**Smí7mant Áyalhkw**" the official name of the beach north of Cape Roger Curtis, east of Worlcombe Island, southeast side of Collingwood Channel, on the southwest end of Bowen Island, Regional District
 - Current Official Name: N/A
 - "**Smí7mant Áyalhkw**" is a Skwxwú7mesh name and means "place of pebbles" (information submitted by Bowen Island Municipality, 2025).
 - This beach has been known locally as "Pebble Beach" and "Roger Curtis Beach" (information submitted by Bowen Island Municipality, 2025).
 - This beach is located at: 49.3433, -123.4286.
 - "**Smí7mant Áyalhkw**" name record: <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/76599.html>
2. Make "**Xéla7an**" the official name of the beach north of King Edward Bay, east of Ragged Island, east side of Collingwood Channel, on the west side of Bowen Island, Regional District
 - Current Official Name: N/A
 - "**Xéla7an**" is a Skwxwú7mesh name and means "marked/coloured on the cheek/side" (information submitted by Bowen Island Municipality, 2025).
 - This beach has been known locally as "Crayola Beach" and "Bluewater Beach" (information submitted by Bowen Island Municipality, 2025).
 - This beach is located at: 49.3767, -123.4169.
 - "**Xéla7an**" name record: <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/76619.html>

For audio of the names being spoken and additional information visit the name records, linked above and accessible through the [BC Geographical Names Web App](#).

Distribution List:

Bowen Island Heritage Preservation Association	Museum and Archives Bowen Island British Columbia
Bowen Island Tourism	Musqueam Indian Band
Canadian Coast Guard	North Shore Emergency Management
Cowichan Tribes	North Shore Rescue
Halalt First Nation	Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue
Islands Trust	Stz'uminus First Nation
Lions Bay Search and Rescue	Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Lyackson First Nation	Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation
Metro Vancouver Regional District	



BC Geographical
Names Office

Name Information

"Smí7mant Áyalkw"

Current Name: N/A
Lat, Long: 49.3433, -123.4286
Relative Location: North of Cape Roger Curtis, east of Worlcombe Island, southeast side of Collingwood Channel, on the SW end of Bowen Island

"Xéla7an"

Current Name: N/A
Lat, Long: 49.3767, -123.4169
Relative Location: North of King Edward Bay, east of Ragged Island, east side of Collingwood Channel, on the west side of Bowen Island

NTS Map: 92G/6

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Datum: NAD83
 Projection: WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

Key Map of British Columbia



Legend

- ◆ "Smí7mant Áyalkw"
- ◆ "Xéla7an"

