



**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024**

Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 3	Notice and Briefing Paper, dated October 21, 2024, from Kailee Gardiner, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Haisla Nation Council, regarding the request for street renaming.
Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 7	Email dated October 18, 2024, from D. Denholme regarding the request for street renaming.
Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 9	Email dated October 19, 2024, from S. Metz regarding the request for street renaming.
Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 11	Email dated October 20, 2024, from A. Martins regarding the request for street renaming.
Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 13	Email dated October 20, 2024, from R. Slanina regarding the request for street renaming.
Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 15	Letter dated October 20, 2024, from B. Santos regarding the request for street renaming.
Agenda Item 10.1	Report, Request for Street Renaming (1.5.1.16)	Page 17	Email dated October 20, 2024, from L. Penner regarding the request for street renaming.

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HAISLA NATION COUNCIL

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October 21, 2024

District of Kitimat
Attn: Mayor and Council

Re: October 21, 2024 District of Kitimat Council Agenda – Report 10.1 - Street Naming Report

The District of Kitimat Council is considering a report on the October 21, 2024 agenda for a request for street renaming for Anderson and Raley Street.

The Haisla Nation is proposing that District of Kitimat Council table consideration of this report to allow an opportunity for the District's Mayor and Council, and senior staff to meet with the Haisla Nation's Council and senior staff. This meeting would provide an opportunity for both parties to enter into respectful discussion on the request and the impacts associated with the renaming.

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HAISLA NATION

Briefing Paper

TITLE: Renaming of Raley and Anderson Street
DATE: October 21, 2024
PREPARED BY: Kailee Gardiner, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

1 Background/Summary

While Anderson and Raley may have undertaken efforts perceived as beneficial for the community in certain ways, such as attempting to educate children, these efforts were deeply rooted in colonial and assimilationist ideologies. George Anderson, after arriving in BC to assist in the "enlightenment of the Indians," played a pivotal role in establishing homes where Haisla children were isolated from their families and taught to abandon their cultural practices. Anderson took advantage of misunderstandings about Haisla culture, specifically the extended family childcare system, to declare children as orphans and separate them from their community. This approach disrupted traditional family structures, setting the stage for later residential schools. Anderson's actions also extended to undermining the rights of Haisla people, as he actively participated in preventing Haisla leaders, like Chief John Bolton, from claiming land within their own unceded territory.

Raley continued this legacy by expanding on Anderson's work. He viewed the traditional Haisla way of life as inherently immoral, calling the multi-family living arrangements "dens of vice" and using these prejudices to justify the removal of children from their homes. Under his leadership, children were sent to boarding schools where they were forcibly separated from their culture and language. Raley's actions, such as encouraging the burning of cultural treasures and taking sacred artifacts for personal collections, contributed to cultural erasure. His work directly contributed to the establishment of the Elizabeth Long Memorial Home, the first residential school in Kitamaat.

2 Analysis

The actions of Anderson and Raley created the necessary groundwork for the institutionalization of residential schooling in Kitamaat. The boarding homes they founded evolved into the Elizabeth Long Memorial Home, which operated from 1908 to 1941, recognized provincially as an Indian Residential School. Their efforts to "civilize" Haisla children by stripping them of their culture, language, and family connections are seen as foundational to the residential school system. The effects of this system continued even after the closure of the formal residential school, with Haisla people born as late as the 1970s remembering attending day schools with similar aims of cultural assimilation.

The Haisla community continues to grapple with the devastating impacts of residential schools. The cultural losses inflicted by Anderson and Raley's efforts include the destruction of family structures, the suppression of language, and the loss of traditional knowledge and practices. These schools aimed to replace Haisla culture with Eurocentric Christian values, leaving generational trauma that affects the community to this day. Survivors of these institutions, as well as their descendants, struggle with issues such as identity loss, cultural disconnection, and psychological trauma. The stripping away of cultural treasures, such as masks and regalia, many of which are still housed in museums today, is a stark reminder of the cultural theft that occurred.

Furthermore, the denial of land rights in Haisla territory, led in part by Anderson, continues to affect the community's ability to reclaim their land and assert their sovereignty. The work of both Anderson and Raley, though aimed at "helping" the community, instead entrenched the colonial systems that sought to dismantle Haisla identity, leaving behind a legacy of cultural and psychological damage that the Haisla people are still addressing today.

From: [deborah rowsell](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Support Renaming of streets
Date: October 18, 2024 8:55:44 PM

Hello

As brought forth by the Haisla Nation, I fully support the renaming of both streets, Anderson and Raley.

Thank you Haisla Nation & DOK

Deborah Denholm
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Shawny Metz](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Renaming of Anderson and Raley Streets
Date: October 19, 2024 11:54:04 AM

To Kitimat Council

I am writing in opposition to the renaming of Anderson and Raley Streets in Kitimat.

While I support reconciliation and recognise the harm caused by these two figures of our history, I feel that education and creating awareness of their influence would have a far greater impact than simply erasing their names.

As a resident of Anderson street since 2009, I was not aware of its namesake. With this knowledge, we can acknowledge the harm and let the name serve as a reminder to never forget.

Further, on a practical and personal level, I do not wish to have to chase down all of my contacts to change my mailing address.

All of my legal documentation states Anderson Street as my address, it would be not only a logistical annoyance but also an unfair financial burden to have to apply for new documentation to accommodate this name change.

Could other steps be taken to act upon reconciliation moving forward? Could we consider naming new streets after elders or important Haisla figures?

Could we create educational opportunities to acknowledge historical harm and move forward together as a community and as a Nation?

Could we incorporate Haisla names alongside current names of not just these two streets but on all streets so that we can increase and celebrate Haisla language and culture while maintaining our original mailing addresses?

I ask that you consider these factors and suggestions as well as my opposition, when considering this motion.

Sincerely,
Shawny Metz

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From: [Amanda Martins](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Remaining of Anderson and Raley
Date: October 20, 2024 8:04:23 PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I would like to express my support regarding the street renaming request put forth by the Haisla Nation.

Our political community leaders should be championing acts of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. We have the responsibility to educate and humble ourselves in the learning process, so we can do better than yesterday.

If Anderson and Raley lived today, we would not honour them. We know better now. It's time for us to do better. Many other communities have already engaged in similar changes, on a much larger scale.

I acknowledge that system navigation is intimidating, and challenging for many. I hope collectively, the DoK and community can start to find solutions to support the residents of Anderson and Raley through this important change.

Sincerely,

Amanda Martins

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From: [Rob Slanina](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Haisla street renaming request
Date: October 20, 2024 9:44:40 AM

I support the street renaming request put forward by the Haisla Nation.

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October 20th, 2024

Brittney Santos



Kitimat, BC V8C 2M9

Mayor Phil Germuth
and Councillors
270 City Centre
Kitimat, BC V8C 2H7

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to voice my support for the renaming of both Raley and Anderson Street. I anticipate you will receive many letters regarding this bylaw so I will be concise.

This bylaw is not a matter of “if” these street names will change it’s a matter of “when” these change and current mayor and council could be part an acting reconciliation within our community making history.

Nationally and internationally communities and organizations are participating in reconciliation by changing the names of communities and organizations.

Examples of community name changes include Haida Gwaii formerly Queen Charlotte Island and Daajing Giids formerly Queen Charlotte City.

Examples of organization name changes include Edmonton Elks formerly Edmonton Eskimos a Canadian Football League team and Washington Commanders formerly the Washington Redskins and Cleavland Guardians formerly the Cleaveland Indians both Professional Sports teams.

I understand and can empathize with the residence of these two streets as the renaming will require them to make several calls to update their address. However, as an individual who married in 2020 and made the choice to take my husbands last name and moved to a new address in 2022, I can confirm that updating an address takes less time and effort than legally changing a last name.

Council may want to consider financial support to business owners residing on these streets who will have costs associated with the renaming and well as a volunteer support for seniors.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Best regards,

Brittney Santos

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To: District of Kitimat
Attention: Kitimat Councillors and Mayor

From: Linda Penner


Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1G7

Re: Letter of support for renaming Anderson and Raley Streets in Kitimat

I want to offer my support for the renaming of Anderson and Raley Streets in Kitimat.

Streets in the Whitesail neighbourhood were named after people who were part of the Kitimat townsite history as a show of respect and appreciation for the work they did here.

Georges Anderson and Raley however did such harm to the Haisla people when they came to Haisla territory that their names should not be honoured. As citizens of the townsite of Kitimat we cannot overlook this as just part of history, we must remove these street names to show we know the harm these two individuals did to the Haisla people and to say what they did was wrong.

I attended the Pole Raising on Truth and Reconciliation Day and heard Mayor Germuth talk about the work being done between Haisla Nation and the town of Kitimat. I was very happy this work and learning was being done. The removal of the street names Anderson and Raley will show that the council and citizens of Kitimat truly mean what we are saying.

Honouring Haisla Nation Council's resolution for Removal/Change of Anderson and Raley as street names in Kitimat is a positive action we can take towards Truth and Reconciliation.

I have read all the documents included in the October 21st Regular Meeting of Kitimat Council regarding the renaming of Anderson and Raley Streets and feel strongly that the Council of Kitimat should approve this request. The plans to have Haisla nation hold an event with the residents of Anderson and Raley Street is also hugely important as part of our learning and understanding.

I think bringing together the residents of Anderson and Raley Streets and the Haisla Nation representatives that are requesting the street name change is a critical first step to this process.

Coming together to hear and learn from each other is an important component to deal with the proposed changes. With better understanding a decision could then be reached that is supported by the residents affected by the change because they would have learned more of the history of the men their streets are named after and heard first hand how these names impact the Haisla.

The replacement names suggested: nausda – can show we are listening; and nuyem – can show we respect the Haisla way of knowing and being.

I have attended many of the Truth and Reconciliation events held over the past few years both at Haisla Village and in Kitimat and have learned so many things I had no idea about even though I have lived in Kitimat all of my 64 years. I walk away from those events thinking what can I do?

Writing this letter is something I can do, and have done.

Linda Penner

Lifetime Kitimat resident

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