

**Skwxwú7meshulh Temíxw:  
A Morphological and Toponymic  
Analysis of Place Names**

**by  
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Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts

in the  
Department of Linguistics  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

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## Declaration of Committee

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**Title:** Sk̓w̓xwú7meshulh Temíxw: A Morphological and Toponymic Analysis of Place Names

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## Abstract

This MA Project explores Skwxwú7mesh place names from a morphological and toponymic perspective. I analyzed the morphemes of Skwxwú7mesh toponyms to gain an understanding of the meaning of each place name. I chose eighty-one place names for my MA Project. I analyzed the meaning of each place name by attempting to identify the morphemes (prefixes, roots, and lexical suffixes). I arranged the eighty-one place names in alphabetical order and included the following: place name, location, meaning/translation, morpheme breakdown, and information. Additionally, I have created a place name resource in PowerPoint format to complement my project. This resource contains one slide for each place name, a map of the area, a picture of the area, and the same information I included in this thesis. There is also a supplementary Google Earth map and a specialized map designed by GIS specialist that only includes the eighty-one place names of my project. My goal of this project is to create a place name resource to share with Squamish Nation members and learners in Skwxwú7mesh sníchim programs of various levels. One can learn the following: the location, meaning or translation, and information about place names, and an introduction to morphology.

**Keywords:** Skwxwú7mesh; toponomy; morphology; place names; territory; temíxw

## **Dedication**

I would like to dedicate my MA Project to my three children Eli, Shanille, and Dallan, my grandson Oliver and my future grandchildren to come. It is important to teach what we know and carry it on to the next generation.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge our Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh ancestors for carrying on the language and the history to pass it on to the next generation.

I would like to acknowledge my classmates of my cohort for supporting, encouraging, teaching me on this journey the last two years.

I want to raise my hands to my six Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh classmates for supporting, encouraging, teaching, and uplifting me on this journey. I could not have done this without you all by my side. We worked together in many ways to get through this together holding each other up.

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## List of Abbreviations

CON	connective
DET	determiner
DIM	diminutive
HALK	Halkomelem
IR	Indian Reserve
INSTR	instrument
LOC	locative
MID	middle
OBL	oblique
PL	plural
PROG	progressive
REDUP	reduplication
REF	reflexive
SQ	Squamish
STAT	stative
TR	transitivizer
UR	unanalyzable root

## Glossary

Lexical suffix	an affix that suffixes to a base or root, providing extra lexical information
Locative	an affix that refers to a location
Morpheme	the smallest meaningful unit
Morphology	the study of word building rules
Nominalizer	an affix that create a noun or nominalized clause
Prefix	an affix that attaches to the front of a stem or root
Root	the main morpheme of a word
Stative	an affix that creates a stative meaning out of an action
Toponymy	the study of place names
Toponym	a place name, especially one that is derived from topographical information

# Preface

## The Importance of Skwxwú7mesh Place Names

Place names have a meaning and a purpose. Names for places of the Squamish people tell us a story and connect the ancestors of the past to the future generations. Ancestral names connect one to the land. There is so much more to a place name than just a name. “Our traditional language has words that contain huge amounts of information encoded like a zip file within them”. (Wilson, 2008, p. 13) The meaning behind a place name can tell us how our people lived and what was important to them during that time frame. Place names can fall into one of the following categories - resource site, legend site, village site, landmark site, or physical appearance. It's important to note that Squamish people did not name places after people which is a common practice of colonialism. In many instances, a location has a particular meaning to the people because of the existence of oral traditions that served to explain that place in the Squamish universe and in our relationship to the land.

As a Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw member, it is vital to know who you are and where you come from. It is important for Squamish people to know where their homelands are and to be able to name the Squamish place names. Knowing this will not only educate but instill a sense of pride to be Squamish. It is a duty as a knowledge keeper, as a storyteller, as a member to share the knowledge one has those of all ages. This cycle of continuing of the teachings is never ending, It keeps repeating. The one thing that we can hold onto is the information, the stories, that were told to us by our grandparents, our knowledge keepers, and our swa7ám (ancestors).

## Chapter 1. Introduction

It is a teaching of mine, nexwníw (upbringing), to start off by introducing oneself so that is how I will begin. Skwxwú7mesh chen (I am Squamish). Kwítelut kwi en kweshámin (Kwítelut is my ancestral name). Lorraine Louis kwi en sna (Lorraine is my name). Tina7 chan tl'a Xwmelch'stn Úxwumixw (I come from Capilano Village).

I am a life-long learner of the Skwxwú7mesh sníchim and was exposed to the language by my grandmother from birth. My language learning journey consisted of learning from home, preschool, elementary school, high school, and post-secondary. I have always had a passion and desire to learn the language. An opportunity arose to take the first certificate program called First Nation Language Proficiency through Capilano University and I registered and completed it. This certificate program was the first one created and offered to interested language learners. The two-year Diploma in First Nations Proficiency followed in 2018-20 by Simon Fraser University and I was fortunate to be in the first cohort. In the Fall of 2021, seven Squamish Nation members joined a cohort of other First Nation members to take Indigenous Languages and Linguistics Master of Arts program through Simon Fraser University I will continue to learn and grow my language proficiency of the Skwxwú7mesh sníchim for as long as I am on this earth. I will continue to teach and share what I know with others.

My first job was a summer high school position with the Squamish Nation Education department. I do not remember what the job title was but I worked in the language division and I had opportunity to spend time sitting with elders working on the language among many other duties. In 2017, I rejoined the Squamish Nation Education department in the role as Cultural Coordinator. In 2019, language and cultural became an independent department called Ta na wa Ns7éyxnitm ta Snewíyelh, Language and Cultural Affairs. Today, I still work for this department, and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else as the work we do feeds not only my spirit but those of others. We carry on the teachings left to us by our ancestors to the children and community.

## **Chapter 2. Background on Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish)**

Before I explain the work of my MA project on Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh place names, I will give some background information on Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish). I will give a brief explanation on the following: Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Áysaʔch (territory), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh sníchim (language), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh oral history and about early documentation by anthropologists and linguists. Each are vital to the work of my project, and I will elaborate on each.

### **2.1. Ta Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Áysaʔch (Squamish Territory)**

Squamish traditional territory is located on the southwestern Lower mainland region of British Columbia. The total area of Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw traditional territory is 6,732 square kilometers (673,200 hectares). An explanation of the traditional territory is given in Squamish Nation's X̓ay Temíxw:

Prior to, and following the arrival of Europeans in the late 1700s, the lands and waters we used and occupied either exclusively, or jointly with our First Nation neighbors, were from Point Grey on the south to Roberts Creek on the west; then north along the height of land to the Elaho River headwaters including all of the islands in Howe Sound and the entire Squamish valley and Howe Sound drainages; then southeast to the confluence of the Soo and Green Rivers north from Whistler; then south along the height of land to the Port Moody area including the entire Mamquam River and Indian Arm drainages; then west along the height of land to Point Grey. This territory includes some of the present-day cities of Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster, all of the cities of North Vancouver and West Vancouver, Port Moody and all of the District of Squamish and the Municipality of Whistler. These boundaries embrace all of Howe Sound, Burrard Inlet and English Bay as well as the rivers and creeks that flow into these bodies of water. In addition, we used and occupied the various islands located in Howe Sound. (Land Use Plan, 2023, p. 14)

Squamish people had permanent villages, seasonal homes, camping areas all throughout the territory and would travel along the water highways via canoe for resources. They would travel to hunt, to fish, to gather plants and berries, to harvest cedar, to dig for clams and other shellfish and to trade.

The traditional territory is very important to the Squamish people as it “holds a legacy of language, tradition, legend, spirituality and use that closely links the people to

their territory. The whole territory is the repository of the Nation's stories, mythology, and oral history. The sites of oral tradition are equally important to sites with historical evidence of use and occupation" (Squamish Nation, 2024b. p. 20).

## **2.2. Skwxwú7mesh sníchim (Squamish language)**

Skwxwú7mesh sníchim is a Coast Salish language spoken by Skwxwú7mesh people of the Pacific Northwest. It is an independent language of the Coast Salish branch of the Salish family. "Ta Skwxwú7mesh sníchim (the Squamish language) is spoken in ta s7ulh temíxw (our territory)" (Squamish Nation Dictionary Project, 2011 p. xiv.) No known dialect divisions exist. The language comes from the land and ties the people to it. Our ancestors kept our language alive for us to speak today. There are few speakers today due to the impact of the Residential School system which impacted multi-generations. But despite attempts to erase the language, there are many passionate members determined to learn to speak the language and the numbers of speakers is on the incline.

## **2.3. Skwxwú7mesh Oral History**

In the long ago, history, legends and stories were shared orally and repeated from one generation to the next. Squamish families would gather together in the milha7áxwtxw (dance house) or tl'áktaxenawtxw (longhouse) and share stories. Sometimes the oral sharing happened when out hunting with an uncle or berry picking with a grandmother. One can imagine that the story or information changed a little every time it was told but the gist of the stories remained. Squamish knowledge keepers and historians are like encyclopedias and have the gift to retain and share information. Squamish people know the meaning of place names due to oral history and later early written documentation.

## **2.4. Early Written Documentation**

Written documentation and study of Skwxwú7mesh people is recent and has occurred only within the last 137 years. Early linguists and anthropologists studied many First Nations, Squamish people included. The ones whom worked with Squamish people started off our first written documentation of the language, history and stories of the

people. Next, I will elaborate on the journey of each individual who worked with Squamish people in the order the year of their work.

In 1886, Franz Boas, a German anthropologist wrote the first collection of Skwxwú7mesh words. He did not record who he worked with (Squamish Nation Dictionary Project, 2011 p. xi).

In the 1890's, anthropologist Charles Hill-Tout collected some Skwxwú7mesh words, sentences, and legends. He recorded "ninety-three Squamish place names" (Hill-Tout, 1900, pp. 474-475). He worked with Skwxwú7mesh people: Melkws, Annie Carasco, Annie Rivers, and Chief Thomas. Then 1935-36, anthropologist Homer Barnett worked with Skwxwú7mesh elder, Jimmy Frank.

In 1956, Dutch Linguist Aert Kuipers, collected data and wrote the first comprehensive grammar of Skwxwú7mesh. (Squamish Nation Dictionary Project, p. xi). He "recorded 125 Squamish geographical names" and included them in the second volume of his important work, "*The Squamish Language*" (Kuipers, 1969, pp. 33-39). For these two volumes, Kuipers worked with Chief Isaac Jacob, Lizzie Jacobs, Alec Peters, Mary Peter, and Louis Miranda. For the place names he worked only with Louis Miranda.

In 1986, Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy started BC Native Language Project. They "undertook comprehensive documentation of the Skwxwú7mesh language and culture" and "developed the writing system we use today that was adopted by the Chief and Council circa 1980" (Squamish Nation Dictionary Project p. xii). Bouchard and Kennedy worked with Louis Miranda, Jessie Miranda, Alfred Jacobs, and Andy Natrall plus 17 other Squamish members. They "went out on boat and toured the Howe Sound and Burrard Inlet and recorded their knowledge of Squamish geographical names" (Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 3).

In the traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh, place names were given in the Skwxwú7mesh snichim (Squamish language) to identify the homelands and places of importance. The place names and information were shared orally, until the work of early linguists and anthropologists in the late 1800's.

## Chapter 3. Skwxwú7mesh Morphemes: prefixes, roots, and lexical suffixes

### 3.1. Skwxwú7mesh Prefixes

A prefix is an affix that is characterized by its attachment to the front of a base or a root. Prefixes may contribute grammatical information to the root as number, aspect, mood and so on. “In Skwxwú7mesh, it is safest to assume that the root and the lexical suffix first form a stem to which the prefix is added, since it is so frequently optional” (Pincott, 2021, p. 33). The two most common prefixes used in place names are:

- i. the locative prefix: *nexw-*, *n-*, *xw-*
- ii. the nominalizer prefix: *s-*

The locative indicates location and the following morphemes are Skwxwú7mesh prefixes found in place names: *xw-*, *n-*, and *nexw*. The nominalizer prefix is used to create a noun. Jacobs states “the number of prefixes in Skwxwú7mesh is considerably less than the number of suffixes. Nevertheless, the prefixes that do occur are productive” (2011, p. 44). According to Kuipers, the prefixes *nexw* and *texw* indicate location and direction, respectively. “The two are parallel in function to a small extent only, namely in so far as motion by way of, resp, to a, a point is concerned” (1967, p. 113). A nominalizer turns verbs into nouns and the following morpheme *s-* is found in Skwxwú7mesh place names.

### 3.2. Skwxwú7mesh Roots

Roots are monomorphemic bases that affixes can attach to. A root can stand alone on its own and will usually provide the core meaning of a word. A root in a Skwxwú7mesh place name tells us a lot about the meaning of a place name. It is common that this meaning relates to the place name being a resource area. It is typical you will find a lot of a resources in a certain area hence the meaning of the place name.

### 3.3. Skwxwú7mesh Lexical Suffixes

A lexical suffix is an affix that is characterized by its attachment at the end of a base or root. Lexical suffixes may introduce information to the root like number, aspect, tense, gender, and so on. Squamish language has 120 lexical suffixes. Jacobs states



that “lexical suffixes differ from roots in that they cannot stand on their own. Moreover, the lexical suffix is often not transparently phonologically related to the corresponding independent noun. In a number of cases, in Skwxwú7mesh there is some obvious relation with the independent noun, but the relation is never fully transparent” (2011, p. 43).

The use of lexical suffixes in place names is very descriptive of what resources were in the area or what the area looked like. Ignace shares how fascinating lexical suffixes are in Salishan languages:

One of the most fascinating features of Salishan languages are their lexical suffixes. These are particle words that refer to concepts, or perhaps mental images, that invoke something’s shape or kind of features, like human or animal anatomy or geographical features, the latter often derived from human body lexical suffixes. They also reference basic physical elements and cosmological shapes, botanical features, and human made things. (2017, p. 139).

In Skwxwú7mesh, the lexical suffixes in place names relate to body parts, place, plants, people, and instruments. Some examples include the following: *-a’y* (tree, bush, place, container), *-ts* (mouth), *-kw* (head), *-shn* (foot, leg, bottom of something), *-mesh* (people), *-mexw* (people, land), *-ch* (back), *-k* (bottom, trunk), *-ks* (nose, point), *-ten* (instrument, implement), *-us* (face, front of something), *-xw* (part of a plant).

## Chapter 4. Methodology, Intent & Considerations

The main questions that I seek to answer in this MA project are:

1. What is the meaning or translation behind a Skwxwú7mesh place name?
2. Do the morphemes of a Skwxwú7mesh place name translate to the meaning?
3. What can one learn from studying Skwxwú7mesh place names?

### 4.1. Methodology

My project explores Skwxwú7mesh place names from a morphological and toponymic perspective. There are two hundred and twenty (220) place names that have been documented in Skwxwú7mesh Territory. I analyzed eighty-one of the two hundred and twenty place names from the Squamish Indian Land Use and Occupancy document produced by Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy in 1986. This accounts for approximately one-third of the documented place names in Skwxwú7mesh Territory. The Skwxwú7mesh place names I chose to include and analyze in my MA Project were villages, key landmarks, resource sites, transformer sites, legend sites, mountains, and some were chosen due to developing an interest to learn more about by travelling past them on the land or water or by skimming through the Squamish Indian Land Use and Occupancy document. I included place names that are in areas that are commonly known today throughout our homelands, but the Skwxwú7mesh names are not emphasized or known by many.

To answer my questions, I analyzed the morphemes of Skwxwú7mesh toponyms by utilizing the Squamish Indian Land Use & Occupancy document and the Skwxwú7mesh Skexwts (Squamish Dictionary). Before I started to analyze each place name, I collected all Skwxwú7mesh prefixes and lexical suffixes from the Skwxwú7mesh Skexwts (Dictionary) and put them into two charts labelled as Skwxwú7mesh prefixes and lexical suffixes. Once I completed that step, I started to look at each place name to see if I could identify a root, lexical suffix, and prefix. I chose that order because a root of a word is most easily to identify. Lexical suffixes are also common in words and easy to identify. Prefixes are a bit more challenging to identify in place names. I used the prefix and lexical suffix charts as a guide when analyzing each place name to try and identify if the place name contained any of the prefixes and lexical suffixes. I used the Skexwts (dictionary) as a guide to find definition and meaning of the roots each place name. In

the Land Use and Occupancy document, a meaning is given for each place name and stated unknown if that is the case. I took the meaning that was given to assist me with the analysis of each place name's morphemes and do a comparison. I followed up my findings by going through additional resources to confirm and add any additional information.

I organized the eighty-one place names in alphabetical order. For each place name, I included the name, location, meaning/translation, morpheme breakdown, type of place name and information.

I have created a supplementary PowerPoint resource of the eighty-one place names. Included on the PowerPoint is the following information: name, location, meaning/translation, morpheme breakdown, type of place, information, a map of the area, and a picture (if possible). There is one slide for each place name. I worked with GIS Specialist, Kaitlin Singh, from Squamish Nation Rights and Title to create a specific and specialized map for the eighty-one place names used in my project. Most pictures that are included in the PowerPoint are from me getting out on the land and taking the pictures. I also received some pictures from friends and family that live or have visited an area from my place name list. If I was not able to get out on the land or water to take pictures of the place name, I obtained images from Google Earth. My future goal is to add pictures I take when I get out in the territory and replace the Google Earth images. I also entered all the place names into Google Earth to see each place from a different angle – arial, north, south, east, and west. As a result, I have created another resource to show each place name in a slide show format on Google Earth. Additionally, I searched for pictures from different archive collections such as City of Vancouver Archives and Museum of Vancouver (MONOVA) to add to the PowerPoint.

## **4.2. Intent of MA Project**

I want to share this research with Squamish community members and language learners to give them an insight into Skwxwú7mesh toponymy and the morphology of place names. In this MA project, some learning outcomes will consist of an introduction to morphology, toponymy, gain an understanding of types of place names, gain knowledge of where the place names are situated in Skwxwú7mesh territory, and learn some basic information about each place name. The main learning outcome and purpose of this MA project is to analyze the morphemes of each place name to

understand the meaning, therefore one will gain an introduction to morpheme analysis of place names and also discover that sometimes there are no answers, and some place name meanings are unknown. *Timá tkwétsi* (that's the way it is).

Furthermore, this MA Project resource can be used as an educational resource for Skwxwú7mesh language learners at learning levels from elementary intermediate level to adult learners. A language learner will gain insight into Linguistics morphology and toponomy.

This MA Project can also be a resource for the Squamish Language and Cultural Affairs Department. This department of the Squamish Nation works with many parties that include, but are not limited to, external organizations in the lower mainland, other Squamish Nation departments, and Squamish Nation members of all ages. It is important for staff of the department to have knowledge on the Skwxwú7mesh Territory boundaries to continue advocate and educate.

Today, we are working hard at revitalizing our Skwxwú7mesh sníchim. As a result of reconciliation initiatives from local business' and from the cities within our territory/homelands, the request for incorporating the language and giving names is in high demand.

### **4.3. Considerations: “food for thought”**

The following list are some important concepts to think about when we think about place names:

- a) Exact locations on the river will change as the rivers the landscape due to the forces of nature which impacts where villages where once recorded.
- b) Intermarriages with other first nations have an influence or may impact how places were named or pronounced.
- c) Relationships with neighboring First Nations impact some of our place names.
- d) Squamish orthography was developed in 1968 and everything prior was shared orally.
- e) Sound changes for contemporary Skwxwú7mesh (CSK) from Proto-Coast Salish (PCS):

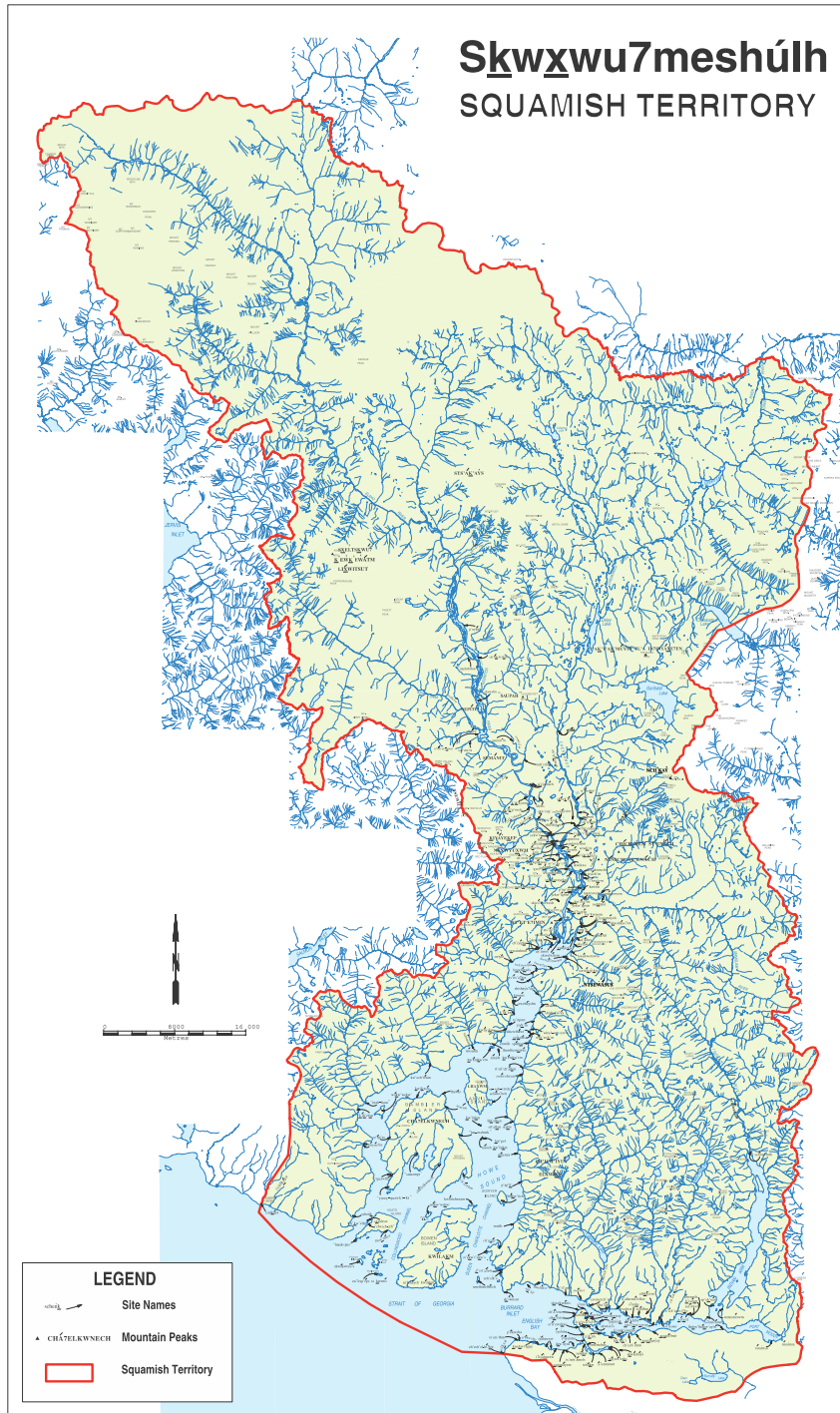
PCS	CSK
l	y/l

k	ch
x	sh

“Every language is constantly changing, but place names - being very important to people - tend to get "preserved" longer than other types of language, so some of the morphemes in them might be ones that aren't very productive anymore, or that have weird sound shifts or irregularities in them” (Katie Sardinha, p.c.).

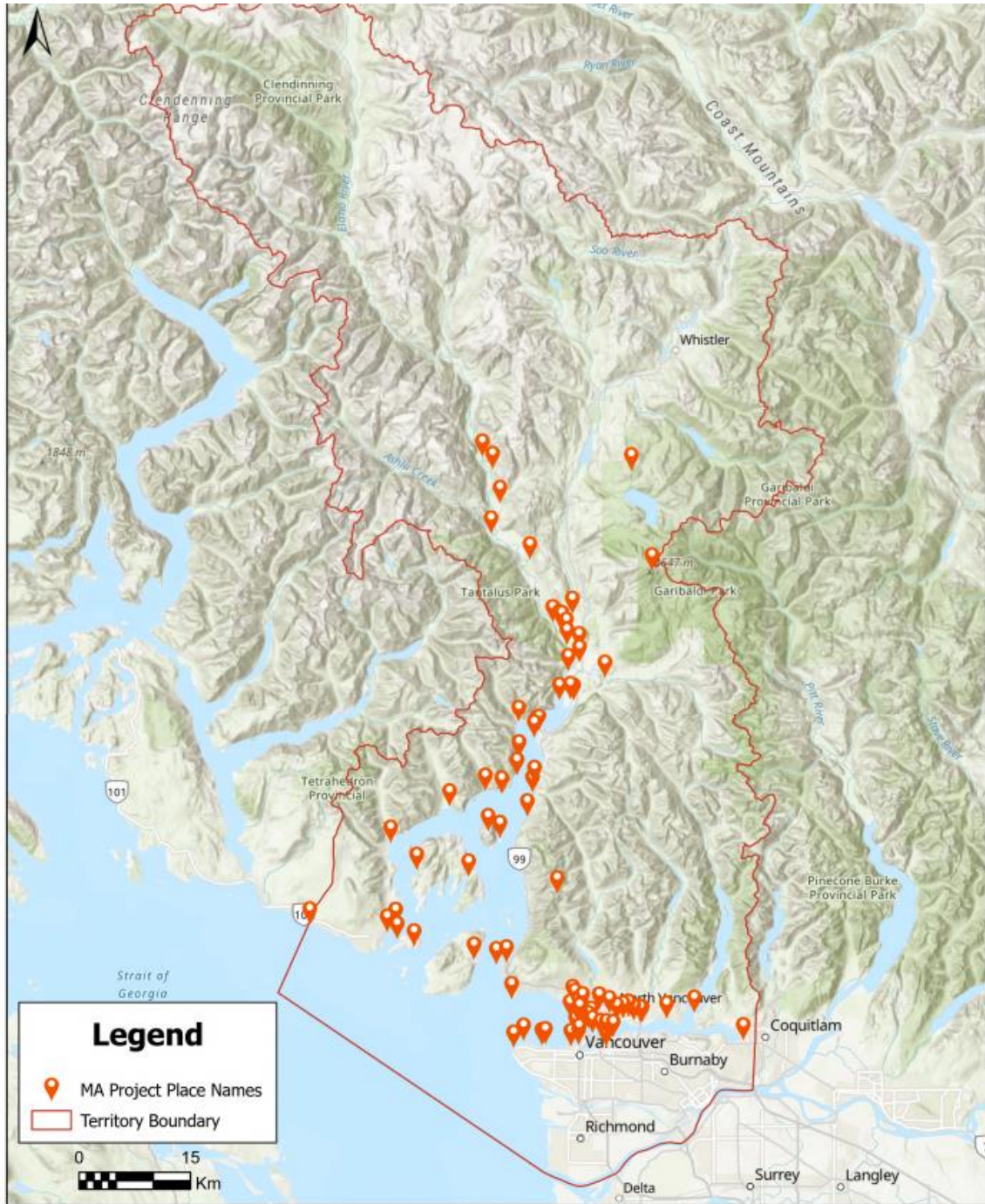
# Chapter 5. Morphological Analysis and Toponymy of Skwxwú7mesh Place Names

Figure 5.1 Skwxwú7meshulh Temíxw Map 1



© Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw, ta na wa Ns7éyxnitm ta Snewíyelh

**Figure 5.2 *Skwxwú7meshulh Temíxw Map 2 (designed for MA project)***



**Skwxwú7meshulh Temíxw**

(designed for LL's MA Project 2024)

© Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw, Rights & Title and Language and Cultural Affairs, special map for project.



The place names investigated in this project are given in Table 5.1 below.

**Table 5.1 Skwxwú7mesh Place Names (alphabetical)**

	<u>Place Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Meaning/translation</u>
1	Átsnach	Burrard Reserve	bay
2	Axáchu7	Beaver Lake, Stanley Park	little lake
3	Chá7elkwnech	Gambier Island	long deep bay
4	Ch'axáy	Horseshoe Bay	sizzling
5	Ch'ech'ílm	Rogers Sugar Refinery, Vancouver	unknown
6	Ch'ékch'ekts	Village IR 8 & Turbid Creek areas	dirty mouth
7	Ch'elxwá7elch	Coal Harbour/Lost lagoon	dry at back
8	Ch'ích'elxwi7kw	Mouth of Seymour River IR 2	little dry at head
9	Ch'ich'yúy	Two Sisters/Lions Mountain	twins
10	Ch'iyákmesh	Cheakamus IR 11	salmon/fish-weir place
11	Ch'kw'élhp	Gibsons Landing IR 26	unknown
12	Ch'tl'am	West Ambleside	unknown
13	Elhkáyem	Base of 3rd St Hill, N Vancouver	having snakes
14	Élkxen	Point Grey	point of land
15	Énwith Spalhxn	Furry Creek	middle flat land; middle meadows
16	Eslha7áñ	Mission IR 1	head of bay; place that appears to be touching (mountains)
17	Íkwikws	Chamberlain Island West side of Squamish River, Lower Brackendale, IR 15	unknown
18	Iyálmexw	Jericho Beach	good land
19	Iyéishn	English Bay	good footing
20	I7iyéishn	Little English Bay	little good footing
21	Kawtín	Garibaldi Highlands, IR 17	descending place
22	K'emk'émelay	Hastings Sawmill/Gore St, Vancouver	place of maple trees
23	K'ík'elxen	Port Melon IR 25	little fence (in Sechelt)
24	Kwekw7úpaý	Locarno Beach	wild crabapple trees
25	Kwílakm	Bowen Island	unknown
26	Kw'ech'ténem	McNab Creek	cut up fish; fish cutting place
27	Kw'émkw'em	Defence Island, IR 28	lots of bull kelp
28	Lek'lék'i	Foot of Abott & Carrall St, Gastown	maple leaves dropping
29	Lexwlu7wls	Tip of Watts Point	Lil'wat people
30	Lhaxwm	Anvil Island	unknown
31	Lhek'tines	SE of Keats Island	wide chest
32	Mámxwem	Mamquam River IR 20	unknown
33	Nch'emáy	Pilchuck Creek	to bite
34	Nch'kay	Mount Garibaldi	dirty place



35	Pápiyék	Brockton Point	floating point
36	Pukwayúsem	Currently Squamish airport, IR 13	moldy face/eye
37	P'ékwcha	Spanish Banks	floating back
38	P'k'als	between foot of Burrard & Granville St, Coal Harbour	white rocks (in Halk)
39	P'uýám	IR 9 to Tubid Creek area	blackened from smoke
40	Scheńk	Gibsons IR 26a	leaning or steadying against something
41	Schílhus	Moodyville	high bluff; hill
42	Seńákŵ	False Creek IR 6	place inside the head of False creek
43	Siýích'em	Eagle Run IR 16	full
44	Sk'íwitsut	Point Atkinson	turn around bend
45	Skáwshen	IR 7	foot going down; descending
46	Skemím	Currently Squamish airport, IR 13	underground house
47	Skwacháys	Head of False Creek	underground tunnel
48	Skw'áyus	Kitsilano Beach (Yew Street)	unknown
49	Skwelwílem	Squamish River Island IR 22	unknown
50	Skwtsa7ts	Deadmans Island	island
51	Slhxí7lsh	Siwash Rock, Stanley Park	standing rock
52	Sosahlatch	East side of Anvil Island	place with lots of mats
53	Stelkáya	Roberts Creek	wolf
54	St'áp'as	Andy's Bay, Gambier Island	unknown in SQ; cave (in Sechelt)
55	St'á7mes	Stawamus IR 24	unknown
56	St'ékw't'ekw's	Whytecliff Park	cut up
57	St'ítsma	East Seymour River	unknown
58	Sts'íts'a7kin	Watts Point/Browning Lake	small amount of cattail
59	Swáýwi	Ambleside duck pond	unknown
60	Swiyát	Woodfibre	unknown
61	Sxaaltxw	Shelter Islets between Keats Island & Gibsons IR 27	name of a person
62	S7ayks	western Moodyville	point of land
63	S7ens	Siwash Rock's wife, Eastern Prospect Point	unknown
64	Temtemíxwtn	Belcarra	lots of land
65	T'ak't'ak'múýin tl'a in7inýáxa7en	Black Tusk	landing place of the Thunderbird
66	Títemtsén	Port Moody	unknown
67	Tl'alhemá7elkw	Mackay Creek	salt water
68	Tsítsusem	Potlatch Creek	unknown
69	Ts'itpsm	Zorro Bay	pinched neck
70	Wíwk'em	Brackendale; IR 14	opening
71	Xá7elcha	Lynn Creek	painted back
72	Xelxelús	Pictograph site/Furry Creek	painted face
73	Xwáwchayay	Porteau Cove	unknown
74	Xwáýxway	Lumberman's Arch, Stanley Park	place of masks

75	Xwehúyshn	West Howe Sound	difficult footing
76	Xwelxwelítn	Bay close to Watts Point	white people
77	Xwmeích'sten	Capilano River Mouth; IR 5	place of rolling waters
78	ǂwúńekw	Present Squamish town	where they hang heads of enemies
79	Yekw'ápsem	North Yards IR 18 & 19	upriver neck
80	Yekw'ts	West Bank of Squamish River, across from the mouth of Evans Creek IR 12	upriver or upstream mouth
81	Yelhíxw	Ashlu Creek	<i>yelhíxw</i> means 'creek' in Lushootseed (a Coast Salish language near Seattle)

**1. Place name: Átsnach**

- a) Location: Burrard Reserve, North Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: bay
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Átsnach
  - √áts-nach
  - UR-bay
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - The area was known as Burrard view and k'iyáxn (fence).
  - Átsnach is home to the Tsleil-Waututh.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 132)

**2. Place name: Axáchu7**

- a) Location: Beaver Lake in Stanley Park, Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: little lake
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Axáchu7
  - á-√xachu7
  - DIM-lake
- d) Type of place name: description of topography
- e) Information:
  - A sxwáyxwi mask is said to have come from a tree stump nearby.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 67)

**3. Place name: Chá7elkwnech**

a) Location: Gambier Island, Howe Sound

b) Meaning/translation: long deep bay

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Chá7elkwnech

√chá7el-kw-nech

UR-water-bay/bottom

Note: -nech (bottom) is an old suffix and is equivalent to the contemporary suffix k (bottom).

d) Type of place name: descriptive of topography

e) Information:

- Chá7elkwnech is a bay on Gambier Island. Today, the entire island is referred to as Chá7elkwnech.
- The area used to be a good place to hunt deer and blue grouse.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 287)

**4. Place name: Ch'axáy**

a) Location: Horseshoe Bay, West Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: sizzling; noise made from fish (possibly herring).

c) Morpheme breakdown:

ch'axáy

√ch'ax-áy

sizzling-place

Note: this root could be an example of onomatopoeia, as this root does not directly translate to mean sizzling.

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- The area was a good spot for camping, hunting, and fishing.
- There used to be lots of herring in the bay and they made a 'sizzling' sound.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 245)

**5. Place name: Ch'ech'ílm**

a) Location: Rogers Sugar Refinery - north end of Raymur Avenue and Vernon Drive, Vancouver

- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A
- d) Type of place name: landmark
- e) Information:
  - A number of smooth rocks or boulders grouped together on the shore of the point where Rogers Sugar Refinery now stands.
  - It was an area where the seals used to come ashore.

(Matthews, 1955, p. 409)

  - The Rogers Sugar Refinery was established in the area in 1890.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 95)

**6. Place name: Ch'ékch'ek̓ts**

- a) Location: area on Squamish River near Turbid Creek; 5 kms from High Falls Creek
- b) Meaning/translation: dirty mouth
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
 

Ch'ékch'ek̓ts  
 ch'ék'–√ch'ek-ts  
 REDUP-dirty-mouth
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - IR 8
  - This is the name of a former village located on the Squamish River about five kilometers north from High Falls Creek.
  - The meaning of this place name is known for its dirty water quality.
  - It is an old fishing station and graveyard.
  - The area was good for hunting.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 403)

**7. Place name: Ch'elxwá7elch**

- a) Location: Coal Harbour and Lost Lagoon, Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: dry at the back; the bay that goes dry (Matthews p. 409)
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
 

ch'elxwá7elch

√ch'elxw-á7el-ch

dry-CON-back

Note: Squamish word is ch'eyxw (dry), Halk word for dry is ch'elxw

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- This was an important place to harvest herring & hunt ducks.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 89)

**8. Place name: Ch'ích'elxwi7ḳw**

a) Location: Seymour River, North Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: get little dry at head

c) Morpheme breakdown:

ch'ích'elxwi7ḳw

ch'í-√ch'elxw-i7ḳw

DIM.REDUP-get dry-head

Note: Squamish word is *ch'eyxw* (dry), Halk word is *ch'elxw*. Squamish word for Chilliwack people is *Sch'elxwi7ḳw*. *Ch'elxwi7ḳw* the diminutive of the name.

d) Type of place name: village and resource

e) Information:

- Seymour IR 2
- Name of former settlement at the mouth of Seymour Creek.
- The area used to be good for digging clams and hunting ducks.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 151)

**9. Place name: Ch'ich'iyúy**

a) Location: The Lions Mountain, east of Lions Bay, West Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: twins

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Ch'ich'iyúy

ch'i-√ch'iyúy

REDUP-twins

d) Type of place name: legend; resource

e) Information:

- The Western peak is called Elxwíkṇ.

- The Eastern peak 's name is unknown.
- Ch'ich'iyúy is associated with the legend , "The Two Sisters", which is about two sisters who symbolize peace between the Squamish and Haida.
- The area used to be a good hunting spot for deer and mountain goats.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 248)

**10. Place name: Ch'iyáqmesh**

- a) Location: Cheakamus. It refers to a former village site along the Cheakamus River and more generally to the entire area of Cheakamus River, in Squamish.
- b) Meaning/translation: salmon-weir (fish-weir) people
- c) Morpheme breakdown:  
Ch'iyáqmesh  
√ch'iyáq-mesh  
salmon.weir-people
- d) Type of place name: village and resource
- e) Information:
  - IR 11
  - The village of Ch'iyáqmesh took its name from the fish weir which was built across a shallow section of the Cheakamus River.
  - There is a story about a baby that was raised by wolves in the area.
  - The river is a great fishing spot.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 362)

**11. Place name: Ch'kw'élhp**

- a) Location: general area of Gibsons extending from Gibson Creek to Gibsons Harbour
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown in Squamish, Halkomelem term for spruce
- c) Morpheme breakdown:  
Ch'kw'élhp  
√ch'kw'-élhp  
spruce?-tree  
Note: lexical suffix *-elhp* means 'tree' in many other Salish languages, such as Bella Coola and Halkomelem.
- d) Type of place name: village and legend

e) Information:

- IR 26
- Ch'kw'élhp and Sch'eńk are both known as the area of Gibsons extending from Gibsons Creek to Gibsons Harbour. Although they are close in proximity they are in different areas.
- Ch'kw'élhp is where the first two Squamish ancestors, whom were brothers, are said to have descended to earth from the sky.
- The area was good for hunting sea lions and for fishing.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 275)

**12. Place name: Ch'tl'am**

a) Location: West Ambleside

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A

d) Type of place name: unknown

e) Information:

- No utilization of this area was known.
- Ch'tl'am refers to Navy Jack Point area.
- The area is also known as West Ambleside.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 235)

**13. Place name: Elhkáyem**

a) Location: base of Third Street Hill and the low-level road, North Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: having snakes

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Elhkáyem

√elhkáy-em

snake-MID

d) Type of place name: descriptive

e) Information:

- This area is a former slough.
- This area was known to have had a lot of snakes.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 190)

**14. Place name: Élk̓sen**

- a) Location: western end of Point Grey peninsula
- b) Meaning/translation: top point of land
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Élksen
  - él-k̚s-en
  - top-point-?
 Note: s7a'yk̚s is Squamish word for point of land
- d) Type of place name: landmark
- e) Information:
  - Élksen is the boundary between Musqueam and Squamish.
  - The area was good for fishing for smelt and sturgeon.
  - Elk was hunted in the area.
  - The X̱aays trained for power at Élksen.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 2)

**15. Place name: Énwilh Spalẖxn**

- a) Location: land at the south of the mouth of Furry Creek
- b) Meaning/translation: middle/central meadows; middle flat land
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - énwilh spalẖxn
  - énwilh s-√palẖxn
  - middle-NOM-meadow
- d) Type of place name: landmark
- e) Information:
  - The area was used for camping while travelling.
  - It used to be a good spot for trolling spring salmon.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 256)

**16. Place name: Eslha7áń or Silha7áń**

- a) Location: Mission Reserve, North Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: head of the bay; “a place that looks to be touching (the mountains)”
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Eslha7áń



es-√lha7-á-n

STAT-be touched-?

'a place that looks to be touching (the mountains)'

Note: it has been said that from the water Eslha7áń looks to be closer to the North Shore Mountains than it actually is (Peter Jacobs, p.c).

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 1
- Village is situated at the head of a former bay at the original mouth of Mosquito Creek.
- This village is called either Slha7áń or Eslha7áń.
- It used to be a good area for gathering clams, cockles, and crabs.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 198)

**17. Place name: Íkwikws**

a) Location: area on the south end of Chamberlain Island. It is along the eastern shore of the Squamish River, west from Brackendale.

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 15
- The area has changed over the years due to the river changing course.
- The area was a well-known place to hunt bears.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 350)

**18. Place name: Iyálmexw**

a) Location: Jericho Beach, Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: good land

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Iyálmexw

√iy-á-l-mexw

good-CON-land

Note: Skwxwú7mesh pronunciation of Halkomelem word. Halk word for good is iy̓. Skwxwú7mesh also, though, has some words with this root.

- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - old Squamish settlement
  - A big longhouse was built at Iyálmexw.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 8)

**19. Place name: Íyelshn**

- a) Location: English Bay beach & southwest foot of Denman Street, Vancouver.
- b) Meaning/translation: good footing
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

Íyelshn

√íy-el-shn

good-CON-foot

Note: Skwxwú7mesh pronunciation of Halkomelem word. Halk word for good is iy̓

- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - old Squamish settlement

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 46)

**20. Place name: I7iyelshn**

- a) Location: English Bay, Vancouver. A small beach area between Broughton and Nicola Streets
- b) Meaning/translation: little good footing
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

I7iyelshn

i-√7iy-el-shn

DIM.REDUP-good-CON-foot

Note: Skwxwú7mesh pronunciation of Halkomelem word. "I" is the diminutive of the Halkomelem term iy̓ (good).

- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:
  - It was a good fishing and shellfish site.
  - Area is called little English Bay.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 46)

**21. Place name: Kaw'tín**

a) Location: area east side of the Squamish River immediately upstream from where the Mamquam River now enters the Squamish River.

b) Meaning/translation: place of descend

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Kaw'tín

√kaw-tín

descend-INSTR

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 17
- There used to be two longhouses in this village.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 338)

- Today the area is known as Garibaldi Highlands.

**22. Place name: K'emk'emelá'y**

a) Location: Hastings Sawmill and Gore Street, Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: place of maple trees

c) Morpheme breakdown:

K'emk'emelá'y

k'em-√k'emel-á'y

REDUP-paddle-place

Note: The word *k'emelá'y* means maple tree. The root of *k'emelá'y* is *k'emel*, which means paddle.

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- Area known as Hastings Sawmill and today the area is called Vancouver Center Terminal.
- Not a village but Squamish people lived here until the CPR forced them out.
- The area used to have a lot of maple trees.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 92)

**23. Place name: K'ík'elx̣en**

a) Location: Port Melon, Sunshine Coast

b) Meaning/translation: little fence

c) Morpheme breakdown:

K'ík'elxen

k'í-√k'elxen

DIM.REDUP-fence

Note: k'exen is Sechelt word for little fence. Skwxwú7mesh word for fence is k'iyáxen.

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 25
- Old village site
- Old fishing and hunting site
- Burial ground

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 291)

**24. Place name: Kwekw7úpay**

a) Location: Locarno Beach, Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: wild crabapple trees

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Kwekw7úpay

kwe-√kw7úp-ay

REDUP-wild.crab.apple-tree

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- Area for fishing smelt and salmon.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 7)

- Important archaeological site.
- Lots of middens in the area

(Tińa7 cht ti temíxw, 2023, p. 82)

**25. Place name: Kwilákm**

a) Location: Bowen Island, Howe Sound

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

- c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A
- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:
  - Also known as Nex̣wlélex̣wm and Xwliłx̣wm.
  - Good area for hunting deer.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 245)

**26. Place name: Kw'ech'ténem**

- a) Location: McNabb Creek, north of Elkins Point
- b) Meaning/translation: fish cutting place; cut up fish
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Kw'ech'ténem
  - √kw'ich'-tén-em
  - clean fish-INSTR-MID
- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:

- Used to be a good place to fish.
- A pictograph site has been recorded east from the mouth of McNab Creek.

(Bouchard and Kennedy, p. 294)

- Used to be a camping spot, good place to hunt deer and goat.

(Miranda, 1985, ARC.CULM.J003)

**27. Place name: Kw'émkw'em**

- a) Location: Defense Island, Howe Sound
- b) Meaning/translation: lots of bull-kelp
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Kw'émkw'em
  - kw'é-m-√kw'um
  - REDUP-bull kelp
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:

- IR 28
- fishing station
- old burial island

- There are two little islands close together both called Defense Island.  
(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 297)

**28. Place name: Lek'lek'i**

- Location: Located at the foot of Abbott and Carrall or Water Street – Gastown, Vancouver
- Meaning/translation: maple leaves dropping
- Morpheme breakdown:  
Lek'lek'i  
lek'-√lek'i  
REDUP-maple leaves fall
- Type of place name: resource
- Information:
  - Today we know Lek'lek'i today as Gastown.
  - Former shoreline area where a church was located in the late 1800's and Squamish people from various villages attended until it burned down in 1886.  
(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 91)

**29. Place name: Lexwluxwls**

- Location: approximately 1 km north from Watts Point, Howe Sound
- Meaning/translation: Lil'wat people
- Morpheme breakdown:  
Lexwluxwls  
lexw-√luxwels  
REDUP-Lil'wat people
- Type of place name: legend
- Information:
  - Transformation story
  - This place name comes from the story that three Lil'wat people were transformed by the Xaays into rock here. There are three distinctive rocks on the point on the shoreline that represent these people.  
(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 261)

**30. Place name: Lhaxwm**

- Location: Anvil Island, Howe Sound

- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A
- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:
  - Used to be a good area for hunting deer.
  - Associated with stories of supernatural creatures called *stl'alkm* (supernatural; monster). One of these supernatural creatures was called *nínch'ashn*, which is a one-legged, human-like being.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 252)

**31. Place name: Lhek'tínes**

- a) Location: southeast side of Keats Island, Howe Sound
- b) Meaning/translation: wide chest
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Lhek'tínes
  - √lhk'at-ínas
  - wide-chest
- d) Type of place name: description of topography
- e) Information:
  - Name of a shallow bay; facing south.
  - The shape of the bay looks like a man's chest.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 269)

**32. Place name: Mámxwem**

- a) Location: Mamquam River, Squamish
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Mamxwem
  - ma-√maxw-em
  - REDUP-?-MID
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - IR 20

- It was said that there was something special about the Máxwem area and the Mámxwem people.
- The river was said to act like a “weatherman”, when it rained hard, a noise could be heard indicating a flood would occur.
- The old Squamish people believed it would rain whenever a stranger went up this river.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 335)

**33. Place name: Nch'émáy'**

a) Location: Pilchuck Creek, east side of Squamish River

b) Meaning/translation: to bite

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Nch'émáy'

nexw-√ch'em-áy'

LOC-bite-place

d) Type of place name: legend

e) Information:

- Legend of a woman who was said to have been bathing someplace up this creek when she was changed into a stump by the Transformers.
- It is said that there was a rock house in the area where the mountain goats lived.
- The English name of this creek, Pilchuck, is derived from the Chinook jargon meaning blood water due to the red color of the creek.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 394)

**34. Place name: Nch'káy'**

a) Location: Mount Garibaldi. East side of Cheakamus River between Squamish and Whistler

b) Meaning/translation: dirty place

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Nch'káy'

nexw-√ch'ek-áy'

LOC-dirty-place

d) Type of place name: legend



e) Information:

- Known as Mount Garibaldi.
- The legend of *The Great Flood* is well known as the mountain that the Squamish people tied their canoes to during the great flood of the last ice age.
- Old Squamish people had a saying that Nch'kay always covered its face because the top of the mountain is often covered with clouds.
- It has been said that the cedar bark anchor rope that was used during the flood can still be seen on top of Nch'kay.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 370)

**35. Place name: Pápiyék**

- a) Location: Brockton Point, Stanley Park, Vancouver  
b) Meaning/translation: floating point  
c) Morpheme breakdown:

Pápiyék

pá-√paý-ek

PROG.REDUP-rest-bottom

Note: attempted breakdown of the morphemes by LL & PJ

- d) Type of place name: description of topography  
e) Information:

- The area used to be good for hunting for octopus and halibut.
- Squamish used to live in the area between Brockton Point and the Nine o'clock gun.
- It used to be a good place to get clams.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 83)

**36. Place name: Pukwayúsm**

- a) Location: North side of Cheakamus River, opposite Skemín  
b) Meaning/translation: moldy face or eye  
c) Morpheme breakdown:

Pukwayúsm

√pukw-ayús-m

moldy-eye-MID

- d) Type of place name: village; descriptive
- e) Information:
  - IR 13
  - Was known as a fishing and hunting base.
  - Wax'ayus, welcome figure, was situated here and welcomed salmon as they swam up Squamish River.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 358)

**37. Place name: P'ékwcha**

- a) Location: western Spanish Banks, Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: floating back
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

P'ékwcha

√p'ekw-cha

float-back

Note: This is a different suffix for 'back'. The usual suffix is *-ch*.

- d) Type of place name: description of topography; landmark
- e) Information:
  - The area was given the name because when the tide went out the sandbar that formed appeared to be floating.
  - it has also said to be a whale whose back is showing.
  - It used to be a "favorite place" for catching smelt.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 6)

**38. Place name: P'k'als**

- a) Location: between the foot of Burrard and Granville Street, Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: white rocks
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

P'k'als

√p'ek'-als

white-rock

Note: Skwxwú7mesh pronunciation of Halkomelem term 'white rock'. 'Rock' in Sq is *-uys*. rock in Halk is *-als*.

- d) Type of place name: landmark

e) Information:

- It is said that the name refers to exposed light-colored rock that could be seen in the area along the railway track.
- The traditional use of the area was not known or documented.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 91)

**39. Place name: P'uyámí**

a) Location: area near the east side of Squamish River Elaho River confluence; south of Tricouni Valley.

b) Meaning/translation: blackened from smoke

c) Morpheme breakdown:

P'uyámí

√p'uy-ámí

UR-MID

\*Note: morphemes don't mean blackened from smoke. The Squamish word *p'áman* means blacken (something) by holding it in smoke. Can also be written as P'ewyám.

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 9 to Turbid creek area
- Identified as a village site but said to be abandoned.
- Story about a whale that was trapped in a lake near P'uyámí during the Great Flood. Whenever there was going to be a rainstorm, the old people said this whale could be heard flapping its flukes on the water.
- P'uyámí was one of the main hunting areas for deer and mountain goat.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 408)

**40. Place name: Scheńk**

a) Location: general area of Gibsons extending from Gibson Creek to Gibsons Harbor

b) Meaning/translation: leaning or steady against something; support behind

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Scheńk

s-√cheń-k

NOM-support-behind

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 26a - Scheṅk and Ch'kw'élhp are considered same general area.
- Place where two Squamish first ancestors, who were brothers, descended to earth.
- Area was good for hunting sea lions and was also a fishing station.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 275)

**41. Place name: Schílhús**

a) Location: Moodyville. Third Street Hill near grain elevators, North Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: high bluff; hill

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Schílhús

s-chílh-us

NOM-high-face

d) Type of place name: descriptive of topography

e) Information:

- It was the site of Burrard Inlet's first sawmill.
- There once was a longhouse at Schílhús.
- Schílhús was a seasonal camp/home.
- There is another place name in Stanley Park named Schílhús.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 190)

**42. Place name: Seṅákw**

a) Location: False Creek area, north side of Burrard Street Bridge, Vancouver

b) Meaning: contemporarily known as the place inside the head of False Creek

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Seṅákw

es-he7-naḱw

STAT-PROG-UR

Note: \*possible breakdown of morphemes which does not mean "the place inside the head of the bay". The root is unknown. As stated by Peter Jacobs, his initial translation of the place name was incorrect (Peter Jacobs, p.c).

- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
- IR 6
  - The area used to be abundant in the following resources: elk, beaver, deer, salmon, duck, smelt, sturgeon, clams, and scallops.
- (Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 15-38)

**43. Place name: Siy'ich'em**

- a) Location: situated on the east side of the Squamish River south of Brackendale
- b) Meaning/translation: full
- c) Morpheme breakdown:  
 Siy'ich'em  
 (e) s-i-√yech'-em  
 STAT-PROG-full-MID
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
- IR 16
  - There used to be two longhouses in this village.
  - Today, the area is also known as Eagle Run.
- (Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 345)

**44. Place name: Sk'iwitsut**

- a) Location: Point Atkinson, West Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: turn around bend
- c) Morpheme breakdown:  
 Sk'iwitsut  
 s-√k'iw-i-t-sut  
 NOM-turn around bend-TR-REF
- d) Type of place name: landmark
- e) Information:
- Area where Squamish man sang a song to scare away the Yikwilhtax̄ (Kwakiutl people) and where a battle took place between them.
- (Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 236)

**45. Place name: Skáwshen**

- a) Location: east bank of Squamish River north of Ashlu Creek
- b) Meaning/translation: foot going down or descending
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Skáwshen
  - s-√kaw-shen
  - NOM-descend-foot
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - In 1876, it was the uppermost inhabited Squamish village.
  - It was noted that Skáwshen was an important area for getting cedar used for making canoes.
  - Identified as a fishing station and timber area.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 400)

**46. Place name: Skemím**

- a) Location: area south of present-day mouth of Cheakamus River
- b) Meaning/translation: underground house
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Skemím
  - s-√kemím
  - NOM-underground house
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - IR 13
  - In some legends, Skw̓wú7mesh people were said to live in underground houses.
  - Fishing and hunting station base

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 357)

**47. Place name: Skwáchays**

- a) Location: eastern end of False Creek, Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: place where the water is drawn down into a hole
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Skwachayís

s-√kwaa-ch-áy's

NOM-perforated.be-back-chunk/piece

- a) Type of place name: resource or landmark
- b) Information:
  - Used to be a place to fish for sturgeon.
  - Area for collecting bog cranberries.
  - It is said that there is a tunnel that goes from Skwáchays at False Creek to Lake Coquitlam.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 38)

**48. Place name: Skw'áyus**

- a) Location: Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

Skw'áyus  
s-√kw'áy-us  
NOM-fire (a canoe)-face
- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:
  - Area was good for smelt fishing.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 13)

**49. Place name: Skwelwílem**

- a) Location: area that is presently on the east side of the main channel near the mouth of Squamish River
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

Skwelwílem  
s-kwel wí-em  
NOM-?-canoe-middle

\*Note: The suffix -wil (canoe) is another form of -wilh (canoe)
- d) Type of place name: legend and village
- e) Information:
  - IR 22. Not a reserve anymore as Squamish had to surrender.

- It used to be an island that was separated from a larger island (now the town of Squamish) by a central channel of the Squamish River.
- Used to be a good fishing camp, place to pick salmon berries, and have a lot of owls.
- Associated with the Legend - Hunter from Skwelwílem.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 324)

**50. Place name: Skwtsa7ts**

- Location: Deadman's Island, south of Stanley Park in Coal Harbour, Vancouver
- Meaning/translation: island
- Morpheme breakdown:  
Skwtsa7ts  
s-√kwtsa7-ts  
NOM-island-mouth
- Type of place name: old burial ground
- Information:
  - Pre-contact it was an Indian burial ground where the dead were put high up in the trees.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 86)

- Today the area is the site of Vancouver's Naval Reserve Division, HMCS Discovery.

**51. Place name: Slhix7lsh**

- Location: located on the water's edge north of Third Beach. West Side of Stanley Park seawall
- Meaning/translation: be standing up
- Morpheme breakdown:  
Slhix7lsh  
s-lhxilsh  
NOM-stand
- Type of place name: landmark; legend
- Information:
  - Famous landmark known as Siwash Rock.
  - Legend of a man turned into stone by the Xaays (mythological Transformers).



- There are various versions of the story of Slihx̱i7lsh. One of the stories shares that Mr Siwash Rock was a selfish man who claimed the fishing area and didn't share with others. The X̱aays turned him into stone as an example to people to share with others and not to be selfish. Others claim that he was an excellent father who was memorialized in stone by the X̱aays.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 51)

**52. Place name: Sosahlatch or Selsá7ech**

- Location: east point of Anvil Island
- Meaning/translation: lots of mats
- Possible Morpheme breakdown:

Selsá7ech

sel-√sá7ech

reduplication-wall mat

Note: The Squamish word for wall mats is súyaʔch and singular súyi7ch

- Type of place name: landmark
- Information:

- mats were left here to be used as shelters for the use of travelers.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 252)

**53. Place name: Stelkáya**

- Location: Roberts Creek, Sunshine Coast
- Meaning/translation: wolf
- Morpheme breakdown:

Stelkáya

s-√t<el>-káya

NOM-wolf<PL>

- Type: landmark
- Information:

- Stelkáya is the boundary between Squamish and Sechelt.
- Area used to have lots of wolves.
- Old camping spot.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 270)

**54. Place name: St'áp'as**

- a) Location: Andy's Bay, west side of Gambier Island, Howe Sound
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown in Squamish; Sechelt word for cave
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

St'áp'as

s-√t'áp'as

NOM-cave

Note: Squamish word for cave is xwp'a7áysus

- d) Type of place name: legend
- e) Information:
  - It is a large overhanging rock which forms a cave. It is said you can see the whale's tail sticking out from the cliff.
  - Associated with the legend The Mink and the Whale.
  - Good camping site.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 289)

**55. Place name: St'a7mes**

- a) Location: mouth of Squamish River
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - A major Squamish village.
  - IR 24
  - Used to be a good resource site: halibut, red snappers, cod, spring salmon, eulachons, ducks, deer and black bear.
  - Legend - Xwech'tál & Sínulhkay (double-headed sea serpent). The area where Xwech'tál slays Sínulhkay (double-headed serpent).

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 307)

**56. Place name: St'ékw't'ekw's**

- a) Location: Copper Point but identified as Whitecliff Park, West Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: cut up
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

St'ék̑w't'ek̑w's  
s-t'ék̑w'-\t'ek̑w'-s  
NOM-REDUP-break-?

d) Type of place name: legend

e) Information:

- Place where two Sínuhkay (double-headed serpent) collided. One was coming from Squamish and the other was heading to Squamish. Here it is said they collided and the head of one fell off hence the name.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 240)

**57. Place name: St'itsma**

a) Location: Maplewood Flats, east of Seymour River, North Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- Name of a former channel east of Seymour River

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 150)

- Once a popular fishing ground. There was a lot of crab, fish, etc.

(Matthews, 1955, p. 413)

**58. Place name: Sts'íts'a7k̑in**

a) Location: Watts Point, Browning Lake. East side of Howe sound and NW of Britannia Beach

b) Meaning/translation: small amount of cattail

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Sts'íts'a7k̑in

s-ts'í-\ts'a7k̑in

NOM-DIM-cattail

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- There used to be lots of cattail in the area.
- Good hunting location.
- Old Summer camping spot.

- It was said by the old Squamish people that Browning Lake, east of Watts Point, was connected to Howe sound by an underground passage.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 260)

**59. Place name: Swá'ywi**

- a) Location: Duck pond area at Ambleside Park, West Vancouver
- b) Meaning/translation: possibly derived from a term meaning to reveal; make public.
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

Swá'ywi

s-wá'y-√way

NOM-REDUP-become known

- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:

- Herring and dog salmon used to spawn in this lagoon.
- Was a good hunting spot for ducks.
- The lagoon used to go all the way up to the Capilano cemetery. Squamish people used to travel by canoe in this lagoon to the base of the bluff where the cemetery is located and use ropes to haul the coffins up.
- There used to be a vacant house close to the beach which was used to store food for potlatches.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 234)

**60. Place name: Swiyát**

- a) Location: Woodfibre. West side of Howe Sound and across from Watts Point
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown
- c) Morpheme breakdown:

Swiyát

s-√wiyát

NOM-UR

- d) Type of place name: resource
- e) Information:

- Historical site used for fishing.
- Used to hunt deer and mountain goats in the valley.
- Squamish people used to train for power here.

- Possible pictograph site.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 303)

**61. Place name: Sxaaltxw**

- Location: Northern Shelter Islets, west of Keats Island
- Meaning/translation: personal name. This place name is a personal name of a man who was buried here with his son and grandchild.
- Morpheme breakdown: N/A
- Type of place name: village
- Information:
  - IR 27
  - Old grave site
  - This is the only place that has a personal name.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 285)

**62. Place name: S7ay<sub>ks</sub>**

- Location: western Moodyville, North Vancouver
- Meaning/translation: point of land
- Morpheme breakdown:
 

S7ay<sub>ks</sub>

s-√7ay'-ks

NOM-UR-point/nose

Note: The definition of s7ay<sub>ks</sub> is point of any sharp object; point of land.
- Type of place name: landmark
- Information:
  - S7ay<sub>ks</sub> is a distinctive point of land situated in the vicinity of what is now the westernmost end of Pioneer Grain terminal in North Vancouver.
  - Old settlement

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 192)

**63. Place name: S7ens**

- Location: East Prospect Point, NW Stanley Park, Vancouver
- Meaning/translation: unknown
- Morpheme breakdown:
 

S7ens

s-√7ens

NOM-UR

d) Type of place name: legend; landmark

e) Information:

- S7ens is the name of a distinctive rock close to Prospect Point.
- Siwash Rock's wife that was turned into stone by the Xaays.
- Area was good for fishing octopus, sturgeon, and sea urchins.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 56)

**64. Place name: Temtemíxwtn**

a) Location: Belcarra, Indian arm. Southern end of Beclarra Bay, due east from Boulder Island at the mouth of Indian Arm

b) Meaning/translation: lots of land, stockade

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Temtemíxwtn

tem-√temíxw-tn

REDUP-land-INST

d) Type of place name: legend and settlement

e) Information:

- Area was a major habitation center for the entire eastern area of Burrard Inlet.
- Legend about Sínułhkáʔ (double-headed serpent) was said to have stretched itself across the Indian Arm.
- Legend also said there was a known route through the mountains from the Squamish River to Indian Arm.
- Legend of Smáyliłh, Chief, his daughter, and the slave. (also see Xwehúʔshn)

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 113)

**65. Place name: T'ak't'ak'múʔin tl'a in7inyáxa7en**

a) Location: Black Tusk Mountain, north of Garibaldi Lake

b) Meaning/translation: landing place of the Thunderbird

c) Morpheme breakdown:

T'ak'tak'múʔin tl'a in7inyáxa7en

t'ak'-tak-'m-úʔin

tl'a

in-7iny-áxa7en

REDUP-land-middle-?	OBL.DET	REDUP-yonder-side
landing place	of.the	Thunderbird

d) Type of place name: legend

e) Information:

- A young man was said to have encountered the Thunderbird while training to be an Indian doctor. This young man went up to Black Tusk and found some feathers lying on the ground. But when he touched the feathers, there was a flash of lightning that hit the ground close to him. He ran and ran, dropping some of the feathers as he went, but the lightning continued. Then he dropped all the remaining feathers and the lightning stopped. The people said that this young man had not cleansed himself enough, and that is why Thunderbird had not given him spirit power and allowed him to keep one of the feathers.
- The old people believed that lightning is caused by flashes from Thunderbird's eyes, and thunder is caused by Thunderbird flapping his wings.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 374)

**66. Place name: Títermtsem**

a) Location: Port Moody

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A

d) Type of place name: unknown

e) Information:

- There used to be a trail from Títermtsem (Port Moody) to Kíkáy̓t (Fraser River) in New Westminster where Squamish people would go fishing.
- Shared area utilized by Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh, Kwikwtl'ám (Coquitlam) and Selílwitlh (Burrard).

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 109)

- Area used to be a good camping ground.

(Matthews, 1955 p. 440)

**67. Place name: Tl'alhemá7elkw**

a) Location: Mackay Creek, North Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: salt water

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Tl'alhemá7elkw  
√tl'alhem-á7el-kw  
salt-CON-water

d) Type of place name: resource

e) Information:

- It was a good place to get salmon, ducks, and shellfish.
- The area was a camping site and area had a few homes.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 214)

**68. Place name: Tsítsusm**

a) Location: Potlatch Creek, Howe Sound.

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A

d) Type of place name: village

e) Information:

- IR 25
- Place where a big peace potlatch was held between Squamish and Yík<sub>w</sub>ilhtax̄ (Kwakiutl people). There was an agreement to end constant raids on each other's villages.
- old camping spot.
- Used to be a good place to hunt mountain goats.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 294)

**69. Place name: Ts'itpsm**

a) Location: Zorro Bay, West Howe Sound

b) Meaning/translation: pinched/narrow neck

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Ts'itpsm

ts'it-psem

nibble-neck

d) Type of place name: description on topography

e) Information:

- The name refers to the narrowness of the isthmus and that it was almost pinched off.



- The area was used as a place of shelter from the wind.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 301)

**69. Place name: Wíwk'em**

- Location: area on the east bank of the Squamish River that forms part of the northwest portion of Brackendale
- Meaning/translation: opening
- Morpheme breakdown:  
Wíwk'em  
wí-√wik'-em  
PROG-open up-MID
- Type of place name: village
- Information:
  - IR 14

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 353)

**70. Place name: Xá7elcha**

- Location: Lynn Creek, North Vancouver
- Meaning/translation: painted back
- Possible morpheme breakdown:  
Xá7elcha  
xel'-cha  
write-back  
Note: This is a different suffix for 'back'. The commonly known suffix is -ch.
- Type of place name: resource
- Information:
  - Used to be a good creek for all salmon except spring salmon.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 189)

**71. Place name: Xelxelús**

- Location: north of the mouth at Furry Creek
- Meaning/translation: painted face
- Morpheme breakdown:  
Xelxelús  
xel'-√xel'-ús

REDUP-write-face

d) Type: landmark

e) Information:

- pictograph site
- There are a few stories as to what this pictograph means. One, it was painted by a party of Indians from Puget Sound who retreated. Two, it was marked as a good spot to fish and to attract fish. Three, it was painted to mark the big tide that came in.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 257)

**72. Place name: Xwáwchayay**

a) Location: Porteau Cove. Specifically, a part of the cove that is sheltered by a tongue of land at the southwest corner.

b) Meaning/translation: unknown

c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A

Note: Porteau Cove is known as little sturgeon but Squamish word for sturgeon is *skw7wách*. The morphemes of this place name do not mean little sturgeon.

d) Type of place name: landmark

e) Information:

- Camping spot on seasonal travels.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 255)

**74. Place name: Xwáyxway**

a) Location: vicinity of Lumberman's Arch landmark - North Stanley Park, Vancouver

b) Meaning/translation: masks

c) Morpheme breakdown:

Xwáyxway

xwáy-√xway

REDUP-mask

d) Type of Place Name: village

e) Information:

- Former site of a large prehistoric village.
- Used to be a large village with a longhouse that was two hundred feet long.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 68)

- Mask found inside a big cedar tree in the area.

(Matthews, p. 406)

**75. Place name: Xwehúy'shn**

- Location: West Howe Sound
- Meaning/Translation: difficult footing
- Morpheme breakdown:

Xwehúy'shn

xwe-húy'-shn

LOC-go-leg/foot

- Type of place name: legend
- Information:

- It was on the hillside of this place where a high-status Squamish man abandoned his daughter when he found out that she was having a child with his slave. The descendants of the daughter and slave were known as smá'ylih (wild people).

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 302)

**76. Place name: Xwelxwelítn**

- Location: east side of Howe Sound, NW of Britannia Beach. The bay located just northeast of the point at Lexwlúxwls (1km North of Watts Point)
- Meaning//translation: white people
- Morpheme breakdown:

Xwelxwelítn

xwel-√xwelítn

REDUP-white person-INSTR

- Type of Place Name: landmark
- Information:

- This place is named because, according to Squamish tradition, this was the site where the Squamish people had their first encounter with white people.
- It was said they Skwxwú7mesh saw what they thought was a floating island (ship) and a walking dead man on it (white man).

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 262)

**77. Place name: Xwmélch'stn**

- a) Location: Capilano River and Reserve is the name of the old settlement at the mouth of Capilano River
- b) Meaning/translation: place of rolling waters
- c) Morpheme breakdown:  
Xwmélch'stn  
xw-√milch'-ts-tn  
LOC-mix up-mouth-INSTR
- d) Type of Place name: village
- e) Information:
  - IR 5
  - The reserve's name is an anglicized version of a Squamish chief named Kiyáplanexw.
  - Xwmélch'stn is the name of an old settlement at the mouth of Capilano River.
  - Today, we use Xwmélch'stn to reference an area of the reservation we call Capilano.
  - Capilano River is good for fishing for salmon.
  - Used to be a good area for hunting ducks, beavers, grouse and deer.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 215)

**78. Place name: Xwúñekw**

- a) Location: Squamish town
- b) Meaning/translation: where they hang the heads of the enemies
- c) Morpheme breakdown:  
Xwúñekw  
xwúñ-kw  
roar-head
- d) Type of place name: descriptive
- e) Information:
  - Site where Squamish warriors beached their canoes and displayed on poles the heads of their foes decapitated during battles.

(Bouchard and Kennedy, 1986, p. 319)

**79. Place name: Yekw'ápsm**

- a) Location: North Yards. East side of Squamish River
- b) Meaning/translation: upriver neck
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Yekw'ápsēm
  - √yekw'-ápsēm
  - upstream-neck
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - IR 18
  - Used to be a good place to hunt deer and grouse across the river.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 332)

**80. Place name: Yekw'ts**

- a) Location: on westbank of Squamish River, across from the former northwest channel of the Cheakamus River mouth
- b) Meaning/translation: upriver mouth
- c) Morpheme breakdown:
  - Yekw'ts
  - √yekw'-ts
  - upstream-mouth
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:
  - IR 12
  - Story of a first ancestor is said to have descended from the sky at Yekw'ts.
  - used to be a major permanent settlement.
  - It was a fishing village and burial ground.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 378)

**81. Placename: Yelhíxw**

- a) Location: Ashlu Creek, Squamish
- b) Meaning/translation: unknown in Squamish; means "creek" in Lushootseed.
- c) Morpheme breakdown: N/A
- d) Type of place name: village
- e) Information:

- Good place to fish both trout and coho.
- Story of a man appearing and giving a cloth with commandments on it to Squamish man named Syexwáitn.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 398-99)

## Chapter 6. Sample of Place Names Found in PowerPoint Resource

I have included examples of four different types of places names to show they tend to fall into one of the following categories: village, resource, legend/story, landmark or description of topography.

**Figure 6.1 Example of a Village Place Name (1)**

# X̱wá'y̱x̱way

Location: Lumberman's Arch North Stanley Park, Vancouver

Meaning/translation: masks

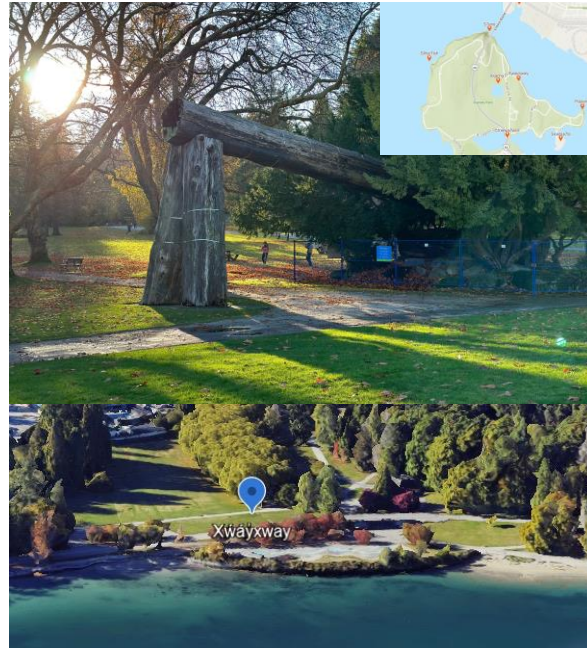
Morpheme breakdown:

X̱wá'y̱x̱way  
x̱wá'y̱- x̱way  
REDUP-mask

Type of place name: village

Information:

- Used to be a large village with a longhouse that was two hundred feet long.  
(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 68)
- Mask found inside a big cedar tree.  
(Matthews, p. 406)



**Figure 6.2 Example of a Village Place Name (2)**

# Siyich'em

**Location:** situated on the east side of the Squamish River south of Brackendale

**Meaning/translation:** full

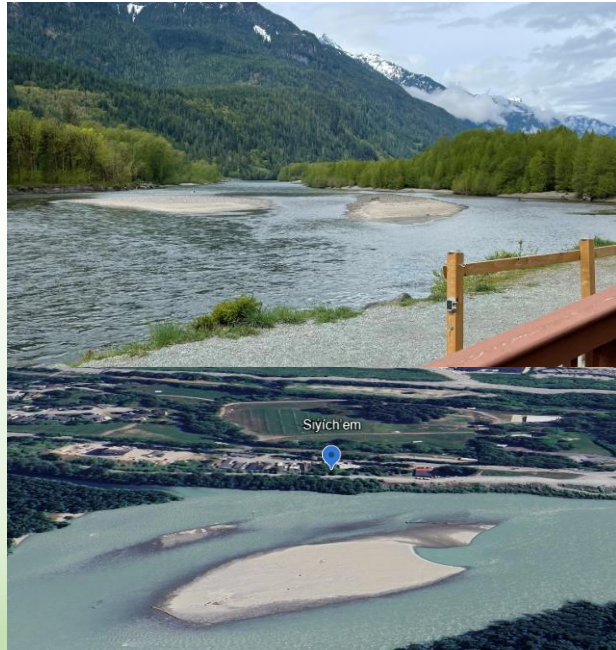
**Morpheme breakdown:**

Siyich'em  
siyich'em

**Type of place name:** village

**Information:**

IR 16  
Today, the area is also known as Eagle Run  
There used to be two longhouses in this village



**Figure 6.3 Example of a Resource Site Place Name**

# Kwekw7úpay

**Location:** Locarno Beach, Vancouver

**Meaning:** wild crabapple trees

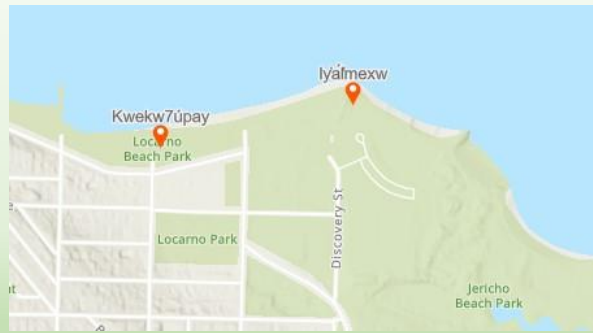
**Morpheme breakdown:**

Kwekw7úpay  
kwe-7kw7úp-ay  
REDUP-wild crabapple-tree

**Type of place name:** resource

**Information:**

- Area for fishing smelt and salmon
- Important archaeological site.
- Lots of midden in the area.





**Figure 6.4 Example of a Legend Place Name**

# Ch'ich'yuy

**Location:** The Lions, East of Lions Bay, West Vancouver

**Meaning/translation:** twins

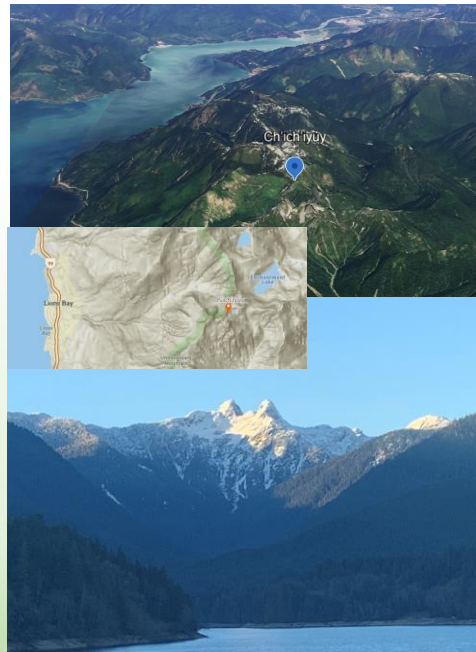
**Morpheme breakdown:**

Ch'ich'yuy  
 ch'í-í'ch'yuy  
 REDUP-twins

**Type of place name:** legend; resource

**Information:**

The Western peak is called Elxwikn.  
 The Eastern peak's name is unknown.  
 Associated with the legend called "The Two Sisters" which is about two sisters who symbolize peace between the Squamish and Haida.  
 Ch'ich'yuy used to be a good hunting spot for deer and mountain goats.



**Figure 6.5 Example of Description of Topography Place Name**

# Lhek'tines

**Location:** SE Keats Island, Howe Sound

**Meaning/translation:** wide chest

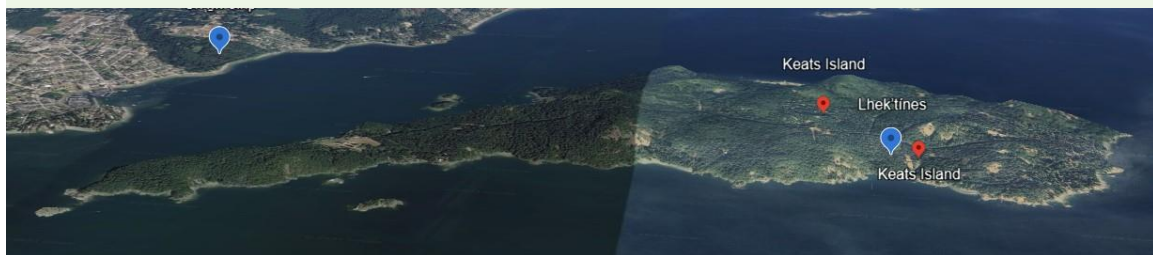
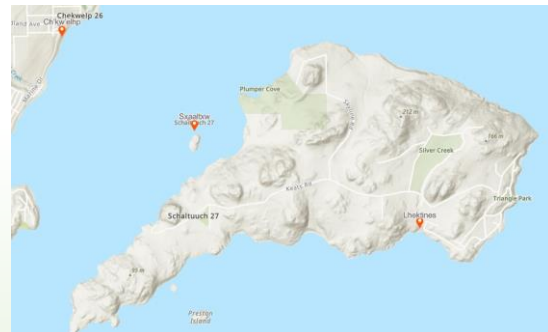
**Morpheme breakdown:**

Lhek'tines  
 ílhk'at-inas  
 wide-chest

**Type of place name:** description of topography

**Information:**

Name of a shallow bay; facing south  
 The shape of the bay looks like a man's chest.



**Figure 6.6 Example of Landmark Place Name**

# S7ens

**Location:** east Prospect Point, NW Stanley Park, Vancouver  
**Meaning:** unknown

**Meaning/translation:** unknown

**Morpheme breakdown:** N/A

**Type of place name:** legend; landmark

**Information:**

- S7ens is the name of a distinctive rock close to Prospect Point.
- Slhix7lsh (Siwash Rock) wife that was turned into stone by the Xaays.
- Area was good for fishing octopus, sturgeon, and sea urchins.



**Figure 6.7 Example of Landmark and Description of Topography Place Name**

# Ts'itpsm

**Location:** Zorro Bay, West Howe Sound

**Meaning/translation:** pinched neck

**Morpheme breakdown:**

- Ts'itpsm
- ts'it-psm
- nibble-neck

**Type of place name:** landmark or description of topography

**Information:**

- the name refers to the narrow isthmus as it looks almost pinched off.
- The area was good for shelter from the wind.
- The beach is known as "White Beach".

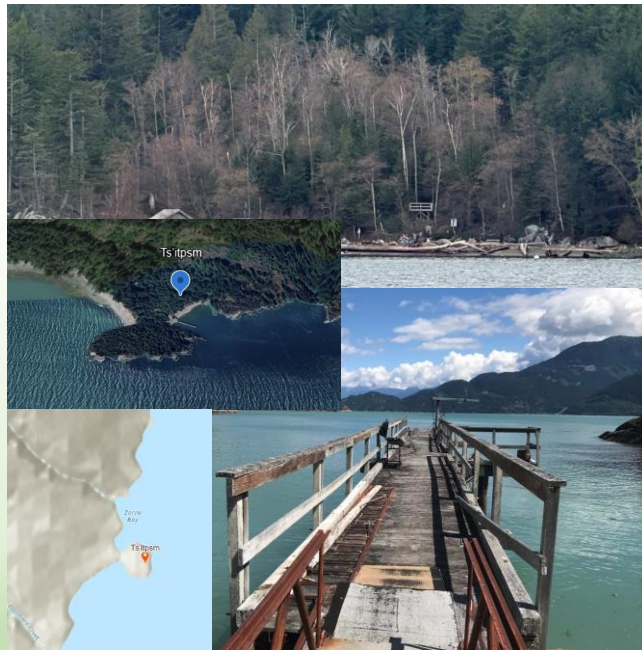


Figure 6.8 Example of a Descriptive Place Name

# Elhkáyem

**Location:** former slough in North Vancouver at the base of Third Street Hill and the low-level road.

**Meaning:** having snakes

**Morpheme breakdown:**

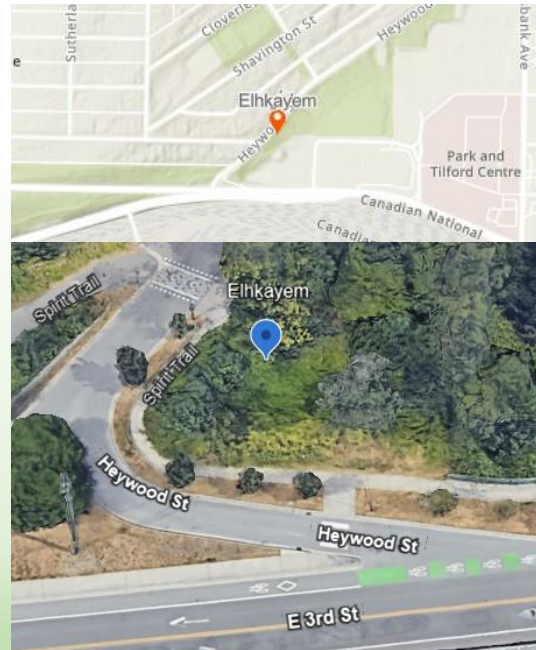
Elhkayem  
elhkay-em  
snake-MID

**Type of place name:** descriptive

**Information:**

The area was known to have had a lot of snakes.  
This area is a former slough.

(Bouchard & Kennedy, 1986, p. 190)



## Chapter 7. Findings

**The main questions that I was seeking answers to in this MA project were:**

1. What is the meaning behind Skwxwú7mesh place names?
2. Do the morphemes of a place name relate to its meaning?
3. What can one learn from studying Skwxwú7mesh place names?

I analyzed the eighty-one place names to identify the morphemes (prefixes, roots, and lexical suffixes) to see how they related to the meaning or translation of each place name. The following list is a summary of my findings:

- It is not common for place names to be constructed with a prefix. A very small number of place names had prefixes. Of the eighty-one, nineteen had prefixes. In my findings, the prefixes used in place names are the nominalizer, locative and stative.
- It was more common for place names to contain lexical suffixes. In my findings, the lexical suffixes used in place names are related to body parts and other category (people, instrument, etc.). Of the eighty-one place names, fifty had a lexical suffix.
- Most place names are constructed with roots and lexical suffixes. It is common for a place name's root (nouns or verb) to be reduplicated and connected to a lexical suffix with no prefix. I did not study or analyze reduplication but mention if the place name's root was reduplicated in summary chart.
- Some place name morphemes cannot be broken down. Fourteen place names meanings were unknown according to their Skwxwú7mesh morphemes.
- Some place names lexical suffixes or roots are not known in contemporary Squamish, however they are cognates from neighboring Salish languages.
- The meaning of some place names given in the Squamish Indian Land Use and Occupancy Project do not always directly translate to the meaning of the morphemes.

I have summarized my findings in Table 7.1 – Summary of place names with prefixes, Table 7.2 – Summary of place names with lexical suffixes, and Table 7.3 - Summary of place names: prefix, lexical suffixes, roots and meaning.

From studying Skwxwú7mesh toponymy, place names one can begin to understand how places were named and what was important to our swa7ám̓ (ancestors) during a certain period in history. For example, our swa7ám̓ (ancestors) would travel the water highways via canoe and places would get their name due to there physical features of the land they saw on their journey, or places would get their names from a transformation story that was told, or places would get their names by resources that grew in an area, or places would get their names from landmarks. The temíxw (land) evolves over the centuries and nothing remains constant but what remains is the story and information that is held within a place name.

**Table 7.1 Summary Chart of Place Names Containing Prefixes**

Prefix	Linguistic Meaning	Place Names
s-	nominalizer	Skemím, Skwacháys, Skw'áyus, Skwtsa7ts, Slhixi7lsh, Stelkáya, St'áp'as, St'ékw't'ekw's, Stsíts'a7kin, Swáywi, Swiyát, S7ayks, S7ens
xw-	locative	Xwmeích'stn, Xwúñekw, Xwehúyshn
nexw	locative	Nch'emáý, Nch'káý
es-	stative	Eslha7án

**Table 7.2 Summary Chart of Place Names Containing Lexical Suffixes**

Lexical Suffix	Meaning	Place Names
-a7án, a7n	cheek, side	Eslha7án
-apsám, apsem	back of neck	Yekw'ápssem, Ts'itpsm
-aý	tree, bush, container, place for	Ch'axáý, K'emk'émelaý, Kwekw7úpaý, Nch'emáý, Nch'káý, *Skwacháys, Xwáwchayay, Xwáýxway
-cha	back	Ch'elxwá7elch, Sosahlatch, P'ékwcha
-ekw, -kw	top, head	Ch'ích'elxwi7kw, Íkwikws*, Sehákw, *St'ékw't'ekw's, Tl'alhemá7elkw, Xwúñekw
-em	berry/middle	Elhkáýem, Kw'ech'ténem, Mámxwem, Pukwayúsm, P'uýám, Siyích'em, Skwelwíem,
-inas	chest	Lhek'tines
-k	bottom, behind, trunk	Pápiyek, Scheñk
-ks	nose, point, small oblong object	S7ayks
-mesh	people	Ch'iyákmesh
-mexw, mixw	people, land	Iyálmexw
-nach/nech	bay/body	Átsnach, Chá7elkwnech
-nech	bottom *	Lhek'tines
-shen	foot, leg, bottom of something	Iyéishn, I7iyelshn, Skáwshen, Xwehúyshn

-tn, ten, tán	instrument, implement	Kawtín, Temtemíxwtn, Xwelxwelít, Xwméich'sten
-ts	mouth, lip, edge, opening	Ch'ékch'ekts, Skwtsa7ts, Yekw'ts
-us	face, front of something	Schílhus, Skw'áyus, Xelxelús

**Table 7.3 Summary Chart of Place Names: prefix, lexical suffixes, roots, and meanings**

Place Name	Meaning/Translation	Prefix or REDUP	Root	Lexical Suffix
Átsnach	bay		ats (bay)	-nech (bay/bottom)
Axáchu7	little lake		xáchu7 (lake)	
Chá7elkwnech	long deep bay		unknown	-nech (bay/bottom)
Ch'axáy	sizzling		ch'ax (sizzling)	-ay (place, bush, plant)
Ch'ech'ílm	unknown			
Ch'ékch'ekts	dirty mouth	ch'ék'- (REDUP)	ch'ek (dirty)	-ts (mouth)
Ch'elxwá7elch	dry at back		ch'elxw (dry)	-ch (back)
Ch'ích'elxwi7kw	little dry at head	ch'í- (DIM.REDUP)	ch'elxw (dry)	-kw (head)
Ch'ich'iyúy	twins	ch'i- (REDUP)	ch'iyúy (twins)	
Ch'iyákmesh	salmon/fish-weir place		ch'iyák (salmon weir)	-mesh (people)
Ch'kw'élhp	unknown		ch'kw (spruce) ?	-elhp (tree)
Ch'tl'am	unknown		ch'etl'a (rock) in Lushootseed	
Elhkáyem	having snakes		elhkáy (snake)	-em (MID)
Élkşen	point of land			
Énwilh Spalhxn	middle flat land; middle meadows		énwilh (middle) spalhxn (meadow)	
Eslha7áñ	head of bay; place that appears to be touching (mountains)	es- (STAT)	lha7 (be touched)	-a7áñ (cheek)
Íkwikws	unknown			
Iyálmexw	good land		iy (good)	-mexw (place)
Iyéłshn	good footing		iy (good)	-shn (foot)
I7iyéłshn	little good footing	i- (DIM REDUP)	iy (good)	-shn (foot)
Kawtín	descending place		kaw (descend)	-tin (instrument)
K'emk'émeláy	place of maple trees	k'em- (REDUP)	k'émeláy (maple tree); sk'émel (paddle)	-áy (tree)
K'ík'elxen	little fence (in Sechelt)		k'elxen (fence) in Sechelt	



K <sub>w</sub> e <sub>w</sub> 7úpa <sub>y</sub>	wild crab apple trees	<i>k<sub>w</sub>e-</i> (REDUP)	<i>k<sub>w</sub>7úp</i> (crab apple)	-a <sub>y</sub> (tree)
Kwí <sub>l</sub> ak <sub>m</sub>	unknown			
Kw'ech'ténem	cut up fish; fish cutting place		<i>k<sub>w</sub>'ich'</i> (clean fish)	-em (middle)
K <sub>w</sub> 'émk <sub>w</sub> 'em	lots of bull kelp	<i>k<sub>w</sub>'ém-</i> (REDUP)	<i>k<sub>w</sub>'um</i> (bull kelp)	
Lek'lék'i	maple leaves dropping	<i>lek'-</i> (REDUP)	<i>lek'i</i> (maple leaves fall)	
Lex <sub>w</sub> lú <sub>x</sub> wls	Lil'wat people		<i>luxwels</i> (Lil'wat people)	
Lhaxwm	unknown			
Lhek'tínes	wide chest		<i>lhk'at</i> (wide)	-inas (chest)
Mám <sub>x</sub> wem	unknown			
Nch'emá <sub>y</sub>	to bite	<i>nexw-</i> (LOC)	<i>ch'em</i> (bite)	-a <sub>y</sub> (place)
Nch'ka <sub>y</sub>	dirty place	<i>nexw-</i> (LOC)	<i>ch'k</i> (dirty)	-a <sub>y</sub> (place)
Pápiyek	floating point	<i>pá-</i> (REDUP)	<i>pa<sub>y</sub></i> (rest)	-k (bottom)
Puk <sub>w</sub> á <sub>y</sub> úsem	moldy face/eye		<i>puk<sub>w</sub></i> (moldy)	-a <sub>y</sub> ú <sub>s</sub> (eye) -em (MID)
P'ékwcha	floating back		<i>p'ekw</i> (float)	-cha (back)
P'k'als	white rocks (in Halk)		<i>p'ek</i> (white)	-als (rock in HALK)
P'u <sub>y</sub> ám	blackend from smoke			
Sche <sub>h</sub> k	leaning or steadying against something	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>chen</i> (support)	-k (behind)
Schí <sub>l</sub> hus	high bluff; hill	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>chilh</i> (high)	-us (face)
Se <sub>n</sub> ák <sub>w</sub>	place inside the head of False creek			-kw (head)
Si <sub>y</sub> 'ích'em	full	<i>es-</i> (STAT)	<i>yech'</i> (full)	-em (MID)
Sk'íwitsut	turn around bend	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>k'iw</i> (turn around bend)	
Skáwshen	foot going down; descending	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>kaw</i> (descend)	-shen (foot/leg)
Skemím	underground house	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>kemím</i> (underground house)	
Skwachá <sub>y</sub> s	underground tunnel	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>k<sub>w</sub>aa</i> (be perforated)	-ch (back) -ays (chunk/piece)
Skw'á <sub>y</sub> us	unknown	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>k<sub>w</sub>'ay</i> (fire)	-us (face)
Skwelwí <sub>l</sub> em	unknown	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>wí<sub>l</sub></i> (canoe)	-em (MID)
Skwtsa7ts	island	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>skwtsa7ts</i> (island)	
Slh <sub>x</sub> í7lsh	standing rock	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>lh<sub>x</sub>ilsh</i> (stand)	
Sosahlatch	place with lots of mats			
Stel <sub>k</sub> á <sub>y</sub> a	wolf	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>tká<sub>y</sub>a</i> (wolf)	
St'áp'as	unknown in SQ; cave (in Sechelt)	<i>s-</i> (NOM)	<i>t'áp'as</i> (in Sechelt)	
St'á7mes	unknown			
St'ékw't'ekw's	cut up	<i>s-</i> (NOM) <i>t'ékw'-</i> (REDUP)	<i>t'ekw'</i> (break)	-s (unknown)
St'ítsma	unknown			

Sts'íts'a7kjin	small amount of cattail	s- (NOM)	<i>sts'a7kin</i> (cattail)	
Swáýwi	unknown	s- (NOM)	-way (become known)	
Swiýát	unknown			
Sxaaltxw	name of a person			
S7aýks	point of land	s- (NOM)	aý (UR)	-ks (point/nose)
S7ens	unknown			
Temtemíxwtn	lots of land	tem- (REDUP)	temíxw (land)	-tn (INSTR)
T'ak'tak'muýin tl'a in7inýáxa7en	landing place of the Thunderbird		t'ak' (land) iný (yonder)	
Títemtsen	unknown			
Tl'alhemá7elkw	salt water		tl'alhem (salt)	-kw (head)
Tsítsusem	unknown			
Ts'itpsm	pinched neck			-apsm (neck)
Wíwk'em	opening	wí- (REDUP)	wík (open up)	-em (MID)
Xá7elcha	painted back		xel (write)	-ch (back)
Xelxelús	painted face	xel- (REDUP)	xel (write)	-us (face)
Xwáwchayay	unknown			
Xwáýxway	place of masks	xwáý- (REDUP)	xway (mask)	
Xwehuýshn	difficult footing	xw- (LOC)	huý (go)	-shn (foot)
Xwelxwelítn	white people	xwel- (REDUP)	xwelítn (white people)	-tn (INSTR)
Xwmélch'stn	place of rolling waters	xw- (LOC)	milch' (mix up)	-ts (mouth) -tn (INSTR)
Xwúnekw	where they hang heads of enemies	xw- (LOC)	UR	-kw (head)
Yekw'ápsem	upriver neck		yekw (upsteam)	-ápsem (neck)
Yekw'ts	upriver or upstream mouth		yekw (upsteam)	-ts (mouth)
Yelhíxw	yelhíxw means 'creek' in Lushootseed <sup>1</sup>			

<sup>1</sup> Lushootseed is a Coast Salish language spoken near Seattle.



## Chapter 8. Conclusion

In conclusion, I was able to provide a morphological analysis for fifty-six out of eight-one Squamish place names that I examined. I was able to identify their morphemes and provide a gloss. However, not all of the Squamish place names have a known meaning behind them, nor can they be broken down morphologically. I began this project utilizing my introductory level in morphology to find meaning of place names by breaking down the morphemes. This helped to increase my knowledge of Squamish morphology and the subject of morphology. Some place names meaning will remain unknown. If a meaning was given to us in any of the documentation but was not capable of being broken down into its morphemes, then one can assume the spelling of the place name could be off, or it is not known in the current orthography, or it comes from a neighboring language.

My MA project resource is not complete as I didn't cover all the place names and there is so much more potential work that can be done. There are one hundred and thirty-nine place name morphemes to be analyzed for meaning or translation. Once analyzed, the place names can be added to the PowerPoint resource. The following additions would enhance the resource: an audio clip of how to say each place name, replacing Google Earth images with pictures, and adding additional information from interviews with knowledge keepers and elders. I did not conduct any personal interviews for this MA project as I did not complete the Ethics Review. I also did not add names of the people who lived in the villages as I wanted to keep the information strictly to resources, activities, and stories in the area and some of the information.

It is my goal and passion to continue to learn and visit as many of our place names within our homelands and take pictures. I am fortunate in line of work as the Cultural Manager, to have the opportunity to be involved in projects and programs that allow for me to get out on the land and waters of our territory. It is my goal and hope that this Squamish place name resource teaches Squamish people of all ages something new about their homelands. It is my goal that Squamish language learners take away an introduction to place name morphology. This MA Project can also be a resource for the Squamish Language and Cultural Affairs Department. This department of the Squamish Nation works with many parties that include, but are not limited to, external organizations in the lower mainland, other Squamish Nation departments, and Squamish Nation

members of all ages. It is important for staff of the department to have knowledge on the Skwxwú7mesh Territory boundaries to continue advocate and educate.

My MA project has taught me so much about who I am and where I come from. When I walk the land in our homelands or when I am out on the water by boat or canoe, I can recognize the place name I am in, know what it means, and know some information about the area. I think about how our ancestors used to live in the area in the past. I feel a sense of pride and connection to our ancestors when I visit our homelands. I now have confidence that I can name the area I stand on or pass by. I hope each and every one that has the opportunity to view my resource walks away learning something.

As said by one Squamish elder Dave Jacobs, the Squamish children need to know who they are and where they come from. It is legacy of all Squamish elders, knowledge keepers, grandparents to have their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to know their history. It is important information to know as a Skwxwú7mesh stélmexw. To know Skwxwú7mesh Áysaych (territory), and to be able to identify and name a place or village is considered wealth.

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