*We encourage you to share your voice and let City Hall know how important this initiative is to you. Use this form Letter of Support; add what you like (or leave it as is), sign your name, and, if you like, your address and email.*

*Email to: info@powellriver.ca, cc: whythenamematters@gmail.com*

*Spread the word!*

*Your voice matters.*

*​*

City of Powell River
Mayor & Council
6910 Duncan Street
Powell River, BC
V8A 1V4

RE: City Renaming Process

Dear Mayor and Council,

I would like to acknowledge the work of the City of Powell River in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in the region and being a positive example for surrounding communities.

I am grateful for the acknowledgement from the City of this region's history. Namely, that Israel Powell was the first superintendent of Indian Affairs in British Columbia, a position he held for 17 years. In this role, he was responsible for advancing oppression and colonialism against First Nations people, including being the first to propose the creation of a residential school in Kamloops, championing a ban of the potlatch, and personally collecting and shipping First Nations cultural belongings and skeletal remains to museums throughout the world. These harms continue to be perpetuated through memorializing this individual in the City’s name, as well as many prominent community spaces.

Now that we know what we know about Israel Powell, there can be no denying the need for a name change. This change is a meaningful act that advances the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the safety and dignity of all.

I therefore commend you, Mayor and Council, for your firm support to advance this initiative with the name change joint working group and appropriately commemorate this visible act of reconciliation.

Such work holds a positive legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,