

Should the Government Rename Public Spaces?

Yes

Here are some of the reasons people might argue that the government **should** support renaming public spaces.

Acknowledge injustice

Naming public places after individuals who are associated with colonialism, imperialism, and racism can be seen as glorifying their actions and legitimizing their legacy. Renaming such places is seen as a way of addressing these historical wrongs.

Reflect changing values

Renaming public places to remove the names of colonial figures whose actions and beliefs are now considered racist can be a way to reject past norms and embrace evolving societal values, such as equity and social justice.

Foster reconciliation

Removing the names of those who systematically oppressed Indigenous peoples through history from public spaces can be seen as a gesture of reconciliation and a step toward building better relationships for the future.

Support Indigenous culture

When spaces are re-named to reflect Indigenous heritage, this can be seen as a way to map a broader view where fewer things are named for colonizers and colonialism. For example, last year members of the PEI legislature voted unanimously to rename Confederation Bridge "Epekwitk Crossing," Mi'kmaq for "something lying on water."

Encourage civic engagement

Renaming public places can encourage civic engagement and public discourse by prompting discussions about the legacy of colonialism. These actions can also be seen as a way of putting pressure on political leaders and institutions to take concrete steps toward addressing systemic racism through policy.

Read More

- [Should We Rename Institutions?](#) | Alberta Views
- ['Canada was basically built on white supremacy': Why calls to rename streets, take down statues are finally being heard](#) | Yahoo
- ['Shift in perspective': Indigenous place names moving Canada from colonial past](#) | The Globe and Mail