



December 4, 2025

File: 10280-60 (94G/9, 94G/10, 94G/16)

Chair and Directors
Peace River Regional District
1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4H8
Sent by email to: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Chair and Directors:

The BC Geographical Names Office (BCGNO) has received a request to rescind the official names in British Columbia (B.C.) that commemorate Joseph Trutch. The request was submitted by an individual who believes it is inappropriate for official geographical names to honour Joseph Trutch, an individual with a controversial legacy. At this time, we are inviting you to comment on the names as detailed in Appendix A and on the attached map.

Joseph William Trutch (1826–1904) was an English-born engineer who immigrated to North America in 1849 and settled in British Columbia in 1858. After working on infrastructure projects like the Cariboo Road, he entered politics, serving in the Vancouver Island Legislative Assembly (1861-63) and later as B.C.'s chief commissioner of Lands and Works (1864-71). In this role, Trutch became notorious for his racist policies toward Indigenous peoples. He believed First Nations had no legitimate claim to the land and determined it was unnecessary to negotiate agreements or offer compensation to extinguish Aboriginal title or make significant reductions to existing reserves. These actions have had lasting harm and consequences that still exist today, and as a result his name has been removed from many public spaces throughout B.C. A strong advocate for Confederation, Trutch helped negotiate B.C.'s entry into Canada and served as the province's first lieutenant governor from 1871 to 1876. Later, he acted as Dominion Agent for B.C., overseeing railway development, and was knighted in 1889 before retiring to England. For more information see the name records, linked below.

The BCGNO recognizes the potential harm and offense associated with continuing to commemorate Joseph Trutch through official geographical names. In accordance with the BC Geographical Naming Policy and Procedures, before any naming decision are made the BCGNO seeks to determine whether rescinding these names is supported by local communities and organizations, and whether such changes would create any operational challenges.

If rescinded, the online name records would be maintained with the history of these names having once been official, but the names would no longer be labelled on provincial maps and charts or distributed as official place names in B.C. Until a broadly supported naming proposal is brought forward and officially adopted in accordance with Policy, these places would not have official names, and references to each of these features would be by GPS coordinates or in relation to nearby named features.

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As an identified government, I am requesting any comments you have on behalf of your communities on these requested name changes.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or if you would like more information on purposing a different official name for any of these features. Thank you in advance for your comments; your response before March 6, 2026, would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Trent Thomas
BC Geographical Names Office
Trent.thomas@gov.bc.ca

Enclosure

cc. Distribution

Appendix A: Proposed Name Changes

Rescind the name **Trutch** (locality), south of the junction of Minaker River and Prophet River, Peace River Regional District.

- Adopted 17 January 1952
- Centre of locality located at: 57.73323, -122.95157
- Name Record: <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/23007.html>

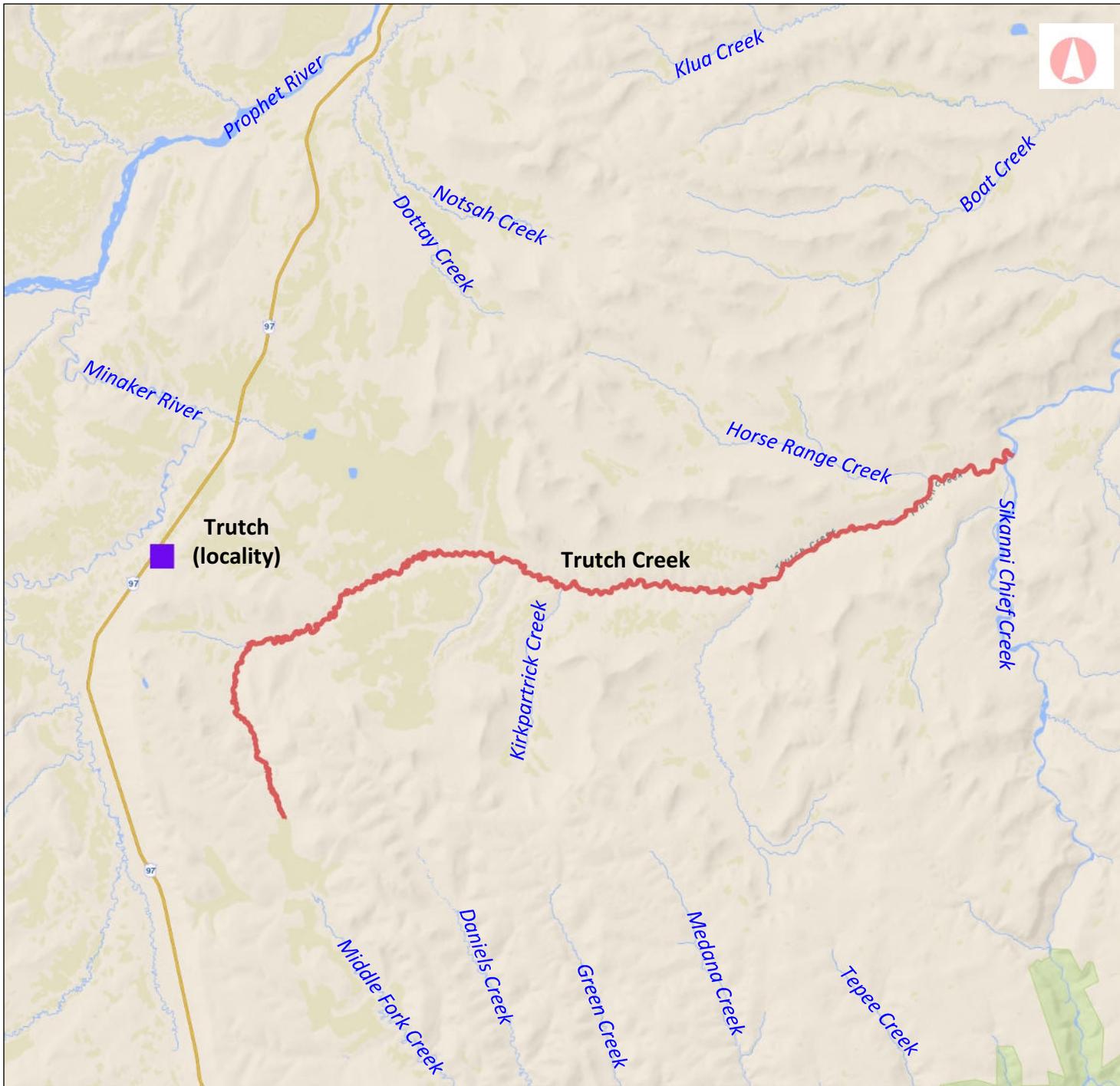
Rescind the name **Trutch Creek**, flows northeast into Sikanni Chief River west of Tommy Lakes, Peace River Regional District.

- Adopted 6 March 1928
- Mouth of River located at: 57.78167, -122.18694
- Name Record: <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/23006.html>

The request did not include replacement names for these features

Distribution List:

Fort Nelson First Nation	Horse Lake First Nation
Fort Nelson Search and Rescue	Ministry of Forests (Water Authorizations)
Dene Tha' First Nation	North Peace Search and Rescue
Doig River First Nation	Peace River Regional District
Halfway River First Nation	Prophet River First Nation



**BC Geographical
Names Office**

Name Information

Trutch Creek

Adopted: 6 March 1928
 Location: 57.7816, -122.1869
 Relative Location: Flows NE into
 Sikanni Chief River, Peace River
 Regional District
 NTS Map: 94G/16

Trutch (locality)

Adopted: 17 January 1952
 Location: 57.7332, -122.9515
 Relative Location: S of junction
 of Minaker and Prophet Rivers
 NTS Map: 94G/10



1: 577,791

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Datum: NAD83
 Projection: WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

Key Map of British Columbia

