

Hul'q'umi'num' language lists and links, and some context for occupants of Hul'q'umi'num'- speaking peoples' homelands

Eenthu Chantell Foss. I'm a hwunitum' settler in Quw'utsun territory, an uninvited inhabitant of forcibly stolen, occupied, never treated, and uncompensated territory of Hul'q'umi'num'-speaking Indigenous Nations. I'm slowly weaving threads of language and cross-cultural learning. I will keep transferring information into this seed document to gradually make it a more useful, searchable tool. It's in a fragmentary starting state at this point. If you have materials to add or correct, I invite you to let me know: chantell@chantellfoss.com

Cowichan Tribes is the largest Indigenous Nation band in all of B.C., with over 5000 members:
<https://cowichantribes.com/about-cowichan-tribes>

You can sign up to receive newsletters direct from Cowichan Tribes here: <https://cowichantribes.com/newsletter>

My gratitude to Quw'utsun language teachers, elders, and culture sharers I have the privilege to learn from. This document is not intended to speak for or teach about Quw'utsun people, culture, history, or homelands. I am guided by teachings on respect, reciprocity, and tending good relationships. Some Indigenous people choose to share and teach publicly, specifically to educate, and to encourage living together in a better way. Thanks to their hard outreach work, there is more and more information that is permitted to pass on.

My thanks and esteem to [Jared Qwustenuxun Williams](#). His public education is amazing. He shares many place names, words, concepts, histories, contexts, understandings, insights, and responsibilities. Please visit and support his [Patreon](#) for ongoing teachings.

I have not asked a Hul'q'umi'num' speaker to do the labour of reviewing this list. It includes words and lessons from complex Hul'q'umi'num' language practices that span changes through time, that reflect collisions and work between Indigenous peoples and colonial settler populations, academics, and rulers, and that vary over a large geography and among local Hwulhuhw communities – from Snaw-naw-as (“Nanoose”) to Me'luxutth (“Malahat”). Words are used, said– and in the colonial language, written– in different ways depending on many factors, most of which I am barely aware of. Any mistakes or oversights in this document are mine.

Hul'q'umi'num' is spoken by the following Nations. From north to south: Snaw-naw-as ('Nanoose'), Snuneymuxw ('Nanaimo'), Lyackson, Stz'uminus ('Chemainus'), Punaluxutth' ('Penelakut') Halalt, Ts'uubaa-asatx ('Cowichan Lake'), Quw'utsun ('Cowichan'), Me'luxutth ('Malaha')t. They all have websites one can easily find and learn more from, including further language, history, culture, territorial and environmental governance, human governance, and social and economic information.

Everyday

Uy Swkeyul Hello, good day

'aa sii'em' na siiye'yu honoured relations & friends

Siem respected one

'Uy' kwunus 'I lumnumau It is good to see you

Eenthu (ehnthā) I am/My name is

Huy ch q'u Thank you

Huy Tsaap qu' Thank you all

Numutqwu' You're welcome

I'lhaam enough

Muq' I am full

Kweykwi' Hungry

Lemut 'utu Look at

Uxx sound of disgust

Sha expression of surprise or dismay

Hwunitumqun English language

Mukw' stem 'l' utunu tumuhw 'o' shiilhukw'tul

Everything on this earth is interconnected.

Tumuhw land, Earth

Smeent mountain or stone

Kwasun star

Sum'shathut sun

Scuxwum wind

Spuhéls breeze

East/South wind tun'wuq'w

West wind tun'cal'uqw

North wind stuywut, satuc, or thatuc

Sheshuq'um the monster at Octopus Point

Xeel's the transformer

Tl'up deep

Snuh'wulh canoe or mode of transport

Quw'utsun tumuhw names

Pi'paam the mountain colonially mis-named Tzouhalem.

(Pi'paam is the name of the frog who saved the mustimuhw from the great flood. "Tzouhalem" is the name of a controversial Quw'utsun leader in a post-contact, high-trauma and high-conflict era, misunderstood, anglicized, and then misapplied by colonists.)

Pi'paam is not a smeent (rock or mountain). It's the wuxus (frog) who is Shquw'utsun— warming his back in the sun.

Shquw'utsun is the real name for "Cowichan".

Essential context and cultural-historical knowledge sharing about Tzouhalem and this region:

<https://thediscourse.ca/cowichan-valley/harold-joe-tzouhalem-movie>

Ts'uween the mountain colonially mis-named Tuam

Swuq'us the mountain colonially mis-named Prevost. The dog of Stustsun, one of the First Quw'utsun people to come to Earth, was called Swuq'us. <https://thediscourse.ca/cowichan-valley/story-of-swuqus>

Syalutsa's Anchor the big rock at the top of Swu'qus, to which Syalutsa tied his canoe in the great flood

Hwthumulhum Genoa Bay

Hwtl'upnets Maple Bay ("deep bay")

Snustsu Samsun Point ("the first point")

Lhumlumuluts Cowichan Flats Village

S'amuna Cowichan River Village

Puneluxutth' Penelakut

Me'luxutth Malahat

Xwaaqw'um Burgoyne Bay ("place to hunt Xwaaqw', Mergansers)

Stas'tx Long Harbour ("halibut")

Ts'alha'um Sahtlam ("place of maple trees")

Qwext tu Saaxwa clam garden

Ts'uqwulu A sacred place on Swu'qus, where many of Quw'utsun mustiimuhw's first ancestors fell from the sky. A hunting, medicine harvesting, and spiritual cleansing place— now poorly neighboured, less than a kilometer away, by the North Cowichan Municipality-approved VIMC race track

People

Quw'utsun mustiimuhw Quw'utsun people

Hwunitum' mustiimuhw non-Indigenous people

Hwulmuhw mustiinuhw First Nations, Inuit & Metis people

Mustiimuhw people

Kwukwum strong

Sleni Women

Shwumniqw Aunt/Uncle

Xisul fierce

Lulumexun guardian

Stsielhstuhw tu shwaluqwu' honour our family

Shsiem leader/manager

Snuw'uyulh teachings

Nutsa'maat shqwalnwun working as one heart one mind

Shwaluqwu' family

Sul'hween elders

S'eluhw ancestors

xe' xe' smu'neem sacred children

Tselush hand

Thethu-un blood

Trees

X'pey or X'pey'ulhp Cedar

Ts'alhulhp Big Leaf Maple

Kwi't'hulhp Dogwood

P'whulhp Garry Oak, also T'xwulhp

Qaanlhp Arbutus

Ts'sey' Douglas fir

Kwulála'ulhp Alder

Q'wuyulushulhp Aspen

Tthqiinlhp Hemlock

Tsuw'nulhp Cottonwood

Ta'wh Grand Fir

Tthqwulhp Sitka Spruce

Metthun'ulhp Hawthorn

P'tthuné'ulhp Juniper

Pene'ulhp Vine Maple

Tux'wá'culhp Yew

Q'wuyulushulhp Aspen

Thqet Tree

Thuthíqut Trees, woods, forest

Kwukwímluxw Roots

Kwumluxw or kwumuluxw Root

S'ulnuc Stump

Animal Relations

Loon Skwakwun. (SWAH-kwun, u sound short)

Eagle Yuxwule'

Raven Spaal'.

Sea Otter Tumus. (Short u sounds)

Mink Chuchi'q'un'. (Chu - CHI - khun, u sound as in 'put')

River Otter Sgeetl

Wood Pecker (northern red shafted) Tthi'íqt (Th-EEK-kh-T)

Great Horned Owl Tsiitmuhw. (TSEEEET-muhhw)

Salmon Steelhtun (St-AYY-lhth-tun, u as in 'put')

Sockeye Thuqi

Trout Kw'suts (Khw-SUHTS)

Black bear Spe'uth (SPEH-ehth) Black bear cub Spe'ethallh

Rabbit Sququweth (Skuhk-uh-WETH)

Deer Ha'put (Hah-puht)

Butterfly Skw'ulwexe'. (Skw'ul-WAY-heh)

Cat Pous (Pooss)

Cow/cattle Mousmus (MOOSE-muhs)

Horse Stiqiw (Stay-KAY-oo)

Canada goose 'Exu (Eh-huh) (back-of-throat short gargle sound in middle)

Elk Kwewe'uts (Kway-wuh-EHTS)

Duck Ma'uqw (MAH-uh-qwh)

Bee Sum'sum'ay'u

Lhalhukw' Siiye'yu flying friends

Frog Wuxus

Online Sources

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<https://library.viu.ca/FNLanguage>

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<https://nlpslearns.sd68.bc.ca/indigenous-education/indigenous-resources/>

<http://www.sfu.ca/~gerdts/papers/HulquminumWords.pdf>

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kg1zSpmcSxb3IDREhrxOWzVGFuoU5Mk9>

<https://nlpslearns.sd68.bc.ca/coast-salish-meditations-and-stories/>

<https://nlpslearns.sd68.bc.ca/indigenous-education/indigenous-resources/>

Books and articles

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL11767841M/Those_Who_Fell_From_the_Sky

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/3105240-those-who-fell-from-the-sky>

<https://arsenalpulp.com/Books/T/The-500-Years-of-Resistance-Comic-Book>

https://www.academia.edu/50848432/The_500_Years_of_Resistance_Comic_Gord_Hill

<https://cowichantribes.com/about-cowichan-tribes/research-index/historical>

almost said
"agw"

Hul'q'umi'num Greetings

To hear the greetings, visit:

<http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/hulqumimum-resourses/hulquminum-greetings/>

'Uy (hwune'unt = good evening.

'Uy' skweyul	Good day (hello)
'Uy' netulh	Good morning
'Uy' snet	Good night
'li ch 'o' sthuthi?	How are you?
'l tsun 'o' sthuthi	I am well (fine)
Hee'	Yes
'Uwu	No
Tth'ihwum	Please
Huy ch q'u	Thank you
Namut kwu	You are welcome
Hey'ewulh	Good bye
'Uy' kwunus 'i lumnamu	It is good to see you
Tl'o' 'uy' kwunus 'i lumnamu	It is also good to see you

"lum-nah-mah"

"lum-nah" = plural you

* "X" sound = farther back in palate
 * "h" sound = farther forward in mouth

* words with just a "k" = introduced, not old language

Saay' tu lutem ---- the table is ready

^{kwthu}
Ni' 'o' ni' ~~kwthu~~ tii 'i' kwthu kafi. There is tea or coffee

Ni 'o' ni kwthu shqa'uluqw. There is juice

Huy ch q'u. thank you

Huy tseep q'u. pl. thanking everyone

^{tsahp}
Xwum 'u ch 'i' ^{help} (ts'ewutham ^{me} sh) --- can you help me

^{you}
Nem' tsun tse' tl'u' a ^{ch'} (sthamu) 'uw' kweyulus --- I will come pick you up
tomorrow

^{you}
Tem ^(ch!') (sthamu) tsun tse' ('uw' kweyulus) --- I will call you tomorrow.
tomorrow

Ni' ts'ewutham'shus kwthunu shhwum'nikw my uncle helped me

↓
male + not visible

Kulhuna

↓
f + not visible

Where Are You From
Dialogue #

Person A: Tun' untsu ch 'a' lu?

Where are you from?

Person B: Tun'ni' tsun 'utl' _____.

I am from _____.

Person B: Tun' untsu ch 'a' lu?

Where are you from?

Person A: Tun'ni' tsun 'utl' _____.

I am from _____.

Quamichan	Kwa'mutsun	
Clemclemaluts	Lhumlhumuluts'	
Komiaken	Qw'umiyiqun'	
Somena	S-amuna'	
Cowichan Bay	Tl'ulpalus	
Koksilah	Xwulqw'selu	
Khenipsun	Xinupsum	

**Getting To Know You
&
Where Are You From?
Dialogue #**

Person A: **Lhwet Kw'un' sne?**

What is your name?

Person B:

_____ **thunu sne.** (*female*)
_____ **tunu sne.** (*male*)

My name is _____.

Person B: **Lhwet Kw'un' sne?**

What is your name?

Person A: **'Een' thu** _____.

I am _____.

Person A: **Tun' untsu ch 'a' lu?**

Where are you from?

Person B: **Tun'ni' tsun 'utl'** _____.

I am from _____.

Person B: **Tun' untsu ch 'a' lu?**

Where are you from?

Person A: **Tun'ni' tsun 'utl'** _____.

I am from _____.

Quamichan	Kwa'mutsun	
Clemclemaluts	Lhumlhumuluts'	
Komiaken	Qw'umiyiqun'	
Somena	S-amuna'	
Cowichan Bay	Tl'ulpalus	
Koksilah	Xwulqw'selu	
Chenipsun	Xinupsum	

Cowichan Teachings

Family is the heart of life

Honour the Elders

Each person is important

Everything in nature is part of our family – we are all relatives

Live in harmony with nature

Take care of the Earth and take only what you need

Take care of your health

Be positive

Enjoy today

Share what you have

Be honest and truthful in all you do and say

Do the best you can do, be the best you can be

Learn from one another

Respect the rights of one another

Respect your leaders and their decisions

Respect your neighbours

Take responsibility for your actions

Help one another and Work together for the good of all

All things are connected

Give thanks for what you have been given

Howutzun Sul'hween – The Cowichan Elders

Connecting With Our Guests

We will be welcoming people from many parts of North America.

Use body language that is open, friendly and receptive such as smiling and comfortable eye contact.

Be willing to be a teacher of your culture to someone who is curious.

Ask questions such as 'Where are your ancestors from?' 'What territory or tribe do you belong to?' 'What is your involvement in the games?' 'How do you say Hello in your language?'

Some Welcoming Hul'qumi'num Words and Phrases

licho'uy ul sii ye'yu = Hello friend/relative

Huy ch qu' = Thank you (can also be a greeting)

Num'ut qua = You're welcome

Nuts'amaat Shqwaluwun = ONE MIND ONE HEART

For more words, and to hear and practice the Hul'qumi'num language, go to <http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/hulq/index.htm>