



## **Assignment 4**

### **Searching for Indian Agency Names**

This assignment will show you how to access and use a finding aid for looking up Indian agencies for individual Indian bands and tracing movements between agencies that may have occurred at different points in time.

Follow the instructions below to access finding aid 10-202, Part 1, Paula Caird's Guide to Indian Agencies in British Columbia, 1875-1990, (Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, 1996).

Two examples are provided in this assignment to demonstrate how spelling variations and multiple references affect how to retrieve information from the finding aid.

### **Instructions Part 1: Access Indian Agencies' Finding Aids**

1. To begin this assignment, print the entire assignment (all pages contain instructions).
2. Open your web browser and go to Google.
3. In Google, search for "First Nations Digital Document Source." Click on the first item with that title.
4. On the red left-hand side bar, click "Browse Document Type."
5. From the list of document types, click "Finding Aid."
6. You should see several documents on the results page. Underneath the heading "Finding Aid," click the Adobe icon on the right labeled "10-202, Part" to open a PDF version of the document.
7. You should now have a 139-page document open.



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#### Instructions Part 2: Finding the Index

1. Scroll down to page 2 of the document and read through the Table of Contents. The last item listed is the “Index to Band Names” on page 121.
2. Locate the Adobe Reader toolbar at the top of your document window.
3. Click on the page number window, type “124,” and click “enter” to skip ahead to the start of the index. (The numbering is off by a few pages since Adobe has counted the document cover page, table of contents, and title page as pages 1, 2, and 3).
4. When you have successfully accessed the finding aid and located the index, continue with the instructions on page 3 to look up the Indian agencies for the Skawahlook and Tseycum First Nations.



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### Instructions Part 3: Finding Information Pertaining to Skawahlook First Nation

1. Scroll through the index until you find Skawahlook. Notice there are four references listed.
2. Copy the relevant page numbers for each spelling on a piece of paper, or print this page of the index for easy reference (make sure to click the “current page” option from the print range menu). Instead of copying the page numbers, you may also type “Skawahlook” into the Adobe search window, located on the top right of the toolbar and clicking the “find next” icon beside the window.
3. Go to each of the pages listed for Skawahlook. See if you can locate the following information:
  - a. Page 40 states that Skawahlook went “from New Westminster Agency, 1969, to Vancouver District, 1975.” If you scroll up one page, you can see that Skawahlook was administered by the Fraser District between 1969 and 1975. Notice that page 39 lists information about the agency, such as location, when it was established, the Indian agents and then they held the position, and when the agency itself changed.
  - b. Page 66 states “from Fraser River Agency, 1910, to New Westminster Agency, 1954.” If you scroll up two pages, you can see that Skawahlook was administered by the Lytton Agency between 1910 and 1954.
  - c. Page 72 states “from Lytton Agency, 1954, to Fraser Agency, 1965.” If you scroll one page you can see that Skawahlook was administered by the New Westminster Agency from 1954 to 1965 and that in 1965 the New Westminster and Vancouver Agencies were amalgamated to form the Fraser Agency.
  - d. Page 106 states from “from Fraser District, 1975.” If you scroll up one page, you can see that Skawahlook was administered by the Vancouver District beginning in 1975.





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#### Instructions Part 4: Finding Information Pertaining to Tseycum First Nation

1. Scroll through the index until you find “Tseycum.” Notice that there are two alternate spellings of this band listed in the index (“Tsecum” and “Tsekum”). Copy the relevant page numbers for each spelling on a piece of paper, or print this page of the index for easy reference (make sure to click the “current page” option from the print range menu).
2. Go to each of the pages listed for Tseycum (and spelling variants). See if you can locate the following information:
  - a. On page 31 (the number printed on the document page), footnote 101 states that Tseycum was one of the five Indian bands that held the Goldstream reserve in common. Scroll up to page 30 and see that Goldstream Reserve is listed under the Cowichan Indian Agency.
  - b. Notice that page 30 lists information about the agency, such as location, when it was established, the Indian agents and when they held the position, and when the agency itself changed.
  - c. On page 33, footnote 123 states that “Tsekum” is also spelled “Tseycum” and that this band “amalgamated with Saanich Band by 1934 but separated again by 1959.”
  - d. Proceed to page 6 to look up spelling variations for Tseycum in the Indian Agencies finding aid.



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#### Instructions Part 4: Finding Information Pertaining to Tseycum First Nation—Spelling Variations

“Tsecum”:

- On page 32, footnote 117 states that Saanich amalgamated with four other bands (including Tsecum) by 1934, but separated by 1959. This is the same information listed above, seen by cross-referencing the different bands involved.

“TseKum”:

- On page 10, notice that *Tsekum* was administered under the Cowichan Agency beginning in 1881. If you scroll up one page, you can see that prior to 1881, *Tsecum* was administered under the Victoria Superintendency. Footnote 34 gives another variation: “*Tsi-klum*.”
- You have reviewed page 33 under the spelling “Tseycum.” Notice that when you look up this spelling variation, you see that Tsekum moved from the Cowichan Agency to the South Island District in 1969.
- Page 68 states “from South Island District, 1976.” If you scroll up one page, you can see that the South Island District became the Nanaimo District in 1976.” Tsekum, or Tseycum, was administered under the “Nanaimo District.”
- Page 92 states “from Cowichan Agency, 1969, to Nanaimo District, 1975”
- Scroll up one page to see that Tsekum was administered by the South Island District from 1969 to 1975.
- Page 108 states “from Nanaimo District, 1988.” If you scroll up one page, you can see that the Nanaimo District changed its name to the Vancouver Island District in 1988.

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## Question

In the space below, create a chronological index of all of the Indian agencies responsible for administering Tseycum.

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#### Summary

You may have already noticed that the *Guide to Indian Agencies in British Columbia, 1875-1990* contains some inconsistencies, despite its importance to researchers as a finding aid.

Some inconsistencies may be as simple as spelling errors. For instance, If you look in the finding aid index at page 133, take note of an alternate (or misspelled) entry for Skwahalook (Skawahlook) on page 43. Both spellings must be pursued because they each lead to different information.

Other inconsistencies reflect the complex nature of the Indian Agency administration. Consider the instrument search you conducted for Skawahlook. Page 71 of the finding aid indicates that, in 1965, the New Westminster and Vancouver Agencies amalgamated to form the Fraser Agency which operated from 1965—1969. Yet if you look up pages 37-38 for the Fraser Agency, Skawahlook is not mentioned under that Agency's jurisdiction.

However, page 37 does inform us that the Fraser Agency combined with part of the Lytton Agency in 1969 to form the Fraser District. If you look at page 39-40, Skawahlook is listed as coming from the New Westminster Agency in 1969, when that Agency was supposed to have ceased to exist. What happened to documents between 1965 and 1969? Where did they end up?

As a researcher, anomalies such as this are bound to occur. The only course of action, in this case, is to check out files for the Fraser District and Agency, as well as the New Westminster and Lytton Agencies around the dates of the amalgamations in case some documents ended up in the wrong Agency. You will also have to apply this kind of diligence to your own research.

When you have completed this assignment, remember to save your work, close the assignment and return to Unit 4-5 of the course.