

Rename British Columbia

Today's topic is again not about sports but is a follow up to last week's topic about how British Columbia got its name. Four Provinces, two Territories and even our Country's name derive their names from indigenous languages (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Yukon, Nunavut and Canada). There is a movement to change the name of British Columbia to an indigenous name. I, for one, would be in favour if we could come up with a name as good as Haida Gwaii for the Queen Charlotte Islands. With so many indigenous languages spoken in BC, it could become an exercise in diplomacy. But let me wade in and give you some suggestions: Nootka, it is where Captain Cook first landed on the west coast of BC. It means "Go around"; Spatsizi, located in Northern BC, it is an above tree line plateau and is North America's largest big game area. It is now a Provincial Wilderness Park. The mountains in the area have a lot of iron in them. The iron rusts giving the mountains a red colour. Mountain Goats roll in the red dust, hence, Spatsizi means "Red Goat"; and Kookipi, my favourite, pronounced coo-ka-pee. It is a creek that flows into the Nahatlatch River, west of Boston Bar. It means "Chief" or "Leader".