Decision-making of the Board

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UNEGGN
(Canada)
... for the Board and Secretariat

- Where do we start?
- Language and spelling
- How much evidence is needed for a name to be approved?
- Changing names
- Type of feature/application of a name
- The public and the politics
Where do we start?

- Perhaps all names on a published map could be considered official
  - then add and modify
- May be starting from card records
Language and spelling

- Unwritten language
- Differences in spelling
- Multiple names in the same language
- Multiple languages
- Romanization
How much support?

- How many people? Who?
- How much evidence?
Changing names

- Names recorded with incorrect spelling
- Names well known
- Names locally used or names of “colonial”/military/historical use
- Names now considered derogatory or pejorative
- Names that are no longer known
The public and the politics

- What public input should be involved in the naming process?
- Results of Board decisions sent up to the Departmental Minister for signature to be final?
- How does the Board avoid political interference?
Reference number
Map sheet number
Date
Feature delineation
Approved name
Feature type
Location
Status
Background

Board decision – Ontario, Canada

The following name of a geographic feature has been considered by the Ontario Geographic Names Board and pursuant to Section 3(8) of the Ontario Geographic Names Board Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, is recommended to the Minister for approval under Section 4 of the above Act. Le nom d’entité géographique qui suit a été pris en conséquence par la Commission de toponymie de l’Ontario et, en vertu du paragraphe 3(8) de la Loi sur la Commission de toponymie de l’Ontario, C.O. 1990, chap. O.18, est recommandé au ministre pour approbation selon l’article 4 de la loi sus-mentionnée.

Local Name: Wesley Island

Wesley Island
Island file (2300); Wood (geographic township); Gravenhurst (municipality); District Municipality of Muskoka; Morrison Lake; approximate centre at 44°52′05″ - 79°27′58″ - UTM = 17 621175 4969221 (datum = NAD27); record status = AT; unique name key = FEYDO

MNIR recommended form of name for use in French text applications - Île Wesley

Name in well-established current local usage since the 1960’s. After early owners including the late George and Ida Wesley who were among the original cottagers and pioneering families on Morrison Lake.
Número de referência
Número da folha do mapa
Data
Delineamento do acidente
Nome aprovado
Tipo de acidente
Localização
Status
Histórico
Naming authorization can be quite simple

Other steps may be necessary: referral to language specialists, more detailed surveys, considering public objections ...
In the end

- Emphasis on care and consistency
- Reflection of language, heritage, identity
- Names recorded for the benefit of future generations
- Authorized names should get wide distribution and use
- If more than one name is acceptable, conditions of use should be clear