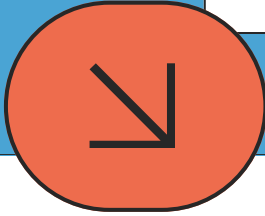
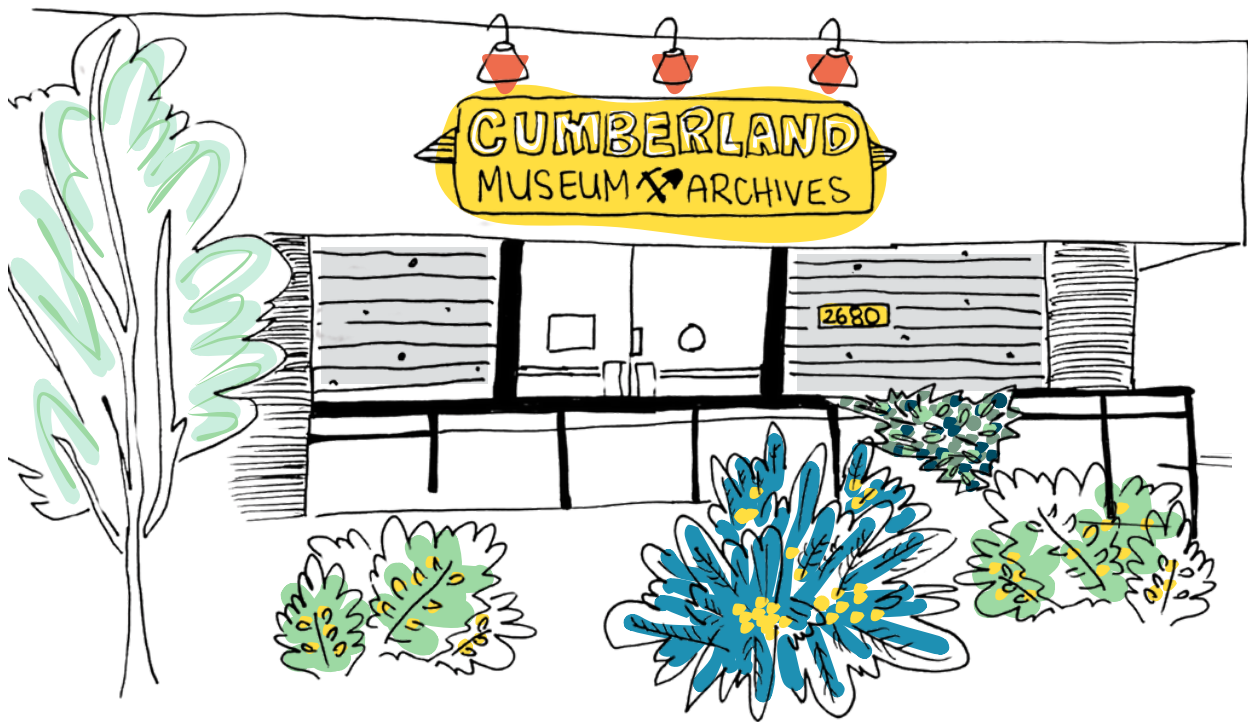


# PRE VISIT GUIDE



**Welcome to the Cumberland Museum & Archives, situated on the unceded ancestral territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.**

The **Cumberland Museum and Archives** tells the story of the people of Cumberland — the rich, the oppressed, the powerful, the rebellious, and the radical. Well known as an early coal mining town, Cumberland has a unique and diverse history. The CMA's exhibits and collection explore social, political, economic and environmental themes. We aim to celebrate the stories of the people who called and continue to call Cumberland home.



## GETTING TO THE MUSEUM

We are located at **2680 Dunsmuir Avenue, Cumberland**, at the intersection of Dunsmuir Avenue and 1st Avenue.

# GETTING TO THE COAL CREEK HISTORIC SITE

The **Coal Creek Historic Site** was once a site of thriving business, music, and community centre for Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians.

- Travel west on **Dunsmuir** until you reach a four-way stop. Turn left onto **Sutton Rd**, which turns into Comox Lake Rd.
- Continue half a KM and you will see a pull-off/ parking area on the left. There is also a larger parking area at **Coal Creek Historic Site**, which is marked with signage.

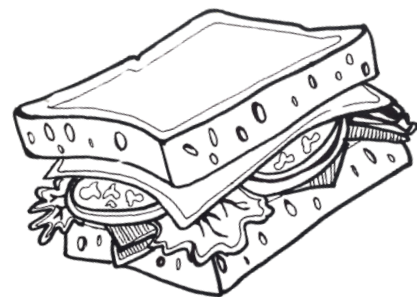
\*For **combination tours**, allow 25 minutes to walk from the historic site to the Museum.



## NEED A BREAK OR SNACK?

No. 6 Mine Park has a playground and picnic tables for public use. It is located on Derwent Avenue behind the Cumberland Recreation Centre.

There is also a covered pavilion at the Historic Chinatown site that includes 4 picnic tables.



## WHAT CAN WE DO AT THE MUSEUM ?

Our Museum is a place for curiosity, conversation, exploration, and storytelling. You do not have to be silent at the Museum, we want to hear your voice, ideas, and input! However, we thank you in advance for considering that other visitors are also exploring the space along with you. We want to ensure that their experience is not disrupted by inappropriate behaviours like yelling, foul language, or demeaning remarks to others.

We thank you in advance for not touching the objects on display or the walls, as even our clean hands can transfer oils that can damage delicate objects. If you are doing the Jr. Archivist program, you will get a chance to wear curator gloves and explore objects from our education collection with your senses. Touch is an important element of discovery, and we want to ensure that this is done thoughtfully and sustainably.

Thank you for not running in the space. It is hard to remember this when we get excited! While it is our job to care for the objects on display, our priority is your safety, and the Museum is not built to be a gymnasium.

**We ask that water bottles and snacks be left in the front lobby in a bin with your backpacks.** Should you need a sip or a snack, this can be done in the lobby on a case-by-case basis with an adult.



## CATALYZING CURIOSITY

Through the lens of the **Big 6 Historical Concepts** (Historical Significance, Evidence, Cause and Consequence, Continuity and Change, Historical Perspective and The Ethical Dimension), **Object-Based Learning**, **Visual Thinking Strategies** and **See/ Think / Wonder** pedagogies, our education programs centre supported dialogical inquiry, hands-on activities and independent exploration of our exhibitions.

Our exhibitions offer insight into 20th-century British Columbia, including natural material extraction (& Industrial Revolution) labour history, immigration, Japanese internment, and Chinese exclusion. As a social history museum, we discuss these themes at an age-appropriate level through stories of resistance, resilience, belonging, isolation, and colonisation, and how these themes are relevant to our lives today.

# PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

Our permanent exhibition is located downstairs, which is accessible via elevator or staircase. It features 4 small galleries and prioritises experiential learning.



## **Resistance and Resilience Hall**

Explore the resilience of the K'ómoks First Nation and their efforts to revitalize culture across generations, alongside Cumberland's pivotal role in Canada's labour history, where working-class resistance shaped community identity and multigenerational movements.

## **People on the Land**

Since time immemorial, the Ancestors of the people called K'ómoks today have been the caretakers of this land, which they called the "Land of Plenty." Follow the path of water from the mountains to the wetlands in this experiential journey that highlights the overlapping values we place on this land.

## **Coal Town**

Step back in time to the thriving coal town of Cumberland in the early 1900s. Explore the hotels and bars where miners and loggers grabbed a beer and a bath after a hard day's work digging for coal or felling timber. Experience a day in the life of a coal miner in the Museum's replica mine.

## **Community Hall**

People connect in many ways—through food and drink, arts and culture, events and celebrations, hobbies and recreation. Explore objects that highlight Cumberland's diverse communities and cultures, then and now.

# TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

## Wish You Were Here

Through different forms of personal communications from our Archives, The exhibition *Wish You Were Here* intends to connect to a richer understanding of Cumberland's community, past & present. These diverse forms of personal communication have important, diverse cultural and community identities connected to them.



This exhibition asks us to consider past lived experiences as we think about how we communicate with each other today in our digital world, what are we leaving behind for future generations, and how can we preserve it?



*\*Please note that at this time our Tstable River Coal Mine, recreated by Tstable River coal miners in 1981 is not completely accessible to those using wheelchairs or motorized accessibility supports. Thank you for your patience as we work towards accessibility for all.*

# MESSAGES OF RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE: PRE & POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

Support your students in meaning-making! Connect the objects that they explore at the Museum with their own lived experiences. Prepare for deeper engagements during your visit and extend your thinking back in the classroom.

## ACTIVITY: COMPARE AND CONTRAST



What do you think *Kumugwe*, a mask carved in 2015 by Karver Everson and the artwork *Resistance* (2016) by Andy Everson have in common?

## **Andy Everson**

Andy Everson was born in Comox, BC in 1972 and named Nagedzi after his grandfather, the late Chief Andy Frank of the K'ómoks First Nation. Andy has had the honour of being seated with the 'Námgis Tsítsał'walagame' name of K'wámxalagalis l'nis. Influenced heavily by his grandmother, he has always been driven to uphold the traditions of both the K'ómoks and Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations. In this regard, Andy has pursued avenues where he can sing traditional songs and perform ceremonial dances at potlatches and in a number of different dance groups, most notably the Le-La-La Dancers, the Gwa'wina Dancers and the K'umugwe Dancers.

*"Today, our culture is a well-worn, battered set of armour that surrounds and protects us. It shows the marks from all of the preceding generations. Dented and scarred, it stands as a testament to the old peoples' resilience. Our culture is a gift from our ancestors. It has withstood suffering, death, attack, malice, racism and attempted genocide and, yet, it still guides us to this day. Our culture is resilience personified."*

## **Video**

### **BC Achievement Polygon Award 2024:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iv3LQgm4jJU>

We call things that we all recognise from books, TV shows, movies or toys '**Pop Culture**.'

Andy Everson transforms characters from Pop Culture, like Stormtroopers or The Mandalorian, by adding symbols and elements from his cultural heritage. He uses Northwestcoast Indigenous design elements from his K'ómoks and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestral knowledge and combines them with characters that represent resilience and resistance for him.

## **Video**

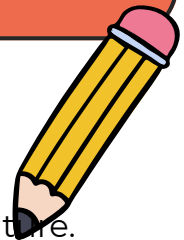
### **North West Coast and Coast Salish Design elements, Qwalsius - Shaun**

Peterson. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHNYktK4EqA>

## **ACTIVITY: DRAW AND DESIGN**

**What images or symbols represent strength or courage for you?**

- 1** Draw or print out an image of your favourite hero from Pop Culture.
- 2** Transform them using symbols, images or colours that represent you or part of your family's culture.



# ACTIVITY: ACTIVISM THROUGH ZINES

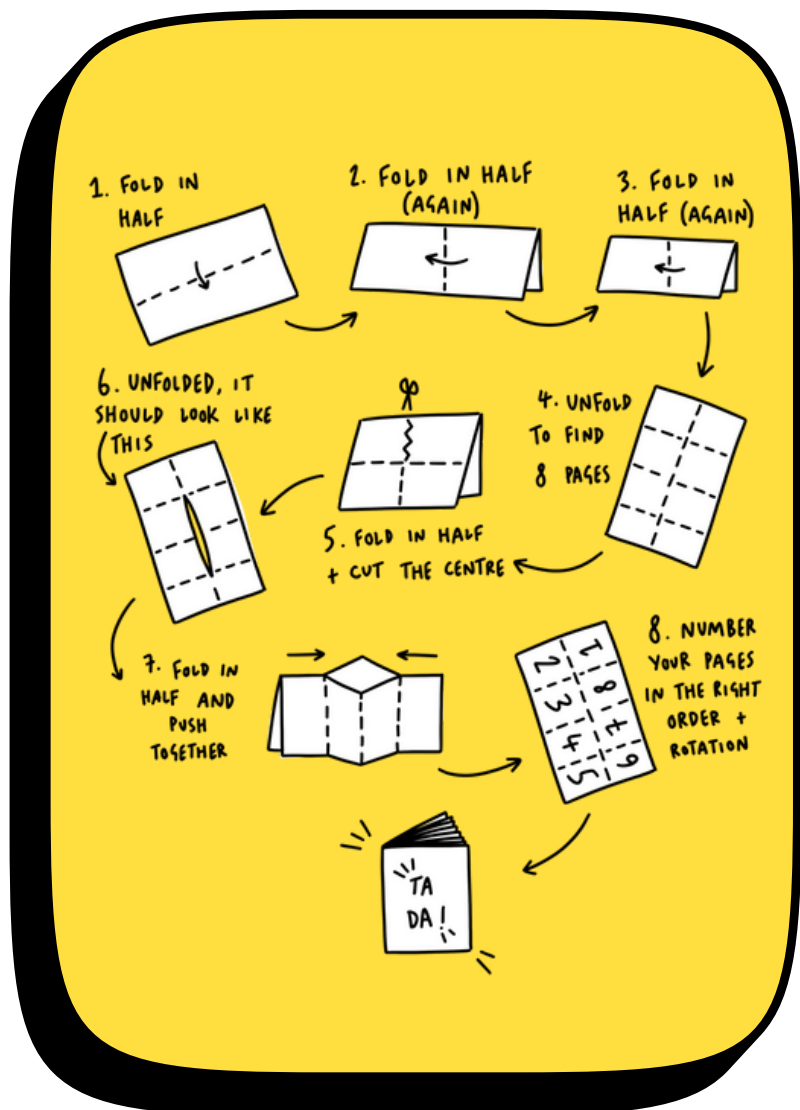
**Ginger Goodwin** shared his messages of comradery with the working man and the power of collective action through his writing. **Wong Foon Sien** used telegraphs and letters to government representatives to resist unfair laws.

**Zines (zeens)** are like mini magazines or self published booklets that are often used by activists to share a message as quickly and widely as possible. Zines are made of one piece of paper that can be easily photocopied and folded in a special way to create 6 pages of a book.

**1** Think of a story or message you want to share with the world.

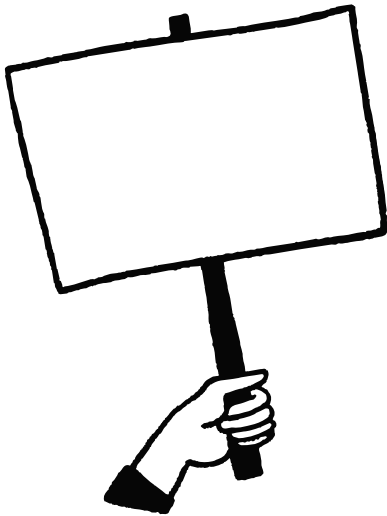
**2** Create a zine to express your voice that uses words and images to create impact and capture people's attention.

**3** Follow the step by step instructions.



## **Ginger Goodwin**

Albert "Ginger" Goodwin was born on May 10th 1887 in Treeton, Yorkshire, U.K. As a boy, he joined his father working in the British coal mines, and at the age of 19, Albert emigrated to Canada in 1906 to work the Canadian mines. His journey led him to Halifax, where he arrived on September 1st, 1906. Shortly thereafter, he ventured further west and eventually settled in Cumberland during the fall of 1910. During his time in Cumberland, Goodwin lived at 2725 Penrith Ave.



After the Big Strike, blacklisted by the Canadian Collieries Co. for his leading role alongside Joe Naylor and other key antagonists, he was forced to leave Cumberland in search of work in 1914. He worked in various mines in the British Columbia mainland during this period before returning to Cumberland. In 1918, after being initially found not fit for duty and following a controversial health re-evaluation, Albert was conscripted. A conscientious objector, Albert and the union attempted to have him exempted but were unsuccessful. Albert was forced to flee. On July 27th, 1918, Constable Dan Campbell, part of the special police tasked with tracking down conscientious objectors, shot and killed Albert at Comox Lake.

**What do you think Ginger Goodwin might have used to feed and sustain himself while he fled Cumberland to hide at Comox Lake?**

## **BC Labour Heritage Centre Moment Video**

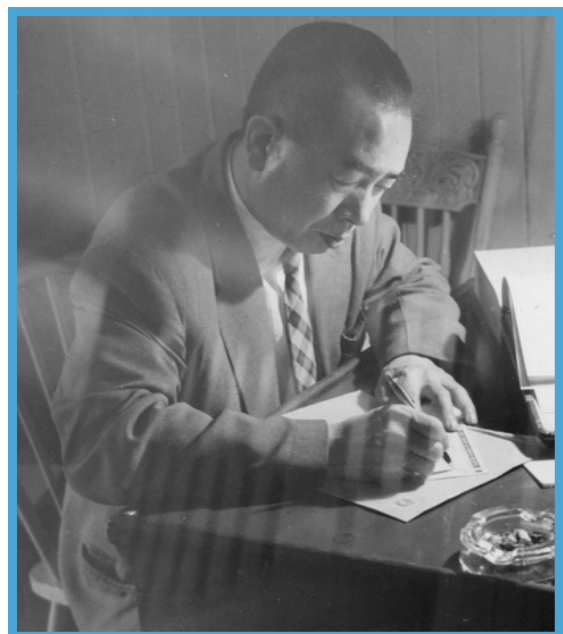
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-1xFwWz2bo>

## **Wong Foon Sien**

Since the 1880's, the Canadian Government created racist laws against Chinese Canadians such as the Chinese Head Tax starting in 1885, and the Chinese Exclusion act of 1923.

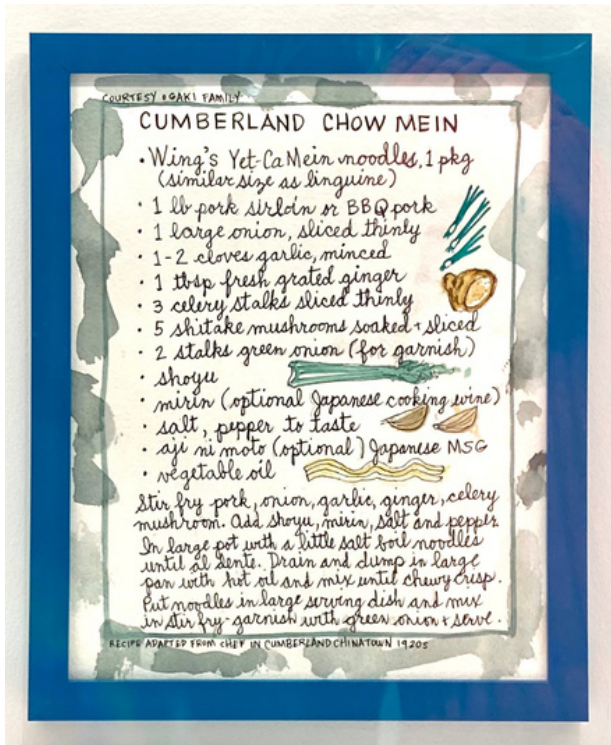
These laws separated families and restricted the rights of Chinese Canadians.

Wong Foon Sein was instrumental in the fight for reunification of Chinese families and lobbying for equal opportunities and rights for Chinese Canadians.



# ACTIVITY: FOOD & FRIENDSHIP

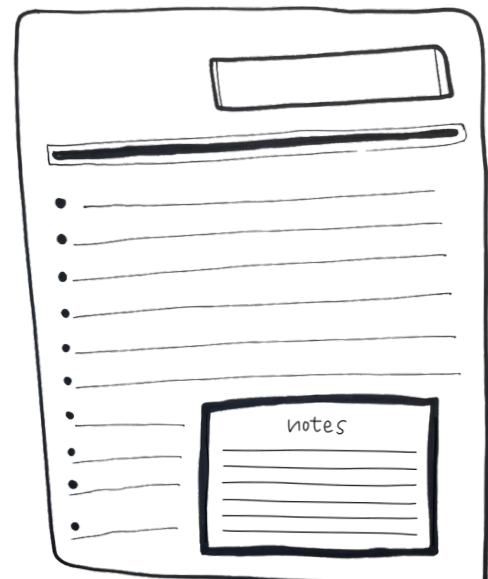
During World War II, 91 Japanese families were forcibly removed from the Comox Valley as part of the internment of Japanese Canadians. This event was part of a larger effort by the Canadian government, which uprooted over 22,000 Japanese Canadians from the West Coast, dispossessing them of their homes, businesses, and belongings.



"Maki Ogaki, between 1898-1941, a Chinese gentleman who owned a restaurant in Chinatown taught my great-grandmother, Maki Ogaki, and other Japanese women how to cook chow mein in his restaurant's kitchen. With the outbreak of World War II and the Japanese Canadian internment, my grandfather and his brothers were sent to a labour lumber camp while my great-grandmother was sent to Tashme internment camp with other Nikkei women and children. As a result, the local recipe of Cumberland Chow Mein became a staple comfort food when my grandfather, his brothers, their mother and fellow Cumberlandians shared this invaluable recipe amongst their fellow Japanese Canadians since there were limited ingredients available to them in the camps."

- Russell Sakauye

- 1 What is a recipe or food that gives you comfort or reminds you of home?
- 2 Draw the ingredients.
- 3 Exchange your recipe drawing with a friend !

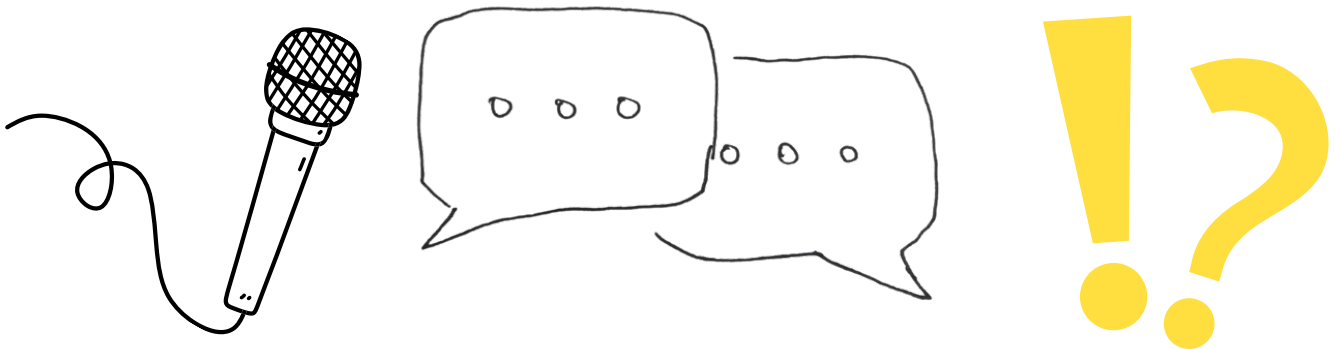


# ACTIVITY: ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Oral storytelling can offer rich viewpoints as they are passed down from generations, so that they continue to live on and not get lost. They are firsthand accounts and share personal perspectives and memories in their own words in their own voices.

The exhibition ***Wish You Were Here*** contains an interview with Mrs Isabelle Merrifield by Anna Marie Roy and Trudy Bortoletto from 1975 that talks about life in Cumberland.

**What can you learn about your community through an interview?**



- 1** What do you want to learn about your community?  
Write down 5-7 questions.
- 2** Find someone who has lived in your community longer than you have to interview.
- 3** Use an audio recording device (tablets or phones should work well) to record your interview
- 4** What are the most interesting or surprising things that you have learned?  
Why do these stories stand out to you?

# GLOSSARY

**Strike:** A strike happens when a group of workers stops working in protest of poor working conditions. The workers return to work after better conditions are promised.

**Union:** A union is when two or more people come together to form one voice. This can be a group of people or organizations working together to achieve the same goal. Unions ensure that workers are treated fairly and if not, they support workers when they decide that they need to go on strike.

**Activism:** Activism is about taking action to make a change in the world, or to stop a change from happening.

**Archive:** An archive is a special place where important records and documents are kept safe. It's like a memory bank for history! These records are collected over time by people, groups, or even governments. They are chosen to be kept for a very long time, sometimes forever.

**Resistance:** The refusal to accept or agree to something. Resistance is an attempt to prevent something from happening by action or argument.

**Resilience:** The ability to handle or recover from something very difficult.

**Internment:** The state of being confined, like a prisoner.

**Exclusion:** To deny someone access to a place, group or privilege.

**Resource extraction** (Natural Material Extraction): the process of withdrawing natural materials like oil, gas, minerals, timber, water, and other resources from the environment for human use.

**Labour :** The effort or work involved in a task.

**Immigration:** The action of moving to live permanently in a different country than you were born in .

**Canadian Collieries:** Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd. operated coal mines on Vancouver Island, including the Wellington Mines near Nanaimo and the Comox Mines at Cumberland.

**Cultural object:** A cultural object is something created by people that shares a meaning or significance within a culture or group of people.

**Indigenous:** The first people to live on and care for a land.

**Colonisation:** The action of moving to and settling in an area and taking control over Indigenous people.

**Settler:** A person who is non Indigenous, whose ancestors moved from another place and built homes and communities there

**E&N Land Grant:** An 1884 Settlement Act that granted the E&N Railway Company nearly two million acres of unceded First Nations territories, \$750,000.00, and a virtual monopoly over resource extraction on the island in exchange for the construction of 113 kilometers of rail.

**Potlatch:** Indigenous ceremonies that tell stories and show social changes such as birth, marriage, name giving, standing up a new chief and death are called a Potlatch.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### **Chinese Immigration in Canada**

<https://www.chinesecanadianmuseum.ca/exhibitions/paper-trail-1923-chinese-exclusion-act>

### **Labour History Activism**

<https://cumberlandhistory.ca/story/the-big-strike/>

### **Japanese Internment**

<http://hastingspark1942.ca/>

[Japanese Internment story - Youth Media Project](#)

### **Kumugwe Cultural Society**

<https://kumugwe.ca/>

### **BC Black History resources**

<https://bcblackhistory.ca/>

### **Cumberland Museum & Archives Digital Museum**

[Cumberlandhistory.ca](http://Cumberlandhistory.ca)