From: Mary Ellen Chapman
To: Cody Vangel
Subject: [External] Rename Colonization Road
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Dear Mayor and Council:

The name 'Colonization Road' is inappropriate and hurtful to your citizens by celebrating historic and ongoing wrongs to people who live here today, and those who loved this land first.

'Colonization Road' honours an inherently racist concept that stands for the subjugation, suffering, and violence toward Indigenous people. It also offends Ontario human rights and discrimination laws and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Town council has taken far too long to reach an obvious decision—especially given its recent commitments to reconciliation, the words of its Declaration of Intent and Friendship with the Agency One First Nations, and its own strategic plan, which committed to a more respectful relationship with local Indigenous communities.

It has been confirmed numerous times that there is no cost to update one's address, and the pandemic is no excuse not to engage in this basic step toward reconciliation. I am not aware of a single complaint that has identified a legitimate logistical hurdle to making this change. Private citizens have even offered to cover the Town's cost of new signage.

Frankly, the name Colonization Road is an embarrassment to Fort Frances and an insult to its citizens, neighbours, and visitors. So, what are we waiting for?

Let's rename Colonization Road now, and use this opportunity to install a new name that reflects our local Indigenous heritage.

Yours truly,

Mary Chapman

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