From: Amanda Jacobs
To: Cody Vangel
Subject: [External] Colonization Rd
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:42:30 PM

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Hello Mr. Vangel,

I moved to the Fort Frances area for work from Northern Manitoba mid 2017. I walked around town to familiarize myself and one of the first things that I made note of as odd was the existence of a road bearing the name colonization. I knew the meaning of colonization and found myself, a white woman, offended on behalf of the area Indigenous peoples. As a newcomer to the area, I did not know many people and relied on internet searches to find out more about how such a road name could still exist in a time after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had formed and issued 94 calls to action and the statement gathering process for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was in progress. I was hopeful upon finding the documentary bearing the name of this road that the name would be changed. When a bid was made to change the name in 2017 by Town councillor Judson I remained hopeful that the name would be changed. I was disappointed and disgusted when it was not changed.

Fast forward to 2021, the Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG has been available since June 2019. If you have not read this report or the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, I urge to you to do so immediately. The National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice are clear and include a Call to all Governments to develop laws, policies and educational campaigns to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence against Indigenous women and girls. Having the word colonization as a street name in itself perpetuates the colonial violence that was and continues to be perpetrated against Indigenous Peoples. The renaming of the road is an opportunity for the Town of Fort Frances to take on decolonzing work and to educate its residents of the history of colonization in this region. It’s time to make room for Indigneous perspectives in the Town for Fort Frances, and denounce racism.

As a resident of Fort Frances and ally to Black and Indigenous people of colour, I am not asking you to take my word that the name of Colonization Road must change. Take your cues from other municipalities that have changed the name, watch the Colonization Road documentary, educate yourself on the Calls of Action and Calls to Justice, and open this dialogue with the Indigenous Peoples of Treaty 3. The “comfort” of a few in Fort Frances who resist changing the name of a road with a name that carries the immensely suffocating weight that the term colonization does must not be put ahead of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to safety and health.

Regards,

Amanda Jacobs
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