From: Erin Gustafson
To: Cody Vangel
Subject: [External] Change Colonization Road Name
Date: Friday, February 19, 2021 8:50:03 AM

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Greetings,

I am writing to urge the Town of Fort Frances to change the name of Colonization Road immediately. Considering the effects of colonization and especially the residential and day school in our area, I believe this is an essential step in reconciliation for our First Nations brothers and sisters. My grandmother went to this day school, and my family is still affected by the damage that colonization has inflicted upon us, both emotionally and spiritually. I am absolutely disgusted that the town of Fort Frances would prioritize the comfort of a few people living there over the psychological trauma that First Nations people have experienced in this country. We have coexisted for so long now, in our geographical area, but I still see rampant racism both in the community and in the municipal government. I urge you, please, CHANGE THE NAME so people don't have to be ashamed of their hometown. So many other communities in our region have changed road names. Why can't we? Are we too proud of our murderous history? Is the town of Fort Frances proud of the mistreatment it's displayed towards First Nations people experienced?

If we say that we are trying to rebuild relationships, let's act on it. It's way past time that the road name was changed. This will make a huge difference for many community members and help me regain respect for the beautiful little town I was raised in.

-Erin Gustafson, Ojibwe artist

-Erin Gustafson, owner