



Mayor & Council
Town of Fort Frances
302 Portage Ave.
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3P9

Dear Madam Mayor and Councillors,

November 22, 2019

The Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce has the following concerns that have been brought to our attention by members of the Chamber.

Energy Services

The CN railway runs directly through both residential and commercial areas of the Town. Many railcars that have petroleum products and other volatile chemicals. From time to time accidents happen. Should a derailment take place within the Town of Fort Frances, the membership of the Chamber of Commerce would like to know how well trained and equipped our Emergency Management is to ensure an appropriate response and prevent the loss of life.

Level Crossing, McIrvine Road

Many of our membership that have businesses in the Industrial Park have concerns with the number of times the crossing is blocked with rail traffic. Further from time to time the underpass on Portage Ave has a tendency to flood. When these situations happen simultaneously all businesses and residents on the northside of the rail line are cut off from services that are vital to their safety. Ambulance, Police and Fire services become impossible. The Chamber would recommend that an overpass be constructed to correct this inequity placed on the businesses and residents living and working in the North End.

Ministry of Transportation

The following is an administration problem that has arisen at the Chamber. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has changed how Sign Renewal will be administered (copy of letter attached). This is one of the tourism related expenditures that the Chamber pays for with the

funds that the Town grants to us in the Town's annual budget. As you can see, we need to apply for a new 5-year permit. Since we do this on behalf of the Town we need to know if you wish us to do so. Please also note that a larger portion of the annual grant the Town gives us will be depleted faster next year and will hinder us from completing other services to related information to be dispersed. Examples of this include the toll-free line (year around) available for inquires, for tourist information, and people wishing to re-locate to Fort Frances, maintain a website and salaries for administer.

I look forward to hearing from you on our concerns at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Emes
President
Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce

CLE/jls

September 9, 2019

Dear Permit Holder:

Enclosed is your current Sign Renewal Invoice as well as some important information on changes to modernize our sign renewal process that will come into effect on March 31, 2020 for current permit holders.

MTO is implementing a new electronic permitting system that will issue five-year permits. It will be in place for new billboard and guide sign permits immediately. Starting in 2020, you will be required to apply for the new permit with a one-time fee for billboard and private roadway signs. The five-year permit fee for a billboard will be \$770.00 while the fee for a private roadway sign will be \$305.00. It should be noted that this is not a fee increase - the one-time fee is equal to the previous five-year fee total and will eliminate the administrative burden to the public associated with annual renewals.

The enclosed invoice will cover your permit fees to March 31, 2020. **Please disregard the date on the invoice. Payment is due 30 days from receipt of this letter.** Moving forward, should you wish to continue with the sign(s) at its present location, you will need to apply for a new permit at <https://www.hcms.mto.gov.on.ca>.

MTO encourages you to apply for your new five-year permit as early as possible and **no later than March 31, 2020**. Applications made prior to March 31, 2020 will have the applicable months added to their expiry date. Beyond this date, signs without valid permits will be required to be removed.

If an existing permit for a Bush Country billboard has expired, and there is a waiting list for the site, permit holders will be required to remove their sign, unless the permit was issued prior to September 24, 1994.

If you require more information, a representative from the local office identified on your Sign Renewal Invoice is available to assist you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ministry of Transportation
Highway Corridor Management



SIGN RENEWAL INVOICE

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

MTO FISCAL YEAR	GROUP CODE	INVOICE NO.	INVOICE DATE	DUE DATE
2019	7744	105667	July 16, 2019	August 15, 2019

Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce
102-240, First St. East
Fort Frances, On
P9A 1K5

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

Kenora Field Office
(807) 473-2098

PERMIT NUMBER	TYPE OF SIGN	HWY	LOT	CON	CITY/TWP/ TOWN	COUNTY/ MUNICIPALITY	FEE
1991-00030483	BBON	11			Alberton	Rainy River	150.00
1991-00030484	BBON	11			Watten	Rainy River	150.00
<div>PAID OCT 22 2019 Ch#532</div>							
							300.00

TYPE OF SIGN

BBOF: Billboard sign located on private property

BBON: Billboard sign located on highway right-of-way

GUID: Personal (Pers)/Private (Prvt) roadway sign

CONDITIONS

- 1) IT IS UNDERSTOOD BY BOTH PARTIES THAT THE APPLICANT'S SIGN (S) SHALL BE KEPT IN GOOD REPAIR.
- 2) INTEREST WILL BE ADDED, IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DUE DATE OR PERMIT MAY BE CANCELLED.
- 3) A SERVICE FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR NSF CHEQUES.

AMOUNT DUE:

CHEQUE IS TO BE PAYABLE TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTABLE AT MOST AREA OFFICES

Retain This Portion For Your Records