

## Travis Rob

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**From:** Lisa Slomke  
**Sent:** June-28-17 11:46 AM  
**To:** Patrick Briere; Arlene Byrnes; Travis Rob; Tyson Dennis  
**Cc:** Jason Kabel; Laurie Lindberg; Dawn Galusha; Doug Brown  
**Subject:** FW: Petition to Rename Colonization Road

Please add this e-mail to the Exec Cmtee agenda item when it is placed on the agenda at a future meeting.

Thanks.

Lisa

**From:** Town  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** Lisa Slomke <lslomke@fortfrances.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Petition to Rename Colonization Road

Best regards,

Kathryn Lawson, Deputy Clerk  
Phone - 807-274-5323 ext 1212  
fax - 807-274-8479  
[klawson@fortfrances.ca](mailto:klawson@fortfrances.ca)

**From:** Kevin Stewart [<mailto:stewak2@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** June-28-17 9:54 AM  
**To:** Town <[town@fortfrances.ca](mailto:town@fortfrances.ca)>  
**Cc:** [mbehan@fortfrances.com](mailto:mbehan@fortfrances.com); B93 News <[news@931theborder.ca](mailto:news@931theborder.ca)>  
**Subject:** Petition to Rename Colonization Road

Council Members:

As residents of Colonization Road Wests, are writing to express our opposition to this proposal.

While we sympathize with those who find the name offensive, there is not a clear public consensus that 'Colonization' is in fact a racist or offensive term. If in fact any reference to European settlement of Canada is offensive, there are many other potential issues - our local hospital, which serves all of our community, is

named for La Verendrye, the first European in the Fort Frances area. There are many more local examples. Renaming Colonization Road might well set an undesirable precedent.

Renaming a street has significant impact to those who live on it. Records must be changed - billing records, driver's licenses, mailing addresses of all kinds, signage. The town will incur significant expenditure both on changing records and for signage changes, at time when funding is so constrained stop lights are being removed. At the very least, this change should not be made without formal input and majority approval from impacted residents - those who reside on Colonization Road.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

1235 Colonization Road West

Fort Frances, Ontario

P9A 2T6

Kevin Stewart [stewak2@hotmail.com](mailto:stewak2@hotmail.com)

Nancy Westover [nwestover@hotmail.com](mailto:nwestover@hotmail.com)

Byron Stewart [byronrs@hotmail.com](mailto:byronrs@hotmail.com)

Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9



June 29, 2017

Attention: CAO Doug Brown, Mayor Roy Avis + Town Council

Re: Renaming Colonization Road

This week, the Right Relation Circle met at the Fort Frances Museum to discuss various topics, among them the issue around the street name: Colonization Road.

For more than a hundred years, our residents have walked along Colonization Road without much thought as to its meaning. To many of us, it simply signified a new homeland with links to the old.

And yet what does 'colonization' truly mean, and in particular, for those peoples who lived here first?

With today's increased sensitivity to the well being of First Nation communities, our shared history and a future that we must walk together, we look about Canada with different eyes. We understand that there are many past wrongs, that, we cannot hope to make right. However, among those things we can, here is a simple change that would cost little and yet say so much.

Across Canada, communities like ours will be asked to make this decision. Our neighbouring city, Kenora, has been asked and a decision to rename 'Colonization Road' was made. The request was made with a completed disposition only; no petition was required. The process of renaming the road is now in progress.

The Right Relations Circle supports the renaming of Colonization Road. We ask that you take our letter into consideration as you work towards a decision. Thank you.

Sincerely

Peggy Mason

Peggy Mason / Right Relations Circle  
Site 216-39 RR2  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 3M3



Dear Your Worship Roy Avis, and Honourable Councillors,

Find attached below the names and locations of signatories to the petition to rename Colonization Road. We are of the firm belief that the road is outdated and celebrates a dark aspect of our history. Growing up in Fort Frances, you learn to not question the road. I myself never thought about it until I received comments about it during my time in Thunder Bay, studying at Lakehead University. This road makes Fort Frances look stuck 40 years in the past to anybody not from the immediate area. Saying that my hometown has not one but two "Colonization Roads" is something I say with shame.

2017 marks 150 years of Canadian Confederation, yet marks thousands of years of living in North America for Indigenous peoples. Colonization and settlement of these lands by Europeans was a disastrous one-sided process in which acts of war, assimilation, and genocide were directed towards our Indigenous peoples. These acts are in the past, and unfortunately we cannot change them. We can, however, change our future. Will Fort Frances be a town that continues to commemorate these horrible acts, or will Fort Frances move towards the future in an act of reconciliation and partnership? Some may say this is "just a road" and that people need to "get over it." To them I reply Fort Frances has renamed roads for less, with much less antagonism directed towards the efforts. Renaming our town's Colonization Roads would let the world know that Fort Frances is looking to the future and is fostering positive relationships with our Indigenous residents.

This is what I have to say about this petition, as the person that started it. Below are comments from other signatories expressing why they want the change:

"True reconciliation starts from within."

~Candace McCormick

"I am signing this petition because I believe it's about time. This has nothing to do with how I feel about the actual name but everything to do with the way original people have reacted to it. That is very important to me because we have not shown enough sensitivity or sense to do anything about these things in the past. I will be releasing a book that I have written that deals with this issue quite extensively and in particular in the last section all about colonization and

why the word is offensive. I'm aware of it and I support this petition 100%. As a passing thought I must admit when I first moved to Fort Frances I live at 1233 colonization Road West and I never gave it any consideration at all because I thought it was a rather neat name. So I too did not understand the significance of this name and how much it hurt those people in the know."

~Jack Hedmanjack

"When explaining "colonization" to my children, they said, "That is awful. Change the name."  
I agree with them....."

~Brad Oster

"As an indigenous person from Fort Frances I believe this is an important step in reconciliation and decolonization."

~Erin Gustafson

Now it is up to you as the mayor and councillors to act on this. Will the issue be ignored and Fort Frances continue to be mocked as a "racist small town" or will you show leadership and work towards positive change, involving the community and surrounding areas in a true act of reconciliation? The ball is in your court.

Sincerely a concerned resident,



Dawson Mihichuk