

320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A3P9



## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE TOWN OF FORT FRANCES REGARDING THE RENAMING OF COLONIZATION RD.

24 February 2021

**Dear Mayor June Caul and councillors:**

We are writing to the Town of Fort Frances to express our disappointment over the delays relating to the renaming of Colonization Road in Fort Frances. The renaming should not be a politicized debate, it is clear that Fort Frances leadership should act expediently to remedy the situation and advance relationships between **all** community members who call Fort Frances home, or use Fort Frances as a service hub for their needs.

Words do matter, they carry meaning and purpose – if that were not the case, lawyers would be out of jobs and they would not have spent so much time drafting our constitution. Renaming Colonization Rd. is not a performative action, it is a reasonable request by community members who have been harmed by colonialism and are asking for that to be recognized by a community that they live and work in, as well as contribute to.

This is an opportunity to bridge a divide and champion positive change in your community. We have a responsibility to young people, and the generations that follow, to create a more inclusive and accepting community that celebrates the Indigenous peoples. We ask that in the renaming of Colonization Rd., you work with the surrounding Indigenous elders, leaders, and community members to create a name that is reflective of our shared history and signifies a new relationship going forward.

Tell us we are welcome here.

*Miigwetch,*

**THE TREATY #3 OSHKINIIGIIG YOUTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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