

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

Delivered via e-mail to: town@fortfrances.ca ; lslomke@fortfrances.ca

RE: Renaming of Colonization Road

To Fort Frances Mayor and Council,

I understand that the issue of renaming Colonization Road has once again come before your table. As a member of Couchiching First Nation, I have observed this discussion amongst your citizens for several years now. As a young person, I take keen interest in this issue's development and I view it as a major first step in repairing a relationship that has had a troubled past.

I was pleased to learn that a study conducted by your town's administration in 2017 identified the only substantial cost in renaming Colonization Road would be the replacement of the thirteen road signs. I see that this cost identified in the report was \$2,669.51. Yet, the major pushback that I have seen from your citizenry on this issue has been around this cost of the change. Since I fail to see how a renaming of a street name would cause mass confusion and disruption of postal and emergency services, I can only presume that other motivations to retain the name only stem from racial biases and a misinterpretation of a damaging history of this region.

With this in mind, I propose to you a solution. I commit that if it is the sole barrier to renaming Colonization Road, I will personally pay the cost of the replacement signs on the condition that each of the retired Colonization Road signs be handed over to me upon their removal. It is my intention to use these signs in a manner to be decided upon at a later date with the advice of my Chief and Council and the leadership of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3.

I make this offer not at any other individual's urging or input and only in the interest of all the young people in the Anishinaabe Nation who each day reclaim more of their identities that have been ripped from their families by colonization. We are large in number and will never forget who we are. I feel confident in stating that as we assume our ever-growing roles in the everyday life of the Treaty #3 territory, colonial vestiges such as poorly named streets, locations, and buildings will be a persistent point of frustration and disappointment for us. I see no tangible benefit to retaining this street name and predict that the consequences of its retention will only become more evident over time.

I look forward to hearing the result of your discussion on this important matter.

Miigwetch,



Daniel C. Morriveau
Couchiching First Nation Band Member

CC: Couchiching First Nation Chief and Council
Grand Council Treaty #3