From: Mike Walchuk
To: Cody Vangel
Subject: [External] Submission for renaming Colonization Road: Hope Road
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:55:53 PM

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During the debate for the renaming of the roads, I had the opportunity to speak with numerous people on this topic, both on Colonization Road, and in Couchiching First Nation. In my conversations with people in Couchiching, it was very apparent that Colonization is a toxic word and needs to be replaced. I'm glad we're renaming the road. Despite any hardship it causes residents, it's the right thing to do, and needs to happen.

From the residents on Colonization Road, I heard numerous times that people had issues with the spelling of Colonization, and were in favour of a shorter, simpler name.

I feel that some of the criteria we should judge a new name by includes one that is short, easy to spell, and distinct-sounding, to make it easy for emergency services to spell, but also supports reconciliation, which is the reason we're undertaking the change.

As it stands now, our society isn't where it needs to be. There are too many people who were excluded and hurt by what occurred in the past, and in many ways this oppression is still occurring to this day.

Although renaming the road can't erase the pain, or change the past, it's a commitment to do better going forward. The very act of the renaming is a sign of hope for our future as neighbours and friends.

That is why I'm proposing Hope Road.

Along with the above suggestion, I feel the names they chose for Dryden would also be excellent options for us. Memorial pays tribute to both the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and our Veterans. Boozhoo would also be an excellent choice, especially for Colonization Road East, which serves as a bridge between our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Mike Walchuk

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