From: Grace Pawloski
To: Cody Vangel
Subject: [External] Colonization Road
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What's in a name?? Remember the Soviet Union? no one who ever lived there could forget the terrible hardships and losses they were forced to endure. That is my family background. Hundreds and thousands of them were forced off their property, robbed of their possessions, and in many cases, killed or loaded onto cattle cars taking them many miles away to Siberia. The fortunate ones (my grandpa and grandma) made it to Canada where the government helped them start life again, from nothing. They did not speak English.

So the name was changed. It is now known as the 'Russian Federation', but remembrance of horror and devastation still remain in the hearts, minds and faces of those who cannot forget suffering through decades of sorrow and violence.

I live on Colonization Road. I don't think changing the name will alleviate the pain and heartache of the people who were wronged. We have said we are sorry. Apologized, and had the apology accepted. We (our governments - First Nations and Canadian) made a Peace Treaty. Our guilt is not assuaged.

Canada is made up of people of many nationalities. Some of us have also experienced tremendous family difficulties - physical

and mental abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, ostracization, and dysfunction that may be traced back to before our ancestors immigrated here. The heartache and loss does not go away, even if we change our birth name and leave the homes of our youth. Memories of sins done against us remain in our souls, reminding us of the past, as if it had all just happened yesterday. It is a predicament of being human.

So - what about if we, as individuals, look ahead, rather than look back at the harm done long years ago (or perhaps not that long ago)? How about trying "a little kindness"? "reaching out and taking somebody's hand"? Walking a mile on someone else's path.... (rather trite but instructive) Don't we have any capacity left to forgive others and receive forgiveness for our OWN wrongdoings? WE ALL NEED HELP....we're 'All In This Together', remember??? Can we find a way to do justice, love mercy, walk humbley with our neighbour? We MUST be able to come up with more than a bandaid.. In my (humble) opinion, a 'name change' can never be sufficient.