

February 23, 2020

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: Bus Transportation Request 2020

A letter from citizens has been attached to this report asking for an increase/change to our bus service. We currently offer our Dial-a-Ride service in the Town of Fort Frances which is available to all citizens of our Town and operates under the same parameters as the Arrowhead bus service that was attached as a reference in the letter provided by the citizens. Our Dial-a-Ride service is well used service and is the most economical way we can provide public transportation at this time. We also offer a handy van transit service where people who have mobility issues or use a wheelchair can access our public transit. Council and Administration have many times over the years lobbied for increased bus service throughout the Rainy River District and between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg. The most recent presentation occurred at ROMA 2020, and those documents are attached. Ontario Northland bus service will begin making stops in Thunder Bay in the Spring of 2020, there is hope that this service can be expanded to include Fort Frances and District.

Recommendation

The Community Service Division recommends to Mayor & Council to continue with our current public transportation options and continue to lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments for expanded regional bus service for our District.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture

<p>Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Service Division to continue with our current public transportation options and continue to lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments for expanded regional bus service for our District.</p>
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Mayor Caul
Members of Municipal Council
Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances, Ontario

January 20, 2020



Dear Members of Council,

We request that Council upgrade the Town's transportation system and put in place a Public Town Bus. (Preferably Electric - or Bio- Deisel as they actually run cleaner than petrochemical)

Reasons ;

We have an aging population and many no longer have drivers licence's - nor a car

Cost of taxi fares - is far too expensive for those on limited fixed income .

For several Seniors - it is much safer taking a bus - rather than driving their own automobile - or walking - especially when there is lots of ice - wind and snow .

Bus use over high traffic use is less poisonous to the environment and aids in reducing Global Warming problems

A bus service is needed for those who do not drive - to attend medical appointments - go shopping - paying bills - picking up medications - going out to lunch - visiting family and friends - attending the Senior Center - Legion Meals - point park in the summer etc...

We believe Local and District busing is a right - and by way of this letter we are asking our Member of Parliament to assist us in having a District Bus Service so there can be safe transportation from Fort Frances to Rainy River - to Kenora - to Thunder Bay return that would meet the needs of those who must travel for medical reasons - family visits - travel reasons etc.. We discussed this matter with Mr Rickford our MPP and ask Council to support both of these initiatives by putting a Town Bus in place in Fort France - and a call out from Council requesting the Provincial Government support and finance a District Bus ..

Towns and cities - the Provincial - and Federal Governments spend millions of dollars on building - fixing - repairing roads out of citizen tax dollars - but they have no way of measuring the degree that these expenditures serve Non Drivers - the only alternative - is to then put Public Busing in place .

Each person should have a reasonable right to transportation - like a bus - which should be affordable in fare rates - yet subsidized - by tax dollars - so it will not - ought not be a profit making system .

Taxi fares are to high . This is a basic and fundamental issue - and an important economical developement issue as well .

We want Council to address this area of transportation asap and get a Fort Frances Public Bus in Place .

We also want Council to request - and pursue a District Bus with our Local MPP Greg Rickford ..

Attached is a copy of the type of bus used by Arrowhead Transit in International Fall's Mn and how it operates - including the fare amount .

Thank You for your consideration of this matter - and a written response from Council is Greatly appreciated ..

Yours Truly

R. J. Holmes Fort Frances.

Joseph Beadle Fort Frances

Dorothy Taylor Fort Frances Sylvia Sharp Fort Frances

Ralph Benjamin Fort Frances Joyce Graham

Betty Robinson

Bill & Ruby Costello - FORT FRANCES Louise Erb

Mervin Kallstrom

Mam Duck

Glean Bedard Fort Frances

Cecile Hebert

Laura Bedard Fort Frances

Wynne McEwen

Dana Lequin Fort Frances

Eileen Hignewick

Helen Bamman Fort Frances

Betty Plouffe

Nancy Dore F. F.

Hanna M. Kechie

Jeannette Dagnon Fort Frances

Sue Cameron

Monica Parsons

John Katik

Margaret Burt

DONNA HANDBERG

Pamela Makarchuk

Bill New Rink

C. Randall Spitt #F

Ed Larocque

D. Lemay
Marge Benjamin

Douglas Medhurst K.F.

Robert N. Green F.F.

Vic Alberts

Warren Mitchell

Sam Cooke

Ken Noble

F.F.

Open

C.C. Letter for the Editor of Fort Frances Times. K.P.

**WHETHER YOU'RE YOUNG
OR OLD, RICH OR POOR,
DISABLED OR NOT DISABLED,**

ANYONE CAN RIDE THE ARROWHEAD TRANSIT BUS

**HOW DO YOU RIDE
THE FALLS DIAL-A-RIDE?
CALL 800-862-0175, OPTION 5**

TELL THE DISPATCHER:

1. Where you want to be picked up
2. Where you need to go
3. When you need to get there.

The dispatcher will tell you what time to expect the bus to arrive.

Please be watching for the bus and be ready to board when the bus arrives.

Hours of operation: M-F 7am - 7pm • Sat 9am - 3pm
\$1.50/ride Children under 6 ride free, under 13 half price with a paying adult.



SIGN HERE



Thunder Bay • Video

Thunder Bay to get Ontario Northland bus service

Bus connects eastern and northwestern Ontario, with stops in Thunder Bay ; service to start in April 2020

CBC News • Posted: Feb 12, 2020 12:34 PM ET | Last Updated: February 12



Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines said having affordable transportation available to the north is a priority for the government. (Gord Ellis/CBC)

The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) will start providing bus service to Thunder Bay in the spring of 2020, Greg Rickford, the provincial minister of energy, northern development and mines, announced Wednesday in the city.

The new route will connect Thunder Bay to eastern Ontario, including stops in Sudbury, Sault Ste Marie, Wawa and White River.



Corina Moore, President and CEO of Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, said "Expanding our services into the northwest to Thunder Bay and providing a seamless link between the communities along Highway 17 from Ottawa is critical to northerners since the departure of Greyhound." (Gord Ellis/CBC)

"We are providing essential connections for passengers, helping to better connect the north with the rest of the province," she stated in a written release Wednesday. "Our friendly drivers, free WiFi, on-board washrooms and new coaches are just a few reasons passengers will be amazed at their experience on an Ontario Northland Motor Coach."

In 2018, Ontario Northland extended service to Espanola, Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and White River.

Greyhound bus lines discontinued bus service west of Sudbury in October of 2018.

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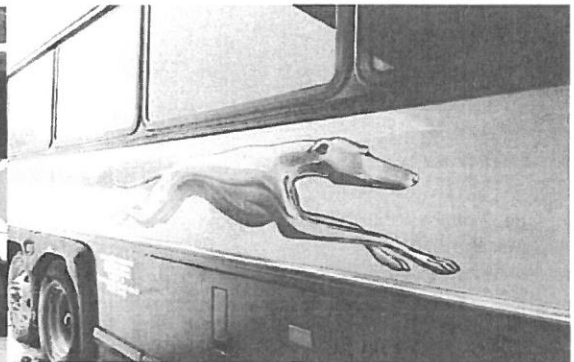
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FORTFRANCES
BOUNDLESS



**ENHANCING THE EXISTING
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
(BUSING)
IN THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT**



ROMA CONFERENCE 2020

**PRESENTATION TO THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE MULRONEY
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION**



Meeting with: **Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation
2020 ROMA Conference – January 19 to 21, 2020**

Prepared by: **Doug Brown, CAO**

Subject: **Enhancing the Existing Transportation Service (Busing) Offered in
the Rainy River District**

A large majority of the citizens of Fort Frances, now in their senior years will be required to travel to Thunder Bay or Winnipeg to gain access to medical specialists and/or facilities. Currently there are no private or public transportation service providers (Busing) who offer these services on a **daily** basis. As a result of the hard work and leadership of the Fort Frances Age-Friendly Committee, an action plan was developed for 2017 to 2020 (*See attached Brochure*). One of the main objectives of this action plan was to ensure that a dependable daily transportation service was available for medical related travel.

Through the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Town understands that Ontario Northland Transportation Corporation offers publicly funded daily transportation service as far north as Hearst, Ontario. However, currently in the Rainy River District there is only one privately owned company, Kasper who offers these services seven days per week to Thunder Bay only and offers no service to Winnipeg (*See attached Kasper Bus Schedule*).

The population of the Rainy River District is aging such that a reliable daily public transportation service is vital to secure access to medical specialists and/or facilities. Citizens of the Rainy River District should be entitled to the same level of public funded transportation services being offered in other districts in the northern region of the province.

The Town of Fort Frances would like assurance that strategies are being considered to enhance the present transportation service (Busing) being offered to all the citizens in the Rainy River District including the Town of Fort Frances.

Contact

Douglas Brown, CAO

Town of Fort Frances

Phone – 807-274-5323 extension 1213

Email – dbrown@fortfrances.ca

Thunder Bay - Fort Frances - Thunder Bay

(Every Day)

From	Departure	Departure	To	Arrival	Arrival
	(CT)	(ET)		(CT)	(ET)
Thunder Bay (947 Memorial Avenue)	08:00	09:00	Kakabeka (Esso Gas Station)	08:26	09:26
Kakabeka (Esso Gas Station)	08:28	09:28	Sapawe Motel (Hwy 623 and 11)	10:05	11:05
Sapawe Motel (Hwy 623 and 11)	10:07	11:07	Atikokan (Esso Gas Station)	10:25	11:25
Atikokan (Esso Gas Station)	10:30	11:30	Seine River Village (Band Office at 37 Riverside Rd W)	11:20	12:20
Seine River Village (Band Office at 37 Riverside Rd W)	11:22	12:22	Fort Frances (McDonald's)	12:30	13:30
Fort Frances (McDonald's)	13:00	14:00	Seine River Village (Band Office at 37 Riverside Rd W)	14:08	15:08
Seine River Village (Band Office at 37 Riverside Rd W)	14:10	15:10	Atikokan (Esso Gas Station)	14:59	15:59
Atikokan (Esso Gas Station)	15:04	16:04	Sapawe Motel (Hwy 623 and 11)	15:22	16:22
Sapawe Motel (Hwy 623 and 11)	15:24	16:24	Kakabeka (Esso Gas Station)	17:02	18:02
Kakabeka (Esso Gas Station)	17:04	18:04	Thunder Bay (947 Memorial Avenue)	17:30	18:30

Fort Frances Age-Friendly Committee Action Plan 2017-2020



COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITAL CARE SYSTEM

Increase in beds available. Wait times reduced.
1. Advocate to provincial and federal governments to increase available beds and reduce wait times in hospitals.

LONG AND SHORT TERM CARE OPTIONS

Assisted living facility in place. Directory in place.
1. Advocate to establish adequate assisted living facility in Fort Frances
2. Establish comprehensive directory of services available.

HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Delivery service in place.
1. Establish delivery service for medical supplies and essentials.

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Increase in government support. Nurse Practitioner clinics in place.
1. Advocate to provincial and federal governments regarding shortage of primary care providers in Fort Frances
2. Establish availability of Nurse practitioners in Seniors' Homes.

VISION:

Fort Frances is an age friendly community where older adults can live actively and safely with dignity, respect and independence.

MISSION:

The primary mission of the Fort Frances Age Friendly Committee is to ensure healthy active aging for older adults in accordance with the World Health Organizations eight essential elements of an Age Friendly Community.

**If you have any questions or concerns or for further information
please email agefriendly@fortfrances.ca**



PLANNING THEME AREAS:

Creation of the plan was based on the guidance offered by the eight dimensions created by the World Health Organization that describe an age-friendly community.

These planning theme areas are as follows:

1. Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect and Social Inclusion
6. Civic Participation and Employment
7. Communication and Information
8. Community Support and Health Services

STEP 1: DEFINING LOCAL PRINCIPLES

A steering committee was established. The committee consisted of ten committed members plus a coordinator, who were responsible for completing the work of the project and ensuring that the results are in line with the community's values. The members of the committee are from various organizations and service groups and represent a diverse cross section of our community to ensure a comprehensive planning process.

The next task was to create committee guiding principles. This would involve the establishment of Vision, Mission and Values for our Age Friendly Committee's strategic plan. The diverse membership of our committee greatly supported the further task of building partnerships with our community stakeholders. The final task undertaken in step one was the creation of an Age Friendly Community Profile.

STEP 2: CUSTOM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A COMMUNITY EVALUATION

Committee needed to assess the age-friendliness of the Fort Frances Community. This stage of the process identified what is working well in the community and where our challenges lie. The needs assessment reflected how the community stands regarding the eight planning theme areas mentioned previously. The tools used are as follows:

- Survey (already in progress)
- Focus groups

The results of these assessments helped us know what is in place and what needs to be developed.

STEP 3: DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN

This stage of the process had the committee analyze the data from the needs assessment and identify specific strategies to eliminate any barriers to the Town of Fort Frances becoming an Age Friendly Community. These strategies were used to develop an action plan with specific goals and objectives.

Completion of this third step resulted in the completion of the project as outlined in the grant application. A fourth step of implementation and Evaluation of the plan will follow. The committee will evaluate progress and plan for this phase now that the first three steps have been completed.