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396 Scott St.
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1G9



July 8, 2014

Fort Frances Town Council
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Active transportation and safety- on-road bike lane along Colonization Road W.

A recent local meeting and the July 3rd article '*Bike lanes eyed for west-end road*' in the Fort Frances Times have brought attention to safety concerns faced by pedestrians and cyclists, including children and families using Colonization Road W.

The Northwestern Health Unit, along with concerned parents and other local stakeholders would like to work with the Town to improve safety and active transportation for all users along this well-travelled road.

We acknowledge the fiscal restraints the Town is currently experiencing and would like to work together to find solutions at little or no cost to the Town. We would like to propose the following to Town Council and its applicable Planning and Executive Committees:

1. **An on-road bike path running along both sides of Colonization Road W. between Oakwood Ave and Biddison Road:** Based on our local Active Transportation Plan and discussions with municipal staff/councilors, this path is approximately 3200 lm. Based on with final estimates from the Town, we will work to secure funds for paint, signage, markings and any other municipal/provincial requirements for an on-road bike path.
2. **In-kind support from the Town:** If we can secure funds for project materials, we would like to ask if the Town is able to provide in-kind services including staff labour/time for marking and painting as well as town equipment to complete painting for the on-road bike path.
3. **On-street parking bylaw amendment:** We would like to request an amendment to current parking bylaw and request no on-street parking between 7am and 9pm. Several people have monitored parking along the route and on-street parking seems to be minimal in this area, so we don't anticipate this will negatively impact local residents.

Other initiatives associated with project: There is work underway with other stakeholders (OPP, Police Services Board, local school, coalitions and residents) to install the OPP speed sign to increase awareness about speed and safety along this corridor. We are also exploring the possibility of implementing a local bike train or walking school bus to encourage more children to walk and bike to school along safe routes.

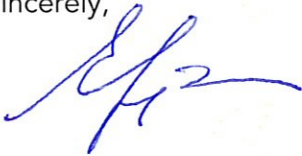
Project timelines and approval: If it is possible for Town staff, we are hoping to work with staff and councilors to seek appropriate approvals, and, ideally, have the project completed for the new school year in September.

Over the last several years, several local coalitions, municipal staff and stakeholders have worked on improving pedestrian safety and active transportation opportunities in Fort Frances. We applaud the Town of Fort Frances staff and council, key stakeholders, media partners and volunteers for their ongoing support related to active and safe routes.

We will continue to work on a comprehensive approach that will ensure that the best design and safety features are in place to create a supportive environment where it will be easier for all populations to be safe and active.

If you require further information, please contact me at 274-9827 ext. 3638 or efischer@nwhu.on.ca. We look forward to discussing this exciting project with the Town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EF2', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Elaine Fischer
Health Promoter

Dear Town Council,

The reason why we need a bike lane is because for our safety. Cars go really fast on the road and we want to stay as far away from the cars as we can.

Another reason for the lane is for our health. If you are not healthy, you will spend a lot of your time inside and at the doctor's office.

The last reason is so that we can bike to school. When you bike to school you stay healthy and you can talk and hang with your friends while staying safe.

Sincerely,

Kade Oster