

Fort Frances Mayor & Council
320 Portage Ave.
Fort Frances ON
P9A 3P9

April 21, 2021

Dear Mayor, June Caul, and Fort Frances Council:

RE: Renaming of Colonization Road East and Colonization Road West.

Our Fort Frances Mayor and Council are to be commended for deciding to change the names of Colonization Roads. Commended for changing the street names which originated during a dark, painful period in Canadian, as well as world, history. These words are a constant reminder of "white man" domination! You are entrusted to make a challenging, important decision. A decision that requires serious thought, discussions and the time to process all suggestions.

Words are important! Words have consequences. Words invoke different thoughts, feelings and interpretations for different people, depending on culture, education and personal, or historical, experience.

Enough streets and avenues, in our town, are named after "white men". Men who might be significant, to some people, for a brief historical period in time.

Before the Colonization Roads were named, there was a trail that meandered along the entire Rainy River. A River that was not only beautiful but also very significant to all peoples and animals who travelled east, west, north and south. A "hub". Probably this trail was initially made by Indigenous people for hunting and fishing as well as travel. Deer would also have utilized this trail, as they do to this day. Therefore a suggestion, to throw into the hat, is DEERFOOT TRAIL EAST and DEERFOOT TRAIL WEST. These names are generic, significant to all people and HISTORICAL in nature.

I trust that an Indigenous person will be involved in making this important decision.
Thank you for your consideration,

Erma Armit
301-611 Nelson St.
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1B6
PH: 807-275-8629