



Dear Your Worship Roy Avis, and Honourable Councillors,

Find attached below the names and locations of signatories to the petition to rename Colonization Road. We are of the firm belief that the road is outdated and celebrates a dark aspect of our history. Growing up in Fort Frances, you learn to not question the road. I myself never thought about it until I received comments about it during my time in Thunder Bay, studying at Lakehead University. This road makes Fort Frances look stuck 40 years in the past to anybody not from the immediate area. Saying that my hometown has not one but two "Colonization Roads" is something I say with shame.

2017 marks 150 years of Canadian Confederation, yet marks thousands of years of living in North America for Indigenous peoples. Colonization and settlement of these lands by Europeans was a disastrous one-sided process in which acts of war, assimilation, and genocide were directed towards our Indigenous peoples. These acts are in the past, and unfortunately we cannot change them. We can, however, change our future. Will Fort Frances be a town that continues to commemorate these horrible acts, or will Fort Frances move towards the future in an act of reconciliation and partnership? Some may say this is "just a road" and that people need to "get over it." To them I reply Fort Frances has renamed roads for less, with much less antagonism directed towards the efforts. Renaming our town's Colonization Roads would let the world know that Fort Frances is looking to the future and is fostering positive relationships with our Indigenous residents.

This is what I have to say about this petition, as the person that started it. Below are comments from other signatories expressing why they want the change:

"True reconciliation starts from within."

~Candace McCormick

"I am signing this petition because I believe it's about time. This has nothing to do with how I feel about the actual name but everything to do with the way original people have reacted to it. That is very important to me because we have not shown enough sensitivity or sense to do anything about these things in the past. I will be releasing a book that I have written that deals with this issue quite extensively and in particular in the last section all about colonization and

why the word is offensive. I'm aware of it and I support this petition 100%. As a passing thought I must admit when I first moved to Fort Frances I live at 1233 colonization Road West and I never gave it any consideration at all because I thought it was a rather neat name. So I too did not understand the significance of this name and how much it hurt those people in the know."

~Jack Hedmanjack

"When explaining "colonization" to my children, they said, "That is awful. Change the name."

I agree with them....."

~Brad Oster

"As an indigenous person from Fort Frances I believe this is an important step in reconciliation and decolonization."

~Erin Gustafson

Now it is up to you as the mayor and councillors to act on this. Will the issue be ignored and Fort Frances continue to be mocked as a "racist small town" or will you show leadership and work towards positive change, involving the community and surrounding areas in a true act of reconciliation? The ball is in your court.

Sincerely a concerned resident,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dawson Mihichuk'.

Dawson Mihichuk

Recipient: Mayor and Members of Council

Letter: Greetings,

Fort Frances Mayor and Council: As a resident of Fort Frances I find the name Colonization Road to be offensive to Fort Frances' aboriginal community and detrimental to the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Fort Francesians.

Please work to change the name of Colonization Road,