

From: Sheri De Gagné <biddesoncreek@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Town <town@fortfrances.ca>
Cc: Andrew Hallikas <ahallikas@fortfrances.ca>; Travis Rob <trob@fortfrances.ca>
Subject: Complaint regarding pedestrian safety on Colonization Rd W

05 February 2020

The Town of Fort Frances is a designated Safe Community. The four areas of priority for our Safe Communities Rainy River District are: 1. Falls for all age demographics 2. Work & leisure injuries 3. Mental Health including substance abuse & self-harm 4. Transport Injuries involving any injuries that occur during any type of transportation.

We are writing with concern regarding #1 & #4.

Ourselves & others living on the 1200 block of Colonization Road West have for years expressed concern &/or taken action regarding pedestrian safety on this stretch of Highway 602 during winter months. As you are aware there is no sidewalk west of Biddeson Avenue on Colonization Rd. Many vehicle drivers ("pulp" trucks, school buses, & other vehicles including snow machines) have tendency to 'cut' the corners when driving. Many drivers travel at unsafe speeds. Drivers on this road are no different except that the 1200 block section has an almost 90° curve at each end, and another curve in the middle section. As the snow accumulates on the road, and when the snow plow operator 'cuts the corners' the road becomes considerably narrower. We & some neighbours, to increase pedestrian safety, remove snow from the actual roadway with each snowfall, before and after the snowplow operator makes a pass. As we age this becomes increasingly more difficult. For example, Herb Snow at 1203 Colonization Rd W for many years, until his health prevented him, would create a well used walkway in the snow along his property fence line to increase pedestrians' safety.

Due to high snowbanks, and the two almost 90° curves, visibility for both drivers & pedestrians is very limited. People, including children & seniors, have no option to get off the vehicle travelled portion of the road which may lead to injury &/or death. Most pedestrians, to increase their personal safety, are walking with their backs to traffic on the wrong side of the road when near the two curves.

Our recommendations are that as the Town of Fort Frances wants to remain a Safe Community for all people, and Colonization Road West is already a priority road for snow plowing

1. The 1200 block of Colonization Road West from the McIrvine Rink to Riverview Cemetery be designated to have snow cleared from curb to curb
2. When snow banks at critical areas, such as the two almost 90° curves, are higher than 0.6m, the snow be pushed away even further from the curb onto the boulevard or hauled away.
3. Our concern be investigated by the Operations and Facilities executive committee

Thank you for your consideration to keep pedestrian safety as a priority.

Michael & Sheri De Gagné
1233 Colonization Road West
Fort Frances