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# Pelican Narrows Youth Council

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Pelican Narrows Youth Council  
General Delivery  
Pelican Narrows, SK  
SOP 0E0

Dear Sir's & Madams:

The Pelican Narrows Youth Council (PNYC) is a group of mostly high school students in Pelican Narrows who are making a difference. Working with elders, local leadership and a youth worker, they identify challenges and solutions for their community. They continue to grow and inspire their peers to join them, not only in Pelican Narrows but in other Northern communities.

One of the desires of the PNYC is to set up a Students Against Drinking and Driving (SADD) chapter in either our community of Pelican Narrows and/or on the northeast side of the province. Approximately a year ago, we lost two people to drinking and driving. The road they were on has and always been a very dangerous part of the highway, even when not under the influence. This is on highway 135 north of Pelican Narrows towards Sandy Bay. Your assistance in setting up a chapter would be appreciated.

The PNYC embarks on many trips out of the community for educational purposes and we travel on highway 135, as well as on highway 106 with a 15 passenger van. It was disheartening to find out that the Special Committee on Traffic Safety flew to Pelican Narrows rather than drive the roads our people are concerned with and have to travel, on a daily basis. It defeats the purpose don't you think?

There are many curves on highway 135 that need to be inspected for safety. Highway 106 is also a highway that is hard on our vehicles, including the medical taxis and ambulance that have to travel on this highway for emergencies. This highway is poorly maintained and has been for years when we compare it with northwest Saskatchewan. We are aware that highways leading to La Ronge and to west side communities such as Beauval, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Buffalo Narrows are very well maintained. We only ask for the same treatment.

Speeding is a major issue in our community and on the highways. We need more signage to remind motorists to "slow down, we love our children", "school zone", "speed limit", "speed kills", etc. Motorists tend to speed on the highway between the community and the Narrows, where the two bridges are currently being replaced. Motorists from out of town such as delivery and fuel trucks speed thinking they are still on a highway not realizing they're actually in the community and should slow down.

Speaking of signage, two of our lakes on highway 135 do not have signs indicating what lakes they are. There is also a little stretch of highway by each lake and metal guard rails are seriously needed on these stretches of highway. They are greatly needed for safety. Sadly in late fall of 2011, the late Mr. James Gallagher went missing for months and was sadly found in one of these lakes, in his truck in May 2012.

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This is a perfect example of where a rail alongside that lake may have saved his life and/or helped to locate him much sooner.

One suggestion to the Traffic Safety Committee is to provide companies and businesses' doing any travel up into our neck of the woods is to provide them with the actual curvature of some of our roads. If you had driven our highway, you would see the new bridge beam they tried to bringing into our community and where it ended up. I suggest you take a drive out to the Narrows where the two bridges are being replaced and you will see for yourselves what we are talking about.

Another concern our community has is dust control. It is not done nearly often enough, in fact, during the course of the summer; it is only done a few times. Semi's, huge delivery and fuel trucks, coming into Pelican Narrows and driving through to Sandy Bay, as well as the many vehicles constantly driving in the community, raises a lot of dust! Therefore people have a hard time walking and breathing in the dust, especially our elderly. Community members will not walk on the roads or highway to exercise because of it.

With all the ruts on the roads, there is also the potential for many of the trucks to skip and bounce, rocks and other debris are also kicked up, thereby making it unsafe for people to walk...again another reason why people will not exercise. Trying to live a healthy lifestyle and exercising deters our people from walking alongside the roads.

One of the recommendations is the build a board walk from the community all the way to the Narrows and maybe even on highway 135 towards Sandy Bay. Many of our community members would exercise by walking if they had a safe route to walk.

We'd like to thank the Traffic Safety Committee for coming into our community to hear our concerns. Our preference would have been for you to physically drive the very roads we are concerned about so that you could see for yourself what we are concerned about. Nonetheless, thank you for any consideration on making our highways a safer place to travel and walk.

Respectfully submitted,

Pelican Narrows Youth Council

c.c. PBCN Chief Peter A. Beatty  
Pelican Narrows local Band Council  
MLA Doyle Vermette