

## COMMUNITY PETITION & SUPPORT REQUEST

### **Subject: Immediate Action Required – Maple Drive Heavy Truck Traffic Relief and Johnston Bridge Restoration**

To:

- City of Quesnel Mayor and Council
- Cariboo Regional District Representatives
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)

**Date:** July 06, 2025

**From:** Irate Residents of Maple Drive, Quesnel BC

### **RE: Ongoing Degradation of Maple Drive Quality of Life Due to Unresolved Commercial Truck Diversion**

We, the undersigned residents and community members of Maple Drive and surrounding areas in Quesnel, BC, urgently call upon the City of Quesnel, the Cariboo Regional District, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to address a matter that has now persisted for over **seven years** without satisfactory resolution.

#### **Background**

In **October 2018**, commercial and heavy industrial truck traffic was **diverted onto Maple Drive** due to the structural degradation and subsequent closure of the **Johnston Bridge**. Since **October 9, 2018**, only vehicles with a **GVWR under 10,000 kg** have been permitted on the bridge.

While Maple Drive residents were initially told this diversion would be **temporary**, we are now entering **year seven** of continuous, disruptive, and dangerous commercial truck traffic in what is otherwise a quiet **residential area and school zone**.

Although some rehabilitation work began in **summer 2024**, **no meaningful progress** has since been communicated or completed. This continued inaction has now become **unacceptable**.

#### **Major Concerns**

The quality of life, safety, and well-being of Maple Drive residents are being severely impacted due to:

- **Unrelenting noise pollution** starting as early as **4:00 AM** and continuing until **well after 10:00 PM**, seven days a week.
- **Diesel spills** on hills and road surfaces, creating environmental and road safety hazards.
- **Increased air pollution, odors, and dust levels** from aging and poorly regulated trucks.
- **Road degradation** and rising risk of accidents in **school zones and residential intersections**.
- **Devaluation of property values** due to the risks, noise, and industrial intrusion.
- **Ever-rising property taxes**, while the burden of this truck rerouting has never been **consented to by Maple Drive residents**.

## Community Demands

We respectfully demand the following actions:

**1. Accelerated and Complete Restoration of Johnston Bridge:**

- Expedite the remaining phases of construction.
- Close the bridge entirely for the remainder of **2025** if that will enable full and uninterrupted repairs.

**2. Commercial Truck Time Restrictions on Maple Drive:**

- Allow commercial truck traffic only **between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on weekdays**.
- Ban commercial truck traffic on weekends, holidays, and during school zone hours.

**3. Enforcement of Emissions, Noise, and Safety Regulations:**

- MOTI and City Bylaws must enforce regulations for **noise, speed, and emissions**.
- Immediate cleanup protocols and fines for **fuel or chemical spills**.

**4. Development of Alternative Routing Solutions:**

- **Surface and reinforce Richbar Road to Red Bluff Road**, rerouting trucks directly to **Highway 97**, entirely **bypassing Maple Drive, residential neighborhoods** and schools

## Final Word

The residents of Maple Drive did not vote or consent to become a **permanent detour route** for heavy trucks. This situation, initially labeled temporary, has become an **abuse of public trust and community well-being**. We stand united in calling for swift action, transparency, and genuine community consultation moving forward.

## We now demand:

**1. A full intergovernmental roundtable meeting** with representatives from:

- The City of Quesnel
- CRD Directors (including Mary Sjostrom, Ron Paull, and Laurey-Anne Roodenburg)
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (Southern Interior)

This meeting should be scheduled **no later than 30 days from today**, to develop a clear and public action plan.

**2. A commitment to fast-track the full repair and reopening of the Johnston Bridge to heavy vehicles**, including setting and publishing a timeline with milestones and funding clarity.

**3. Interim protections for Maple Drive residents**, including:

- Restricted truck operating hours (8:00 AM–5:00 PM weekdays only)
- Improved enforcement of emissions, speed, and noise regulations
- Immediate consideration of **alternative commercial routing** via Richbar Road to Red Bluff Road, connecting to Highway 97

4. Outlining steps that will be taken to restore the safety, tranquility, and livability of Maple Drive soonest.

Sincerely,



**Clinton Emslie**

Chair, Cariboo-Prince George Federal Liberal EDA  
Former Liberal Candidate | Community Advocate

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**On behalf of the residents and concerned citizens of Maple Drive, Quesnel, BC**