

**News Release:
For Immediate Release**

Restricted Vehicle Access to Portage Avenue Underpass

The reconstruction of Portage Avenue Underpass will start on Monday, June 9th, 2008 for approximately a 25-week construction period. However, this construction season, Portage Avenue from Third Street to Fifth Street will be restricted to emergency vehicle traffic from nine am to eight pm Sunday to Thursday and on Fridays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for the first seven weeks of construction. During this restriction, general public vehicular traffic will not have access through the underpass. This restriction will commence on Tuesday, June 10th, 2008.

This daily road closure is necessary to protect the health and safety of the general public during the removal and installation of temporary sheet piling. In addition, there will be a requirement for a similar daily traffic restriction this fall, for a two-week period to remove the temporary sheet piling behind the newly constructed retaining wall.

The Town wishes the general public to be well informed of these traffic restrictions and to be confident that all emergency service agencies are well aware of the situation and have taken the appropriate steps to ensure continuous emergency services can be provided to the North End of the Community during this time frame.

These steps include an established protocol to allow emergency vehicles access through the construction zone during the daily road shutdown period, and alternate provisions to ensure access is available in the event that the primary route is unavailable. The public is being asked for their cooperation in ensuring that public safety, and reliable access for Emergency vehicles is maintained during the construction period.

Members of the general public needing vehicle access to the North end of Fort Frances, must utilize the McIrvine Road crossing during the restriction period of 9:00 am to eight pm Sunday to Thursday and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Fridays. One lane of the underpass will be open from eight pm to 9:00 am Sunday to Thursday, and four pm Friday evening, to nine am Sunday morning.

A pedestrian traffic walkway will be available and clearly marked during construction and all pedestrian traffic is encouraged to utilize this walkway. Utilizing Canadian National Railway property to cross from the North side to the South side of the tracks is dangerous, and will be considered a trespass by CNR.

The Town of Fort Frances would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding during the time when the underpass access is restricted to emergency vehicular traffic only.