

August 16, 2022
For Public Release

The Lugli and Konkle Families

Concerned Manitoba-Bound Motorists of Northwestern Ontario
Dryden, Ontario

The Honourable Heather Stefanson, M.L.A.,
Premier of the Province of Manitoba
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Sent via email premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

Dear Madam Premier:

On July 21, 2019, like so many parents who, year round, ferry their kids all over Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba, Mark Lugli was on the Trans Canada Highway driving his 17-year old son Jacob, a promising young golfer, from Dryden to Selkirk for a golf tournament.

Shortly after crossing the border onto Manitoba's portion of the Trans Canada Highway, or Highway 1, at a section of single highway near Barren Lake, an oncoming transport truck swerved directly into the path of Mark and Jacob's vehicle. It appears the eastbound transport was avoiding a vehicle that was completely stopped. The stopped vehicle's driver was, legally, seeking to turn left into the Barren Lake cottage community. Mark and Jacob perished instantly. As you can imagine, our families, and the communities in and around Dryden, Ontario, deal with this loss every day.

A court process into this incident is winding down. Sentencing is set to take place August 24, 2022 in Winnipeg. We make no comment on this process. We focus instead, to the extent we possibly can, on shining a light to prevent future family tragedies. About 5,000 motorists travel on that road every day. Tragedies along this 17 kilometers of perilous single highway road are less a question of if, than when.

It's time to act. Homeowners, cottagers, truckers, motorists and their passengers, and legislators of all stripes agree that the untwinned section of road is unreasonably and increasingly dangerous. First Nation communities have rallied successfully in favour of twinning efforts in Ontario as well. We have yet to hear any voice, save that of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, that is opposed to a commitment, today, to twin Manitoba's Highway 1 from the Ontario border.

It is past the time of thoughtful review. It is time for thoughtful engineering and roadwork – and solid Manitoba know-how to meet topographical challenges.

Moms and dads driving their kids to hockey games or golf tournaments or university or travel across the many far-flung cities and towns in this great part of the world should do so knowing they can get there and back with happy memories, empty coffee cups and maybe a stale Timbit or two.

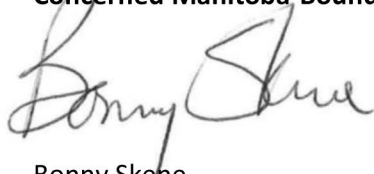
We respectfully call on you to commit the Government of Manitoba now to 'twin' the 17km of single-lane road that 5,000 motorists and their passengers use every day between the Ontario border and Falcon Lake. Building now will have the instantaneous benefit of slowing down traffic with road workers and hundreds of pylons orange constructions signs. Doing nothing but more review will increase the odds for new tragedies to occur on this Government's watch.

Respectfully,



Peter Lugli
(Pronounced "LOO-lee")
On behalf of the Lugli and Konkle Families

Concerned Manitoba-Bound Motorists of Northwestern Ontario



Bonny Skene