

Sherree Lind

Penticton, B.C.

October 26th, 2020

Letter to the Editor

Re: Major Kaleden traffic issues

I wrote a letter to the Editor (Penticton Herald and The Western), previous MLA Linda Larson and other MLA's, RDOS, MP's, Department of Highways etc. in January, 2018, discussing the many safety issues regarding traffic in and around Kaleden. I received a lot of "buck passing" and a direct quote from Linda Larson to "Be Patient". I will keep it simple this time around and discuss only one problem and the obvious and, I believe, somewhat inexpensive solution. Almost three years have passed since my first letter (attached) and there has been nothing done.

Travelling south on Highway 97 there are two lanes of traffic, one passing lane and one slower lane. As you travel south, there are MANY left-hand turnoffs. Three most problematic examples: 1. The turn off to Banbury Green Campsite. 2. Larch Street - (a major residential turn off). 3. The last gas station before Twin Lakes heading South. All 3 of these turnoffs require drivers to make a full stop in the fast lane which is obviously exceedingly dangerous! I know of at least one life altering accident at one of these turn offs. If a vehicle in the fast lane decides to turn in for gas, for instance, cars coming up behind them are often going well above 80 km/h and are left to put on the brakes or go back into the slow lane (which is often not possible). It seems that it is only a matter of time before somebody will die if the necessary traffic precautions are not put in place.

I am now asking, more forcefully, that at least those three turning lanes specified above (**Banbury Green, Larch Street and the Petro gas station**) be put in as soon as possible. Having the three major turnoffs fixed, would greatly circumvent further tragedies. "Being patient" is not good enough. We need this done NOW and I sincerely hope that the new MLA for Kaleden, Roly Russell will take this issue very seriously.

Sincerely,

Sherree Lind

Cc: RDOS, Ministry of Highways, MLA Roly Russell, ICBC, Infotel

Attachment - January 12, 2018 Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor

Sherree Lind

January 12, 2018

I work in Kaleden and I have noticed several potentially life threatening safety traffic concerns.

Concern 1 - Lakehill and Highway 97 exit urgently needs a traffic light.

When you turn right off Lakehill onto Highway 97 going towards Penticton, there is only one lane and traffic is travelling extremely fast. There is nowhere to go if you pull out and the oncoming traffic is going above the speed limit (it is very hard to judge).

When you are turning left off Highway 97 onto Lakehill there is a turning lane but it is extremely dangerous to get into the fast lane and then get into the turning lane just before Lakehill with cars whizzing by (annoyed that you are in the fast lane when you are clearly slowing down). It is not a good idea to go 80 and then slam into the turning lane. In the winter this is a huge concern! At least Lakehill **has** a turning lane. There are many places to turn left off the highway with no turning lanes. If a vehicle in the fast lane decides to turn in for gas, for instance, cars coming up behind them are often going well above 80 km/h and are left to put on the brakes. If the road conditions are anything but perfect, this will eventually result in a horrific accident. It seems that it is only a matter of time before somebody will die before the necessary traffic precautions are put in place.

Concern 2 - The area of Highway 97 that is around the Kaleden turn offs needs to have a speed limit more in line with other communities. The speed limit is 80 and there is no slowdown on the highway around the community of Kaleden. This is **only** a concern in Kaleden. There is **not only** a **slowdown** on Highway 97 at Red Wing, Trout Creek, Summerland, Peachland, Westbank etc. **but they all also have a traffic light.** Kaleden is a community that is equally important to all of the other communities in the Okanagan and it seems to me that this oversight must be corrected immediately before a serious accident occurs.

Concern 3 - There are no sidewalks on Linden Avenue where Kaleden School is located. The students are forced to walk on the street (a very narrow street) avoiding traffic as they walk. The cars are often not even aware that there is a school located on Linden. The signs as you turn right onto Linden only indicate Linden Gardens and wineries. There is no signage for the school until you are almost at the school. I believe Kaleden School is equally important to other

schools in our school district and sidewalks and better signage need to be taken into consideration. This situation becomes even more dangerous for the children of Kaleden in the winter when the snow is inadequately cleared and students are forced to walk even more on the street and cars are trying to maneuver around the children.

Thanks, Sherree Lind

Cc: RDOS

City of Penticton

Ministry of Highways

MLA Linda Larson

Dan Albas

ICBC

Infotel