

# CN derailment occurs near Chisholm

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for South Peace News

Eleven grain cars on a southbound CN train derailed near Chisholm at about 4 p.m. on June 27.

According to Patrick Waldron with CN Public Affairs, there were no dangerous goods involved, no injuries and no environmental impacts.

Chisholm resident Gene Crick says the derailment occurred about half a kilometre south of the hamlet and temporarily blocked the railroad crossing. He says crews responded within about 30 minutes of the derailment and added that there was “no doubt” CN had been out working on replacing the tracks all night. The track reopened to train traffic before noon the next day.

“I just don’t know what to think of it,” says Crick. “But something’s got to be done because, what the heck, three (derailments) in a row?”

Crick adds he and his wife, Maxine, had seen CN crews “going up and down the tracks” a couple of days prior to the incident, which is why they were surprised there was a derailment. Crick says the hamlet sees roughly 100-car trains come through the area every three hours or so.

About 12 families reside in Chisholm.

According to images submitted, the derailed grain cars seemed to be transporting canola seed.

“The mess that I’d seen was the tracks, a real mess; twisted right up in the air,” says Crick of the site. “It’s just like a cat came in and plowed it up.”

Barb Romaniuk, who lives in a mobile home next to the tracks, says she was gardening at the time.

“It was like a crushing sound and I knew,” she says.

The incident is still under investigation.