

## Fort Chipewyan to Fort Smith, Winter Road, ~224 Kilometers (53km ▼ , 171 km ▲ )



Not much better, in fact worse at first. For the first 50 km I could scarcely go 40 kph; my old truck was still taking a beating. Basically, a bulldozer had cleared a path through the forest; a grader had levelled, sort of, two paths, one out and another back to the depot. Then when I crossed the Peace River—with a bank to navigate that could have hung up on the crown a truck with trailer (not the only such crossing)—Parks Canada had done its thing, lovely roads, maybe paved under the icepack, on which I sped (80-90-100 kph) to Fort Smith, through 170 km of pristine “winter wonderland” boreal forest. A lovely trip—but not enough to make me forget the previous 260 km when Highway #63 ended at the last Oil Sands project site. Unless “she” was lovely and lonely in Fort Chipewyan—maybe even Fort McMurray—I would not take “the winter road to Fort McMurray” again!