

Edmonton man wants Trans Canada Trail completed in Alberta following death of wife



By Stephanie Dubois

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Courtesy of Alberta TrailNet. The map of the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta needs to be completed, according to one Edmonton man who has a petition circulating. Trail officials say they are currently working on getting the route from Edmonton to Calgary developed, among other trail portions in the province.

One's man cycling tragedy has turned into a petition and provincial ride for better bike trails in Alberta.

After losing his wife Elizabeth in a cycling accident while on vacation in P.E.I. in 2012, Edmontonian Edmund Aunger is **riding his bike** more than 2,750 kilometres from Edmonton to Winnipeg to raise awareness about the lack of completed Trans Canada Trail (TCT) paths in Alberta.

“When we tried to ride the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta, we were forced to abandon our efforts and travel on some very scary roads and highways. [Elizabeth] wanted to see [the Trans Canada Trail] completed, but most of all, she wanted it to be accessible, passable and safe,” said Aunger in a release.

Aunger has started a [petition](#) urging the Alberta government to finish the more than 1,200 kilometres of unfinished trail in the province by July 1, 2017, in time for Canada’s 150th anniversary celebrations.

With only 58 per cent of the TCT completed, officials say it can be difficult to get rural communities to agree on the trails.

“In the rural parts of the province, there’s not a lot of public land where it’s possible to develop trail. It takes a long time to develop a sense of trust and support to move ahead with rural projects,” said Linda Strong-Watson, executive director of Alberta TrailNet.

Aunger will leave on his journey shortly after 10 a.m. July 1 from the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in Louise McKinney Park.