

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:***

***OUR RIVER IS POLLUTED.***

***(James Smith Cree Nations Lands: August 27, 2016)*** The James Smith Cree Nations has been very heavily impacted by the Husky Oil Pipeline spill in the Northern Saskatchewan River that occurred near Maidstone, Saskatchewan earlier this summer. The North Saskatchewan River runs through our Nation and this oil spill has had adverse effects on our people's way of life.

As a Nation, we feel that the water is no longer safe. Our people can no longer fish, swim or enjoy these waters. We have had to put an indefinite hold on any activity on the North Saskatchewan River, and we have been given no timeline as to when we can return to our traditional way of life. We know that something must be done to protect our environment.

As a Sovereign Nation, we have taken it upon ourselves to take action and clean our river. The Creator made us keepers of our lands and we must do everything in our power to preserve them for generations to come. We must take into action to prevent the spill from causing contamination further down the river and affecting more wildlife.