

For Immediate Release:

James Smith Cree Nation Says Our Waters are Priceless
Oil Slick Found by Wapiti, a part of the JSCN Traditional Territory

(James Smith Cree Nation: August 31, 2016) The James Smith Cree Nation, concerned about the effects of this Oil Spill that continues to flow through our Nation, and subsequently flows out to our Traditional Territory and hunting areas, conducted an investigation at the Wapiti Ski Hill Resort area, and the area by the George Willis Bridge, north of Gronlid, Saskatchewan on Tuesday, August 30, 2016. What was found was truly horrendous. This traditional territory of the James Smith Cree Nation, as well other First Nations who use the river system for hunting, fishing, gathering of medicines and roots, and Non-First Nation People will be impacted by the Oil Slick and foam substances that were found at this site.

Photos taken at this site show that this is more than a "gear oil" spill, as is being spun by organizations associated with Husky Energy Inc. It is not from a "Car in the River" theory, as is proposed by others. This is a genuine oil spill, one that could only have come from the Husky Oil Spill that occurred on July 23, 2016 at or near Maidstone, Saskatchewan. There is no other explanation. No explanations have been given to our First Nation on any of this. The information that we have gained thus far is information that we, as the James Smith Cree Nation, has had to fight for. Lines of communication need to be open, they need to be honest with us on what clearly happened, and we need to be fully included in the process that has already occurred.

What we want is for the Saskatchewan River to be restored to its original, pristine condition. We want acknowledgement from Husky Oil that they are responsible for this spill. They have clearly acknowledged to the Cities of North Battleford and Prince Albert, and even Melfort was acknowledged by Husky that this spill was their (Husky Oil's) problem and responsibility. We, as First Nation People, the first people in these lands, the keepers of the sacred waters and lands, are not given the common courtesy of being acknowledged.