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**JAMES SMITH CREE NATION**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Department of Fisheries cares more about Husky Oil than pollution on North Saskatchewan River

Today On October 5th 2016, in Prince Albert Saskatchewan.

James Smith Cree Nation met with Husky Energy Officials and Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials to review the SCAT (Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Treatment) that took place last week on the James Smith Cree Nation. James Smith is concerned that the oil covered debris logs and driftwood that are on 20 plus logjams and debris piles will be left on the First Nation river banks. Also that only the bare minimum is being done to remove tar covered logs and driftwood from its river banks of the North Saskatchewan River. Yesterday DFO and Husky official had a conference call to determine the course of action that should take place to remove the debris from James Smith Cree Nation lands. There was no consultation or involvement of the First Nation in this conference call nor was there any input towards this. This is the same approach as before as First Nation is being treated as a second-class citizens and that the "they know best attitude."

James Smith Cree Nation had requested that all debris that had possibly been in touch with the tar covered debris in the piles be removed, as the community fears further contamination. James Smith feels that the policy of only removing the non-oiled wood in its current position in the contaminated logjams and driftwood piles is comical and bureaucratic stupidity at its finest. Further questioning DFO logic James Smith Cree Nation had requested to build a small bridge over Pehonan creek however officials turned this down citing that this was a spawning source. This is troublesome as a large debris pile with tar covered wood is sitting at the mouth of the creek. If DFO is so concerned of the state of the North Saskatchewan River, then all the oil debris should be removed from the North Saskatchewan River in order to protect the endangered Lake Sturgeon. James Smith states more environmental damage would be done in order to sort out the wood piles and place it to the sides and possibly contaminating a larger surface area on the river banks. Furthermore, the driftwood would further be washed down stream to the Francois-Finlay Hydro dam approximately 70 Km downstream situated at Nipawin and contaminate the water reservoir to Melfort and the Codette Reservoir. This debris would then be removed by Hydro workers from the reservoir in order to prevent it from going through the dam hydro turbines. Chief Wally Burns states, " It's a shame that DFO Minister Dominique Leblanc is allowing the polluter to dictate what they should clean rather than letting an impartial 3rd party or their own officials make that choice". One Husky Official was noted saying on a telephone call that they were only removing this driftwood on James Smith Cree Nation and anywhere else they would just leave it.