

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatchewan starts an Indiegogo Fundraising Effort:

(James Smith Cree Nations Territory, September 21, 2016): Since the Husky Oil Spill in July of 2016, the James Smith Cree Nation has been requesting that Husky Energy Inc. do the right thing and provide the First Nation with adequate financial assistance to begin clean-up efforts of the Saskatchewan River that runs directly through the river system, and to help monitor the water quality of this river.

Two proposals have been delivered to Husky officials, requesting that the energy company provide financial assistance, since the Oil that was spilled and subsequently reached and leaked in to the North Saskatchewan River near Maidstone, Saskatchewan was their responsibility. Each proposal has been turned down, with no clear reasons given.

The James Smith Cree Nation is concerned with reports that Husky Energy Inc. is working with other organizations at different parts of the North Saskatchewan River on clean-up efforts and intentions and has signed a clean-up contract with Clean Harbors of Canada for 1 billion dollars to complete shoreline cleanup.

The James Smith Cree Nation had no start-up budget for the clean-up efforts involved with this oil spill. The James Smith Cree Nation was not informed of the spill until the water that flows through the James Smith Cree Nation Territory was already contaminated. Something had to be done, as keepers of the Lands and Waters, the First Nation had to act. What was done was that the First Nation used \$17,000 (seventeen thousand dollars), which was initially identified within the First Nation to be used for the purchase of a water pump, in an effort to offset flooding which occurs on First Nations Lands, and used these funds to begin clean-up operations. To date \$150,000 dollars has been spent on clean-up efforts, and there are further costs to be determined.

The community is worried that the tar covered debris that is now being found on the shoreline of the Saskatchewan River will not be cleaned properly, and will be left on the James Smith Cree Nations 14 miles of river banks and that the James Smith Cree Nation will be responsible for the costs of the clean up over the winter and will further contaminate the river water in the spring runoff. The community is desperate and has started fund-raising efforts, as Husky Energy Inc. has not provided any indication that they are going to take our compensation requests seriously.

Husky officials have indicated that they are looking at some form of financial assistance, but the James Smith Cree Nation is going to proceed with this fundraising initiative, as there is no official guarantee of funds as of yet. The deadline of October 3rd, 2016 is the date of record. If Husky does not provide any financial assistance, then we will continue to proceed with the clean-up efforts.

The James Smith Cree Nation hopes that Li Ka-Shing, majority owner of Husky Energy Inc., who is from Hong Kong China and according to Wikipedia, lists himself as a philanthropist, will see this fundraising effort and will make a financial contribution to this Indiegogo fundraising site.