



Nipiy Pimatisiwin

Mario Swampy

Councillor and Nipiy Committee Chair

Samson Cree Nation



Background

- ◆ Samson Cree Nation (Nipisihkopahk) is one of the Four Maskwacis Nation's within Treaty Six Territory in Alberta. Through Samson Cree Nation's governance structures there has been a push for water governance, water sovereignty, and the need to strategize Nipiy Pimatisiwin (Water is Life).
- ◆ In 2013 the Nipiy Committee was created. The focus for the Nipiy Committee is to represent the Nation's interest in managing, protecting, and enhancing water resources.

Committee Composition

- ◆ Mario Swampy – Chairman – Samson Cree Nation Council Member
- ◆ Katherine Swampy – Samson Cree Nation Council
- ◆ Frank Buffalo – Samson Cree Nation Council
- ◆ Patrick Cutknife – Samson Cree Nation Elder
- ◆ Shalaize Nepoose – Samson Cree Nation Youth
- ◆ Sherina Crier – Samson Cree Nation Youth (MEM)
- ◆ Dennis Louis – Samson Cree Nation Water Operator
- ◆ Danika Littlechild
- ◆ Travis Hnidan
- ◆ Fraser Mah
- ◆ Michael McKnight – Maskwacis Environmental Health Officer
- ◆ Claudine Buffalo – Samson Cree Nation Chief’s Executive Assistant
- ◆ Kyra Northwest – Samson Cree Nation Traditional Land Use Lead
- ◆ Kaylyn Buffalo – Samson Cree Nation Project Officer

Plan for Water

- ◆ Samson Cree Nation has developed a vision for water security and water sovereignty by creating a Water Plan that has solutions to obtain:
 - ◆ safe drinking water
 - ◆ access to sufficient quantity of water for future generations
 - ◆ jurisdictional control over SCN's water resources
 - ◆ implementation of conservation and protection initiatives
 - ◆ capacity within SCN to manage water supply and quality assurance

Plan for Water

- ◆ Resource management to address current health issues (boil water advisories); estimate future needs and impact from community growth on resources; and establish a process for risk management.
- ◆ Infrastructure program to assess, maintain and improve the integrity of source wells and water lines, audit the water and wastewater treatment systems, and evaluate flood risk.
- ◆ Self Sufficiency, Capacity, and Indigenous Governance.
- ◆ The plan is informed and guided by the vision, mission, and values of Samson Cree Nation and the Nipiy Committee.

Water Law/Bylaw

- ◆ Samson Cree Nation created our own Water Law/Bylaw in 2016.
- ◆ Inclusive of our Natural Laws, teaching, and Indigenous Knowledge.
- ◆ Respectful of Treaty, Self-Government, and the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ◆ Covers Groundwater Permits, Waterworks Permits, Priority of Water Uses, Water Management and Water Systems, Water Supply, and Regulations.

Keys to Success

- ◆ Natural Law takes precedence
- ◆ Treaty Relationship
 - ◆ Education of Treaty for Government
- ◆ Self Determination
- ◆ Indigenous Water Governance and Sovereignty
- ◆ Diversity of the Committee
- ◆ “For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and **the waters flow.**”

Ekosi

- ◆ Mario Swampy - mario_73@hotmail.com