Nipiyy Pimatisiwin

Mario Swampy
Councillor and Nipiyy Committee Chair
Samson Cree Nation
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 Member
- Frank Buffalo – Samson Cree Nation Council Member
- 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 Nipi Committee.
Samson Cree Nation created our own Water Law/Bylaw in 2016.

Inclusive of our Natural Laws, teaching, and Indigenous Knowledge.


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