



PRESS RELEASE

Contact Name: Bridget Andrews
Company: Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
Tel: 306-631-9254
Email: skwatersheds@gmail.com
www.saskwatersheds.ca

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation awarded the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds 2020 Stewardship Award

January 23, 2020 - Saskatoon, SK - The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation is the 2020 Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds Provincial Stewardship award winner. This award is presented to a nominated party – an individual, group, organization or agency - in Saskatchewan that exemplifies leadership and/or commitment to the protection of source waters and enhancement of a Saskatchewan Watershed.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation was nominated by the North Saskatchewan River Basic Council (NSRBC) for their leadership and enhancement of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed. In 2008, Muskeg Lake partnered in creating a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP). A SWPP is a document aimed at outlining how to protect source water quality and quantity within a watershed/community. Source water protection is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to ensuring safe drinking water.

In 2019, Muskeg Lake reviewed their 2008 SWPP and identified new risks to their source waters and renewed their plan. They also linked their new SWPP to their Emergency Response Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan. In partnership with NSRBC, their culvert infrastructure has been mapped to help with source water protection and flood management.

Along with the SWPP, Muskeg Lake has planted a food forest to help improve the riparian landscape and help their community's food security. The food forest will also be used for youth education in regards to water, environment and food sovereignty.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation is in the process of reclaiming their garbage dump and building a waste transfer station. The garbage from the dump has been decommissioned and waste management strategies have been implemented in order to reduce waste being put into the landfill. They are working to implement a new lagoon for their community that will improve effluent being released.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation aims to provide leadership through example of their focus and initiative in protecting their local watershed, environment and future. The Kihiwaciston School implements land based learning where young people can learn traditional practices. This will ensure a new generation of watershed stewards protecting and leading a positive future of watershed stewardship.

SAW would like to congratulate Muskeg Lake Cree Nation on their success, leadership and innovative ways to protect their watershed for future generations.