



SAMSON CREE NATION

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Chief and Council Message Regarding Samson Cree Nation Referendum 2022

Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution)

Over the past few years Samson Cree Nation has been working on a key document: the Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution). As Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak, we have always had a Constitution. It has been in place since time immemorial, but it was, for the most part, unwritten. With the support of the Elders Advisory Committee, technicians, and the community's feedback we have been able to revitalize and record our Constitution in the Cree Language.

By way of background, in the fall of 2017, the Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council established a technical committee and an Elders Advisory Committee with the mandate to 'write down' Samson Cree Nation's Constitution. The Committee's goal was to review Indigenous Laws connected to the Constitution and our ways of being as Cree people. In recording Paminikew wîyasiwewin, the Committee reviewed previous versions of the Constitution, our Elder's oral history and community input and were able to provide direction and guidance in the revitalization of the Constitution.

Our recorded Constitution, Paminikew wîyasiwewin, demonstrates our commitment to our Cree language and traditions. It provides a foundation for Samson Cree Nation to build on as we continue to practice sovereignty. It sets out the main rights and responsibilities of Samson Cree Nation people and the responsibilities and rights of Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council. The English translation of Paminikew wîyasiwewin is for reference only.

The attached Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution), has been approved by the Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council and is put forward to Samson Cree Nation's members for consideration and approval in a referendum. The question to be decided in the referendum is: Do you affirm and adopt Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation's Constitution)?

The approval of the Samson Cree Nation members is required before we can implement the written text of Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation's Constitution). To approve our Constitution, we require 50% plus one of those who cast votes in the Referendum to vote "Yes".

Your participation in the referendum process is vital to deciding whether the proposed Constitution should be enacted for Samson Cree Nation. Please see the attached notice for more information on where and when to vote. Should you have any further questions we have appointed Eileen Sasakamoose as the Referendum Officer. Any questions can be directed to her. She can be contacted via phone at (780) 974-7905 or via email at esasakam@gmail.com.

Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council

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Samson Cree Nation Referendum 2022



NOTICE

ATTENTION: SAMSON CREE NATION MEMBERS

**Samson Cree Nation Constitution Referendum 2022
Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution)**

On July 12, 2022, the Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council agreed to hold a Referendum regarding the Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution) on Monday, September 26, 2022.
Motion SCM-08-07-22-#02.

BALLOT QUESTION: Do you affirm and adopt the Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution)? Yes or No

Referendum Voting Day, Monday, September 26, 2022
POLLING STATIONS

Polling Stations will be set up from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm at the following locations.

Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre
Maskwacis, AB

Pigeon Lake Recreation Center
Pigeon Lake, AB

Polling Stations will be set up from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the following locations.

River Cree Resort
Enoch, AB

Calgary Sheraton Inn
2620-32 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB

Quality Inn and Conference Centre
7150 Gaetz Ave, Red Deer, AB

Samson Cree Nation Treaty Day
Celebration Venue in Maskwacis

All requests for mail in ballots must be directed to the Referendum Officer, Eileen Sasakamoose **on or before Friday, August 26, 2022**. Mail in ballots will be sent to the mailing address on SCN's Membership file so update as required. All mail-in ballots must be received prior to the close of polls on Monday, September 26, 2022.

Eligible voters may request a package containing the proposed documents by contacting the Referendum Officer or online at www.samsoncree.com.

A copy of the voters list will be available at Membership after August 26, 2022.

Contact for Further Information:

Referendum Officer - Eileen Sasakamoose, P.O. Box 159, Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0
Tel: (780) 974-7905; Email: esasakam@gmail.com

Samson Cree Nation Referendum 2022



NOTICE

ATTENTION: SAMSON CREE NATION MEMBERS

Samson Cree Nation Constitution Referendum 2022

Paminikew wîyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation Constitution)

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INFORMATION SESSIONS

August 29, 2022 6:00 pm -8:00 pm
River Cree Resort
Enoch, AB

August 30, 2022 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Pigeon Lake Recreation Center
Pigeon Lake, AB

August 30, 2022 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Calgary Sheraton Inn
2620-32 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB

August 31, 2022 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Howard Buffalo Memorial Center
Maskwacis, AB

August 31, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting (see SCN website for registration info)

All eligible voters may request a package containing the proposed documents by contacting the Referendum Officer or online at www.samsoncree.com.

A copy of the voters list will be available at SCN Membership after August 26, 2022.

For More Information Please Contact:

Referendum Officer
Eileen Sasakamoose
Box 159, Maskwacis, AB T0C1N0
(780) 974-7905; esasakam@gmail.com

Samson Cree Nation Communications
(780) 585-3793
1 (800) 661 2579
www.samsoncree.com

Paminikew wîyasiwewin îyiniw Paminisowin “Constitution”

1. Ewîhsâcimohtatâhk

1.1 Nistam kikihtâwinaw kiyanaw Nipisihkopawinawak kâkîmîkoyahk ota askîhk kismanito, ekî kiki pakitinikosîyahk Nehiyaw wîyasiwewina tapimitisahamahk, asci kinehiyawewinaw, mîna îyintopimâcihowin. Kikî mîyikosinânaw tânsi tesi tâpwewakehtamahk mîna tânsi tesi wâhkohtamahk askiy, nipi, iskotew ekwa oh-tatâmowin. Ekîmîkosiyahk kâkîsimowina, mawimoscikewina, wîhkask ekwa ospwâkan tohkâkîsimoyahk. Ekoni ohi pakitinikosiwina asci kihci wîyasiwewina, kâkike kikîw îyiniw esôskânesit.

1.2 Nitâpwewakehitenân, ospwâkan ekwa wîhkask takiskinohtahikoyahk.

Asotamâwina

1.3 Kîhcokimâskwew otasotamâwina ekwa kimosominawak kakîhaspahakecik tesi kâkikewahki, **Isko pîsim titapimohtet, sîpîya titapimicôwahki ekwa maskosîya titôhpikihki.**

1.4 Esihonîkânîmicik titâyaniskehtatâcik oma paminikew wiyasiwewasinahikan asci takâsipotatâcik.

1.5 Îyiniw iniskwâcihowin takanônamihk ekwa takâsipotatâhk îyinto pamihcihowina kiki nipi, nanâtohwâhtikwak, asinîwacîya asci asiniwaciy askiy.

1.6 Nîpisihkopâwiyniwak takistehtamwak kismanito otôwiynikewin.

2. Esikanawâpamikocik Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak

- 2.1 Kahkîyaw Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak wetinahk kayâcik ekwa namoya kîkway kâstâhikocik.
- 2.2 Ohcitaw tawaw kahkîyaw awiyak tâhki mawimoscikew ekwa tâhki wîcihiwew itisihtâwinihk.
- 2.3 Awiyak ekîspinatamâsot ekwa emamisîweyitâkosit tahkî paminam mawimoscikewina.
- 2.4 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak kanâkatohkewak awâsisa asci aniki kâpe-nokosicik kanisitohtahkik asotamâwina, nehiyawâtisiwin, nehiyawewin, kakîsimowin, mîna tanisi esitâpwewakehitahk ayisîniw. Katawahk ekwa tanakatokehk tanisi esi paminihcik awâsisak, oskâyak, nâpewak, iskwewak ekwa kehteyak.
- 2.5 Ohcitaw tawâw tatipâhikocik Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak otokimâmiwâwa.
- 2.6 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak ekwa otaskokewak kâkike kakistehtahkik asotamâtowina.
- 2.7 Nîpishkopâwiyinawak takakwe nihta nehiyawecik ekosi tesi takâkikewan nehiyawewin.
- 2.8 Nîpishkopâwiyinawak Tatâpitaw Nehiyaw mâmitonehtahkik ekosi takâkikewan Nehiyaw îyiniw mamitonecikan.

3. Esikanawâpamikocik onîkânîstamâkewak

- 3.1 Onikanistamakewak tatapitaw tipahacik Nîpisihkopawinawah ayisk ekoni katoskawacik
- 3.2 Kisemanitowîyasiwewin namoya wîhkâc tahkîpikonikâtew.
- 3.3 Takanônahkik ekwa tasîhtoskahkik Nîpisihkopâw wîyasiwewina.
- 3.4 Ehitakohki Nehîyaw wîyasiwewina titapimitisahamihk.
- 3.5 Okimâw ekwa Wîyasiwewak namoyâ awîya tâhki pewâwîyomikwak.
- 3.6 Tatâpitaw pimitisahamihk asotamâwina esi kihcehtâkwahki, takanaweyimikocik Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak.
- 3.7 Takanowehitamihk ekwa tanicimiskamihk îyinto pimâcihow askiy.
- 3.8 Kahkîyaw Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak takanônamâhcik mîkosowina esi kâkanawâpamikocik.
- 3.9 Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak kâkike kamîyomahcihocik ekwa wetina kayâcîk.
- 3.10 Kamamîniwastâhk wîyasiwewin esi kanawâpamikohk.
- 3.11 Kakistehtahkik asotamâtowina.
- 3.12 Kâkike Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak kweyask takiskinotamâhcik âkayâsîw wîyasiwewin.
- 3.13 Kâkike Okimâw ekwa Wîyasiwewak tapimitisahakik kihcîhtwewina.
- 3.14 Nîpisihkopâw Wîyasiwewak kâkike kasîhtoskawâcîk Nîpisihkopaw Okimâwa tâpiskoc pecinâway kakîtotahkik.
- 3.15 Tawîyotamâsoyahk kikihtâwinaw kiki pakitinikosiwina, asotamâwina ekwa askîw pimâtisiwin.
- 3.16 Takatawi paminihcik kahkiyaw Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak.

4. Esipaminikecik onîkânîstamâkewak Esipaminiket Okimaw

4.1 Kâkîsi nosawâpamohk okimâw, Nîpisihkopawiniwa ekî kikîhkot nîkânîstamâkewin.

4.2 Okimâw tamîyototemit, tamametonehkahtahk asci takatawâyihtit.

Tanspîhk tamâcipayik

Nîpisihkopâwiyniwak kiskehtamwak kâkike ekosi ehehispayik. Nîpisihkopâwiyniwak tapimipahtâtotamwak oma paminikew masinihkan, aniki kespîtisîcik tahki pimipahtâtotamwak. Kîspin wîcehtamwak ekota tamâcipayo wîyasiwewin. Mâka piko kekâc kahkiyaw tawîcehtahkik.

Takweskastâhk Paminikewîyasiwewin iyiniw paminisowin

Kâyiteyacik Nîpisihkopâwi pimipahtâwak tahkî mâmeskotastâwak esikanawâpamikocik otowîyasiwewiniwâw. Mâka piko kekâc kahkiyaw tawîcehtahkik.

Samson Cree Nation Constitution

Paminikew wîyasiwewin

1. Preamble

1.1 In our life, we the people of Nipisihkopahk were given this right to self-determination AND self-preservation by the Creator. We were put on earth with our language, our Natural Laws, our livelihood, our spirituality and how we conduct ourselves. Wherever you reside, you carry Samson Cree Nation rights and privileges with you.

1.2 The basis of our Constitution is the Pipe and Sweetgrass to guide us.

TREATY SIX

1.3 As per Treaty, promises made by the Queen through the Imperial Crown, our Ancestors included the natural elements into the Treaty text to secure our Treaty until perpetuity, affirming **as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow.**

1.4 Future generations will inherit this document for which they have the responsibility to pass it down to future generations.

1.5 Through asserting our sovereignty, our Samson Cree Nation Constitution protects and affirms the traditional & inherent (hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, water, trees, mountains and mountain terrain) rights of our members, and as stewards of the land recognize and maintain our relationship with Mother Earth.

1.6 Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak respect and honor all forms of Creation.

2. Rights and Responsibilities of Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak

- 2.1 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak have the right to feel safe and secure
- 2.2 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak have the right to participate in ceremony
- 2.3 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak who live by tradition and are spiritually guided & gifted, have the right to hold ceremony.
- 2.4 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak are responsible for the proper care and guidance of the children so future generations understand Treaty, language, culture, ceremony, and respect all beliefs. Provide and protect equality for all children, adolescents, men, women and elders.
- 2.5 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak have the right to hold their leaders accountable.
- 2.6 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak respect and honor the provisions of the promises of Treaty Six (6).
- 2.7 Nîpishkopâwiyiniwak to ensure the oral transference of the Cree language from one generation to the next, Nipishkopawinawak speak Cree so that Cree language will always exist.
- 2.8 To always think in Cree so Cree thought will exist.

3. Responsibilities of Chief and Council

- 3.1 Samson Chief and Council will work for the People of Nipisihkopahk and honor and recognize direction from the People,
- 3.2 To respect the Creator's Laws first and foremost, and no one can alter the Creator's laws. No one can ever break the Creator's laws.
- 3.3 To protect and uphold the Samson Cree Nation Constitution.
- 3.4 To follow Natural Laws that exist
- 3.5 To respect and protect the office of Chief and Council from outside coercion and influence.
- 3.6 Nipisihkopawinawak are to uphold the sacredness of Treaty 6 provisions, to ensure the protection of rights derived from Treaties
- 3.7 To protect and maintain traditional territories and lands of the Samson Cree Nation
- 3.8 To uphold the rights and responsibilities of Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak
- 3.9 To uphold the health and safety of Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak
- 3.10 They will legislate, execute and adjudicate on all laws that affect them.
- 3.11 To respect and maintain Treaty 6 provisions.
- 3.12 To always keep Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak informed of laws & legislation that affects the Nation and Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak
- 3.13 To always adhere to and uphold the Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council Code of Ethics
- 3.14 The Samson Council through their inherent powers as Council shall ensure the traditional powers of the Chief are protected like the leaders of the past.
- 3.15 Through our inherent rights and self determination, we will interpret, enact and protect the following rights and provisions: Land based survival skills, hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting plants, medicine, agriculture, horticulture.
- 3.16 To provide adequate services for Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak

4. Authority of Chief

4.1 When the people have chosen their Chief, the people also give the Chief the authority to represent and lead Samson Cree First Nation.

4.2 The Chief will maintain good relations with careful, ethical actions.

Coming into Effect / When it starts

Nipisihkopawiyiniwak have always known that this is how it was since time immemorial. The electors of Samson Cree Nation will affirm and adopt this through voting in a referendum in which the majority of the electors voting in that referendum must vote in favour.

Amendment of Constitution

This Constitution may be reviewed and amended by a majority vote of the electors voting in a referendum in which the majority of the electors voting in that referendum must vote in favour.

SAMSON CREE NATION CONSTITUTION

GLOSSARY

A:

Âkayasîw-wîyasiwewin - English law (Canadian law)

Asici takâsipotatâcik - to carry on what they have inherited

Asinîwaciya - The Rocky Mountains

Asotamâwina - reference to Treaty promises

Awâsisak - children

E:

Ehisi-onîkânîmicik - what lies ahead for their future

Ehitakohki - they exist

Ekîmîkosîyahk - a divine Gift from a Higher Source

Ekîspinatamâsot - Earn the right

Ekota tamâcipayo - When it starts

Emamisîwehtâkosit - Dependable, trustworthy

Epehispayik - Events, things that have happened in the past

Esikanawâpamikocik - Rights & Responsibilities

Esokânesit - Wherever one resides

Ewîhsâcimotatâhk - Preamble

I:

Isko pîsim titapimohtet, sîpîya titapimicôwahki ekwa maskosîya titôpikihki - **As long as the sun shines, the rivers flow, and the grass grows**

Iskotew - Fire

Iskwewak - Women

Itisihtâwina - The Original ceremonies and stories

Iyinto pimâcihowaskîy - Traditional territory

Iyinto pimâcihowin - Traditional life

K:

Kâkike kikîw - Wherever you go, you carry it with you, its inherent

Kahkîyaw - All

Kahkîyaw awîyak - Every Citizen

Kakîmîkoyahk - We were given...

Kâkîsimowina - Prayers

Kâkîtotahkik - What they did & how it was done traditionally

Kamâmîniwastâhk - To amend

Kanâkatohkewak - To take care of; custodial responsibility

Kanawâpamikowina - Rights

Katawahk - In the proper manner

Katawipaminihcik - Provide adequate services

Kâyiteyacik - That many individuals

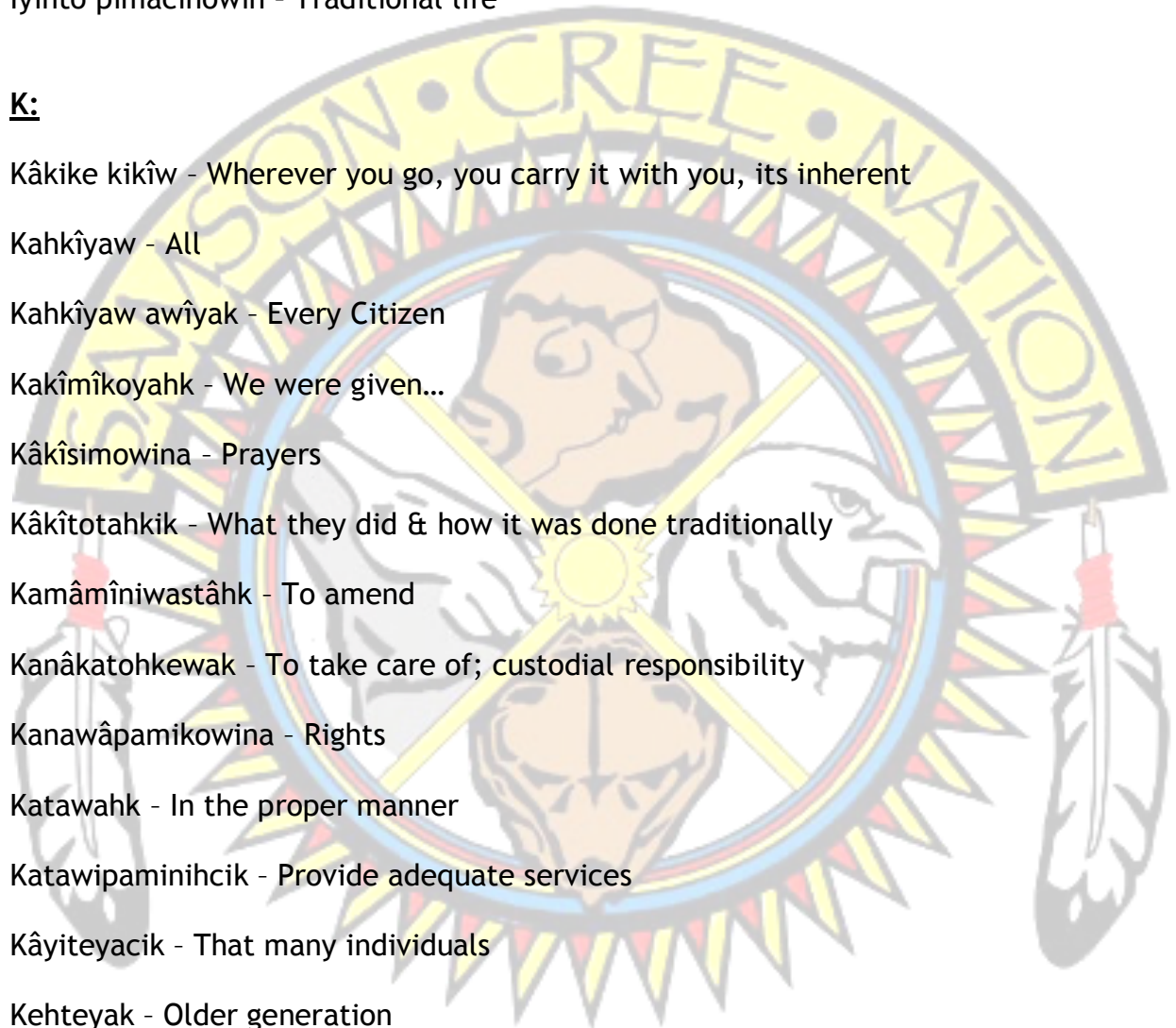
Kehteyak - Older generation

Kespitisîcik - Age of majority

Kîhcehitâkwahki - Hold in reverence

Kihcîtwewina - Sacred language and oath

Kihci wîyasiwewina - Our Natural Laws



Kîhcokimâskwew - British Crown (Queen Victoria)

Kikâwinaw askîy - Mother Earth

Kikihtâwininaw - Our existence

Kiki pakitinikosîyahk - What we were all blessed innately with at birth; an inherent right to language and freedom of choice

Kinehiyawewinaw - Our Cree Language

Kinehiyâwinaw - Our Cree Culture

Kisemanito - Kind, compassionate God

Kiskehtamâwak - Knowledge Keepers

M:

Mâmeskotastawak - Amend as required

Mâmitonehtahkik - To think

Mawimoscikewina - Ceremonies

Mîkosiwina - Birth rights

N:

Namoya kîkway kâstayikocik - Without fear

Namoyâwîya tahkî pewâwîyomikwak - No one can interfere

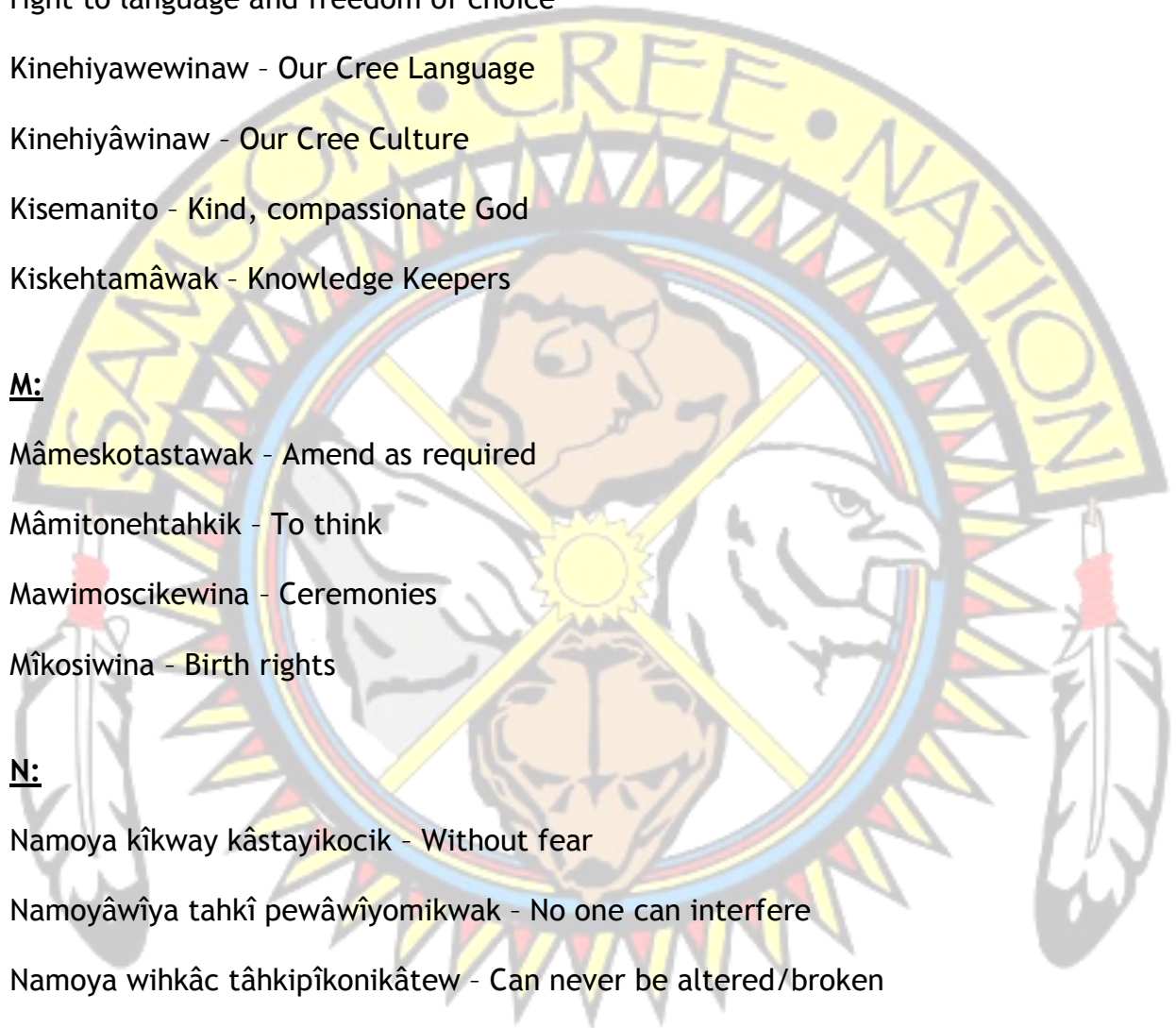
Namoya wihkâc tâhkipîkonikâtew - Can never be altered/broken

Nanâtohwâtihkwak - Forest

Nâpewak - Men

Nehiyaw wîyasiwewina - Cree Laws

Nîpisihkopâwaskokewak - Grassroots people of Samson Cree Nation



Nîpisihkopâwipimipahtâwak - Eligible voters of Samson Cree Nation

Nîpisihkopâwiyiniwak - Citizens of Samson Cree Nation

Nipîy - Water

Nistam - First and Foremost, the beginning...

Nitâpwewakehitenân - We believe and know it to be true

O:

Ohcitaw - Has to be the way

Oh-tatâmowin - First breath given to people from the Creator (air)

Okimâw - Chief

Onîkânîstamâkewak - Leadership

Oskâyak - Youths/adolescents

Oskicîy - Pipe Stem **This does not appear in the Constitution but has a very strong significance, the Pipe Stem and the Pipe are one and the same but are two separate components to the Pipe.*

Ospwâkan - Pipe used for ceremony

Otaskokewak - Grassroots people

Otasotamâwina - Her promises

Ote nîkân - In the future

Otokimâmiwâwa - Leadership

Otowiyasiwewiniwaw - Their law.

Otôyiniwewin - Creation

Owîyasiwewak - Councillors

P:

Paminikew wîyasiwewin - Constitution

Pecinâway - In the past

T:

Tâhkî paminam - Can conduct or hold

Tâhki wîcihiwew - Can participate

Takâkikewahki - To last forever/perpetuity

Takakîsiwâtahk - Chief gives his blessing

Takanaweyimikocik - To watch over and protect

Takanonahkik - To protect and preserve

Takanonamâhcik - You have been given the responsibility of protecting...

Takanowehitamihk - To maintain in its present form, without alteration

Takâspohtamihk - Continuum, ie: language, culture, lifestyle, ceremony

Takiskinohtahikoyahk - To guide us

Takiskinotamâhcik - To inform

Takistehtamihk - To Respect

Takweskastahk - To change or amend

Tamâcipayik - when it comes into effect

Tamîyotôtemicik - maintain good relations

Tamîyowâhkohtahkik - To be in harmony

Tanicimiskamihk - To maintain a strong stance

Tanihtâ-nehiyawecik - Speak Cree fluently

Tanspîhk - When

Tapimipahtâtotamwak - Voting

Tapimitisahamahk - To follow accordingly

Tâpwewakehtamahk - We believe and know it to be true

Tasîhtoskahkik - To lend support

Tatahâspotâhk - Responsibility to pass it down

Tatâpitaw - Continuation

Tatipâhikocik - Respectfully waiting for direction

Tawâw - There is room for it

Tawâwîyomat - To direct

Tawîyotamâsoyahk - We set your own course of destiny

Tawîcehtahkik - To be in favour of

Tesi paminihcik - To be taken care of in a specific manner

Tesi wâhkotamahk askîy -How we connect to the land

Titayâniksehtatâcik - To pass it on, keeping passing it on and on
Intergenerational

Tohkâkîsimoyahk - To pray with

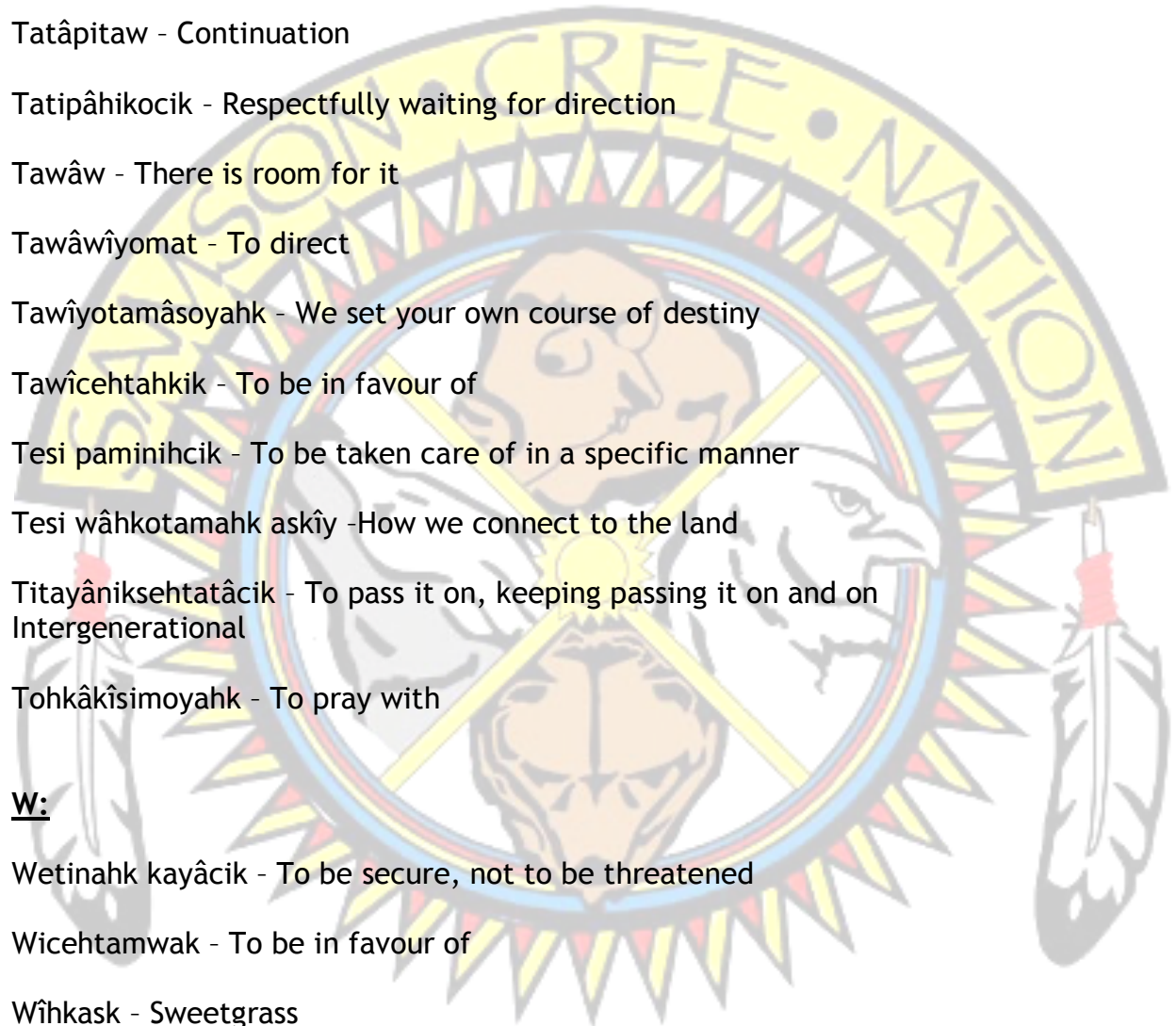
W:

Wetinahk kayâcik - To be secure, not to be threatened

Wicehtamwak - To be in favour of

Wîhkask - Sweetgrass

Wiyeyimisowin- Sovereignty





Samson Cree Nation Referendum 2022

Paminikew wīyasiwewin (Samson Cree Nation's Constitution)

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. The Constitution says “As long as the rivers flow”, as most of our rivers are drying up, does this have an effect on us? **ANSWER:** When you are born the water flows, the spirit of Treaties is us.
2. Does this mean we are going to be self-governed and create our own Laws? **ANSWER:** We always have been, we just never exercised it before. So yes.
3. Are there any other Nations that are creating this kind of Constitution as well? **ANSWER:** Yes.
4. Is there a proven track record that shows that other Nations are creating this in order to protect our Treaties as well? **ANSWER:** There are more Nations asserting their right to sovereignty.
5. What's the difference between self-government and this Constitution? **ANSWER:** Self-government is the formal structure through which Indigenous communities may control the administration of their people, land and resources through agreements with federal and provincial governments, usually done through land claims or self-government agreements. This Constitution is us asserting our sovereignty and affirming that we have had a Constitution prior to contact and we are now formally translating it into a written form.
6. Will there be a translator to interpret our Constitution when needed? **ANSWER:** Our elders will be our expert translators.
7. Who's going to protect the Constitution? **ANSWER:** An Elders Senate was recommended. There was also a recommendation for a Samson “judicial body”. This is something we want to create..
8. Who's to say that the next Chief and Council won't change the document? **ANSWER:** Amendment provisions will be in place.
9. Who can request a mail in ballot? **ANSWER:** Any eligible vote can request a Mail-in Ballot from the Referendum Officer.
10. Why is the Chief highly regarded? **ANSWER:** Our elders spoke of the Chief being highly respected in the community. Traditionally the Chief was always respected and the office of the Chief was held in high regard.
11. What is needed to pass the Constitution? **ANSWER:** Under Samson Cree Nation's Referendum Regulations, we need a majority (i.e. 50% plus 1) of the eligible voters casting a vote in the referendum to vote “Yes” to the Constitution.