



SAMSON CREE NATION

From the Office of Chief Vern Saddleback

P.O. Box 159
Hobbema, Alberta
T0C 1N0
(780) 585-3793
Direct Line 421-4926
Fax (780) 585-2256
1-800-661-2579

Official Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council Official Statement

Dear Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwahk

Yesterday, our community was shaken by a deeply disturbing incident involving a dog attack. Our thoughts and most heartfelt prayers remain with the victim and their family as they begin the difficult process of healing. We want them to know they are surrounded by care, concern, and support from the entire community.

This incident was traumatic- not only for the individual and their loved ones- but for the wider Samson Cree Nation community as well. The ongoing concerns around roaming dogs has resurfaced, and reminds us how quickly a preventable situation can turn into a crisis.

We also want to acknowledge that this is not the first time a Nation member has been harmed or threatened by roaming dogs. Others have come forward with painful stories of their own experiences, and to them we say: **we see you, we hear you, and we are committed to change.** No one should live in fear in their own neighbourhood.

Although steps were taken previously to try and address this issue, it is clear that further action is needed. This is not only a local concern- many Indigenous Nations across the country are facing familiar challenges. But here, in our own community, we must move forward with urgency and unity.

Since yesterday, this issue has remained our top priority, prompting swift and continued action from Leadership, Emergency Management, and Administration. We are working to assess next steps and implement measures that can help prevent further incidents.

However, we want to emphasize that this is not something enforcement can solve alone. This is a community-wide issue, and it requires each and every one of us to play a part. We are asking dog owners to take full responsibility for their animals, and for the community as a whole to come together with a shared commitment to safety, care, and respect for one another.

We know this has been a difficult time, and we thank everyone for their compassion, strength and patience as we respond and rebuild trust and safety within our community.

For further information or to report concerns, please contact, Director of Emergency Management, Harper Potts at 780 335 0303.

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