



# AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION

978 TASHMOO AVENUE  
SARNIA, ONTARIO  
N7T 7H5  
Phone: 519-336-8410  
Fax: 519-336-0382

April 25, 2024

## DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** the air quality at Aamjiwnaang has been and continues to be negatively impacted by excessive emissions of the chemical compound benzene;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has identified the primary source of elevated benzene concentrations measured within Aamjiwnaang to be INEOS Styrolution's facility located at 872 Tashmoo Ave, Sarnia, Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** the MECP has issued successive orders against INEOS Styrolution in the years 2019 (Order No. 8348-BFPLCD), 2020 (Order No. 4331-BV3JDW), 2023 (Order No. 1-208079516) and 2024 (Order No. 1-358096039) requiring INEOS Styrolution to reduce benzene emissions from its Sarnia facility;

**AND WHEREAS** notwithstanding the MECP's orders, benzene emissions from INEOS Styrolution's Sarnia facility continue to increase;

**AND WHEREAS** the continuing and excessive discharge of benzene from INEOS Styrolution's Sarnia facility is putting the members of Aamjiwnaang at elevated adverse health risks, is causing immediate health impacts on members, and is impacting the ability of Aamjiwnaang's members to exercise their inherent and constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

### NOW THEREFORE

**I HEREBY DECLARE**, effective immediately and pursuant to sections 3.2 and 5.1(7)(a) of Aamjiwnaang's *Emergency Response Plan*, that a local state of emergency exists in Aamjiwnaang due to the excessive discharge of benzene from INEOS Styrolution's Sarnia facility, and the real and potential health impacts the discharge is having on members of Aamjiwnaang.

**I FURTHER DECLARE**, per section 5.1(8) of Aamjiwnaang's *Emergency Response Plan*, the local state of emergency will remain in effect indefinitely until the discharge of benzene by INEOS Styrolution is reduced to acceptable levels and the risks to members of Aamjiwnaang have been abated.

**I HEREBY CALL ON** the federal, provincial, and municipal governments to immediately impose a shut down of the INEOS Styrolution facility to remediate the ongoing benzene emissions and protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all Aamjiwnaang community members.

Councillor Darren Henry on behalf of Chief Christopher Plain  
Aamjiwnaang