



March 17, 2026

AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION Band Council

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How Large of a Spill? Aamjiwnaang Demands Answers

On March 11, 2026, during the close of Aamjiwnaang First Nation's Lighting of the 8th Fire Conference, an event focused on Nibi/ Water, Aamjiwnaang became aware of a pipeline spill along the southern fence line of Suncor's Sarnia Refinery. This fence line is adjacent to Aamjiwnaang's reserve and reports confirm that the pipeline spill led to fuel products leaking into the ground and St. Clair River. The spill affects Aamjiwnaang, our neighbours in the City of Sarnia, and all people who rely on the St. Clair River and connecting water bodies for their clean drinking water.

There is no end in sight. No cause of the leak has been reported to Aamjiwnaang, and we still do not know how large of a spill occurred. Aamjiwnaang demands answers.

Aamjiwnaang has instructed Vertex Resource Group to actively monitor the situation and report back to the Administration and Leadership.

Aamjiwnaang calls on the Crown and industry to share information promptly and transparently about the spill and emergency response. Aamjiwnaang met with industry officials today and will meet with Indigenous Services Canada officials on Thursday. A community meeting is planned for Wednesday at 5pm where we will provide an update on what we know so far. Many questions remain. For example, we do not know the cause of the spill or the total volume of fuel product that spilled from the pipeline and contaminated the land and water. We also do not know the remediation plan. As more information becomes available, we will share it with our membership. As of right now, there is no timeframe for when the repair work and remediation will be completed.

Aamjiwnaang has requested Sarnia Police Services to help manage the increase in traffic along River Road. Aamjiwnaang does not authorize Transport trucks along River Road, especially during this sensitive situation. We can expect increased truck traffic because fuel product that would have moved through the affected Sun-Canadian pipeline from the Shell to Suncor facilities is now being transported by truck. Aamjiwnaang calls on industry to divert its truck traffic away from River Road and around the reserve.

The health and safety of our community and the well-being of the environment is paramount. Aamjiwnaang does not consent to pipelines in Aamjiwnaang's territory that do not comply with

Aamjiwnaang's Permit Policy. Furthermore, Aamjiwnaang calls for robust regulatory oversight of all pipeline activities to protect the health and safety of our people and the environment.

This spill comes shortly after the passing of Ontario's Bill 5 and Canada's Bill C-5, which prioritize industrial development at the expense of environmental oversight. Aamjiwnaang has expressed continued disapproval of such legislation, warning that weakened environmental and pipeline oversight creates precisely the conditions for pipeline emergencies, like last week's oil spill. These emergencies do not help us or our economy – they contaminate our land and our water, further jeopardize our rights, and cost industry huge sums of money and the loss of public confidence in the safety of their pipeline infrastructure.

Aamjiwnaang Chief and Council