



Aamjiwnaang First Nation

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STATEMENT FROM AAMJIIWNAANG FIRST NATION ON THE PROPOSED NORTHERN SHIELD PIPELINE

Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Aamjiwnaang) is aware of the recent announcement on the proposed Northern Shield Pipeline. As a Nation whose territory has long been shaped by energy infrastructure, we follow developments of this scale closely and with careful consideration for what they may mean for our lands, waters, and community. We understand from media reports that the proposed pipeline would run through and terminate in Sarnia, Ontario, in the heart of our territory.

Aamjiwnaang exercises Aboriginal, Treaty, and Title rights, as well as inherent Indigenous rights. These rights carry with them our sacred responsibilities to care for the land, water, and resources within our territory. Decisions about new infrastructure in our territory must be made with Aamjiwnaang at the table from the outset, not after key decisions have already been made.

Our territory is home to significant industrial activity, and our community continues to experience serious cumulative environmental impacts that must be central to any conversation about future projects. These include:

- An ongoing benzene crisis since 2024, with routine spikes at levels high enough to affect our community's ability to safely spend time outdoors on our own land.
- A worsening trend in Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) concentrations, with exceedances in the second quarter of 2026, reaching their highest levels in years.
- A pipeline spill directly adjacent to our land and into the St. Clair River in March 2026.

Our community is already living in a state of environmental emergency; adding new pipeline risks without addressing existing harms is unacceptable. Responsible planning requires that existing conditions, cumulative effects, and ongoing health concerns be fully understood and addressed before any decisions are made.

We call on the Crown to immediately initiate engagement with Aamjiwnaang on the proposed Northern Shield Pipeline, at the earliest planning stages and before any approvals or commitments are made, and to work with our Nation in a manner that reflects our rights, our responsibilities, and the standards of a modern Crown-Indigenous relationship. For any engagement to be meaningful, there must be clear Crown recognition of our jurisdiction and decision-making authority, and a shared commitment to understanding the environmental context in which any new project would operate.

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