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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

December 5, 2008

RE: SUPPORT FOR SADDLE LAKE CREE NATION AND THE SAFE DRINKING WATER FRAMEWORK

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Saddle Lake Cree Nation and the Safe Drinking Water Framework.

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) serves as a coordinating body that provides a forum for the 133 First Nation communities located within the boundaries of Ontario to establish collective interests and positions were appropriate of the First Nations and advance these positions with both levels of governments and other organizations as mandated through Chiefs in Assembly resolutions.

In October 2008, COO organized a First Nation Water Policy Forum to better understand how water related initiatives will affect First Nation peoples. Tony Steinhauer and Howard Cardinal both from the Saddle Lake Cree Nation representing the SDWF Advanced Aboriginal Water Treatment Team (AAWTT) presented at this forum by invitation of the COO Environment Department. The information they shared with Ontario's First Nations was well received and applicable to the First Nations as they continuously strive to ensure safe drinking water for their community members. It was apparent that the work the SDWF and Saddle Lake Cree Nation have done is applicable to all the First Nations and should be continuously shared with First Nation communities.

Unfortunately, First Nation communities and organizations such as Saddle Lake Cree Nation and SDWF are continuously underfunded and therefore have difficulties in sharing their information with First Nation communities who can benefit from their experiences and knowledge as it relates to safe drinking water. From an administrative perspective, the opportunity to develop collaborative relationships and presenting successful First Nation models for safe drinking water is key in assisting the many First Nation communities in alleviating their continual safe drinking water problems.

Please accept this letter as an indication of the support for the Saddle Lake Cree Nation and SDWF as they continue their effort to assist First Nation communities in sharing their knowledge and best practices as it relates to safe drinking water.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Chiefs of Ontario Environment Department at 705-942-3100.

Sincerely,

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Jacobs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lori Jacobs
Executive Director