



NISICAWAYASIHK CREE NATION OKEMAWIN

ORDER IN COUNCIL

(ITASOWEWIN)

Date: August 31, 2026

Number: OIC-313-2026-4

Authorized by: Chief and Council

WHEREAS:

1. Available data indicates there is a higher risk of dog bites and mauling among northern Indigenous populations than other populations in Canada. The existing data raises concerns about an additional health inequity for Indigenous populations including NCN Citizens.
2. While dogs may be seen as part of our individual families, without proper management and responsible ownership, packs can form and become dangerous.
3. Recently there have been increasing reports of incidents involving dogs running-at-large in the community, attacking, injuring and killing other dogs, attacking and injuring people, and posing a public health risk by spreading disease from eating other dogs and garbage such as diapers.
4. During spring and summer children frequently play outside and more people walk around the community which increases risks of attacks by dogs running-at-large freely in the community, whether individually or in packs.
5. Chief and Council are required to take action to implement effective preventative measures to address issues that may cause serious risks to the health and safety of NCN Citizens, other residents or visitors on NCN Lands.

ORDER

Definitions

1. The following definitions apply in this Order

“caregiver” means an individual or an organization responsible for the physical and emotional wellbeing of dogs by providing for their basic needs including food, water, shelter, medical care and a safe and healthy environment.

“community” means those persons who ordinarily live on or adjacent to NCN Lands at Nelson House, Manitoba;

“dog” means an animal of the canine species and including puppies;

“impound” means to seize, take into custody, confine and hold a dog;

“NCN Lands” means the lands described in *Aski-Pumenikiwin*, 2017, c. A-1 and in particular IR 170, 170A, 170B, and 170C;

"running-at-large" means a dog that is not under the direct, continuous and effective control of a person, or is not securely confined within an enclosure, not on the owner's property, on other property without prior permission, or secured by a leash or tether or otherwise so that it is unable to roam at will throughout the community;

“owner” means any person over the age of 18 who owns, cares for or has possession of any dog and includes the proprietor, lessee or occupant of a residence, building or structure where a dog dwells or is being kept, cared for, maintained or sheltered;

State of Emergency in Effect

2. Effective on September 1st, 2026 at 12:00 am, a State of Emergency shall come into effect for all NCN Lands (excluding the Mystery Lake lands) to minimize the risk of serious injury or death to people and other dogs. This State of Emergency will remain in effect until November 1st, 2026 unless revoked or amended by a subsequent NCN Order in Council. During this period of time, NCN Justice Department will hold community workshops to obtain feedback about a proposed Animal Control Law and regulations.

Responsibilities of Owners or Caregivers

3. Every owner or caregiver must:

- (a) ensure-their dogs are provided with food, water, shelter, medical treatment and exercise sufficient to maintain them in good health;
- (b) ensure their dogs are safely secured, managed and controlled by a person who has the capacity to always manage and control them, whether on or off the owner or caregiver's property;
- (c) ensure-their dog is on a leash anytime it is off the owner's property;
- (d) ensure their dog does not destroy property, engage in aggressive behaviour or are otherwise a nuisance;
- (e) ensure any leash or other device used to restrain a dog will not cause the dog to choke or otherwise become injured or affect the dog's wellbeing.
- (f) ensure a female dog is confined on the owner's property during the period it is in heat so that the female cannot escape or any other dog enter the area in which the female is confined.

- (g) register their dogs with the Animal Control Department

Dogs Found Running-at-Large and Retrieval by Owner or Caregiver

4. If a dog is found running-at-large on or adjacent to NCN Lands, the dog will be captured and impounded by a member of the Animal Control Department. The owner or caregiver will be given **48 hours** to contact the Animal Control Department to retrieve the dog following payment of the fine. Dogs will not be removed from the community without prior notice to the owner.

5. Owners whose dogs are found running at large will be subject to the following fines:

First Offense - \$75.00

Second Offense - \$100.00

Third Offense - \$150.00

Fine options are available for those unable to pay.

Fines for Dogs Found Running-at-large in High Risk Areas

6. If a dog is found running-at-large in a high-risk public area (schools, store, gas station, Nursing Station and/or NCN Businesses, etc) will be notified immediately and will be required to pay a fine of \$150.00 to retrieve the dog.

Dogs Running-at-Large Become Property of NCN if not Retrieved by Owner

7. If a dog is not retrieved by Owner within **48 hours** of being captured or is returned after a trial adoption, the dog will become the property of NCN without compensation payable to the owner. The Animal Control Department will assess the health of the dog and any aggressive tendencies to determine if the dog is suitable to be fostered, adopted, sent to available animal rescue organizations. As a last resort, the dog may be euthanized in accordance with acceptable and humane standards.

Adoption of Dogs Found Running-at-large

8. Any resident on NCN Lands may adopt a dog found running-at-large that is not retrieved by an owner within 3 days, if

(a) the resident agrees in writing to abide by all NCN Laws in relation to animal control and management; and

(b) the resident will have no more than two dogs in their household following the adoption.

Adoption Trial Period

9. Any resident who wishes to adopt a dog will be allowed a 14 day trial period to determine whether the dog is compatible with the resident, the resident's family and home. If the resident decides the dog is not compatible, it may be returned to the care and control

of the Animal Control department which will then proceed in accordance with paragraph 7.

Voluntarily Giving up Ownership

10. If an Owner can no longer care for their dog, they can contact the Animal Control Department to request that NCN take ownership of the dog without compensation to the owner, following which the Animal Control Department will proceed in accordance with paragraph 7.

Application of Order

11. This Order applies to all individuals living on or adjacent to, visiting or entering NCN Lands excluding the Mystery Lake Lands in Thompson.

Appeals

12. Appeals related to fines and actions related to the Animal Control OIC may be directed to the Peacekeepers Tribunal.

Regular Review of Order,

13. This Order will be reviewed on a regular basis while it remains in effect and may be modified, revoked, or extended in whole or in part.

AUTHORITY

Nisichawayasi Nehethowuk Othasowewin, 2017, c. O-1 states:

CHAPTER 4

JURISDICTION

4.1 Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the *Nisichawayasi Nehethowuk Okimawin* extends over all persons, including *Nehetho* (Citizens), property, lands, air, water, resources and activities occurring on lands used by *Nisichawayasi Nehethowuk*.

The *Nisichawayasi Emergency Measures Law*, c. E-1, 2020 states:

Definitions

2 In this *Nisichawayasi Emergency Measures Law*,

“emergency” means an urgent or imminent situation anticipated to be of a temporary nature that requires prompt action to

(a) prevent or limit serious endangerment of the lives, health or safety of NCN Citizens, residents on, or visitors to, NCN Lands; or

(b) threatens the *Tipethimisowin* (sovereignty) or security of NCN.

“emergency plan” means a plan for preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;

PART III

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Declaration of State of Emergency

7 If Chief and Council believe on reasonable grounds that an emergency exists and special temporary measures are required to deal with the emergency, Chief and Council may issue an order declaring that a state of emergency exists.

Contents of the Order

8 An order declaring a state of emergency shall outline the nature of the emergency and the date it shall come into effect.

Duration of Order

9 An order declaring a state of emergency shall expire at the end of ninety days from the date the order comes into effect unless the order is revoked earlier by council resolution or extended in accordance with this law.

Communication of Order

10 Chief and Council shall ensure that the order is communicated to NCN Citizens, residents on, and visitors to, NCN Lands, other levels of government, businesses and other relevant entities using the most reasonable and appropriate means in the circumstance.

Extension of Order

11 Chief and Council may extend the state of emergency for further periods of up to 30 days each to continue addressing the emergency.