



To: Saugeen First Nation – Community Members

From: Chief Conrad Ritchie

Date: May 12, 2025

Re: Announcement of Strategic Partnership for Enhanced Broadband Connectivity

We are excited to announce an exciting strategic partnership that will significantly enhance Driftwood Communications and expand high-speed fibre optic broadband infrastructure across Saugeen First Nation. This initiative is aimed at securing our communication services for the future and reinforcing our position as a competitive utility.

In response to an Expression of Interest (EOI), Saugeen First Nation has successfully secured funding from the Government of Ontario that will allow us to advance Driftwood Communications. This funding will facilitate the installation of fibre optic broadband connectivity throughout our entire territory, including the Village, French Bay, Chief's Point, and Scotch Settlement. By investing in this infrastructure now, we are also preparing for anticipated growth and economic development opportunities in the future.

To ensure ongoing maintenance and necessary upgrades of our band-owned utility, Council has approved a managed services partnership agreement. This partnership will entrust the management of Driftwood Communications to Bruce Telecom, a local third-party with the necessary expertise and resources in this competitive market.

In the coming weeks, additional communications will be distributed regarding next steps in this project. We will schedule town hall events where members can learn more about the options and services available to them. We encourage your participation to understand how this partnership can benefit the entire Saugeen First Nation community.