



Saugeen First Nation #29

Chief & Council Quarterly Update – April 2026

Communications Plan

Through various surveys and community engagement sessions, Chief and Council have heard clearly the strong expectation for more consistent and transparent communication with community members. In response, several measures will be implemented to strengthen openness and accessibility, including the introduction of community deputation days, the regular posting of summary Chief & Council meeting minutes on the Nation's website, and the distribution of frequent communiqués and quarterly updates to keep members informed of key decisions and activities.

To support these efforts, a communication plan has been developed to outline the methods, channels, and timelines through which information will be shared. The plan also provides guidance on how members can access updates and connect with the various programs, services, and supports available within the Nation's administration. Members are encouraged to review the communication plan to better understand how to stay informed and engaged in community matters.

Police Feasibility

The Saugeen Chief and Council have launched a policing feasibility study for the Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation #29 to explore future policing options that better align with community priorities, values, and expectations. Supported by KPMG, the study will examine what policing could look like for the Nation and what would be required to pursue an agreement with the Anishinabek Police Service, with a focus on enhancing safety, building trust, and supporting overall community wellbeing.

Community input is a key part of this process. Members are invited to share their perspectives on safety and effective policing through upcoming engagement sessions for youth, elders, and the broader community, as well as an online survey for those unable to attend. Additional details and participation opportunities will be shared on the Nation's website in the coming weeks.

Landfill Feasibility

A Solid Waste Feasibility Study is currently underway to evaluate long-term options for improving the community's waste management system. This work builds on the 2021 Solid Waste Management System Planning Study and Landfill Assessment, which recommended transitioning toward a more sustainable system, potentially including the development of a waste transfer station and the future decommissioning of the existing landfill.

The current study will assess waste generation trends, explore opportunities to increase waste diversion, and identify practical solutions to enhance waste management infrastructure and operations over the next 20 years. It will also examine landfill operations, environmental considerations, and

6 Cameron Dr,
Southampton, Ontario NOH 2L0
519-797-2781 / sfn@saugeen.org

options for recycling and organic waste management. Dollars have been secured to support these broader waste management initiatives, with the feasibility study funded through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) as part of the Nation's infrastructure planning efforts.

Education & Early Years

The much-anticipated daycare renovations are nearing completion, with an estimated finish date at the end of April 2026. Daycare services will temporarily close for a couple of weeks to allow staff time to move furnishings back into the space and prepare for the grand reopening, which is tentatively scheduled for the end of May 2026.

Staff will be working closely with Elders and the community to finalize a new name for the updated, amalgamated daycare.

The Binoojinh Gamig building will also undergo minor repairs beginning in May. Once completed, this newly refreshed space will be used to host before- and after-school programming, as well as summer day camp activities.

Fibre Optics Network Expansion

Starting in Spring 2026, Saugeen First Nation Driftwood Corporation will be upgrading and expanding the fibre optic network to include all SFN Cottage Serviced Areas. Installation will be completed by Avertex Utility Solutions Inc., and Bruce Telecom will become the new internet service provider in the coming months. During construction, there may be temporary service disruptions from time to time, and minor plowing through driveways may be required, with all affected areas restored to their original condition upon completion.

For service connection inquiries or questions, please contact Bruce Telecom at 519-368-2000 or toll-free 1-866-517-2000, or visit www.brucetelecom.com.

Fire & Emergency Department Renovations

Chief and Council recognize the importance of maintaining a safe and reliable Firehall that supports the wellbeing of our community. A recent structural assessment has identified necessary upgrades to ensure the facility remains functional and secure for those who serve and protect us.

To carry out these essential improvements, work is planned for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening emergency services infrastructure, helping to keep all members safe and supported.

Baseball Diamond & Powwow Ground Upgrades

Chief and Council have allocated dollars to support priority upgrades to the pow wow grounds and baseball diamonds. These projects reflect important community-identified needs and represent an investment in shared cultural and recreational spaces that contribute to the wellbeing, connection, and quality of life of our members.

6 Cameron Dr,
Southampton, Ontario NOH 2L0
519-797-2781 / sfn@saugeen.org

These funds will be used alongside community fundraising efforts, creating a collaborative approach to completing the identified improvements. Fundraising efforts are just beginning; by contributing, supporters play a direct role in enhancing these valued spaces and helping bring lasting benefits to both current and future generations.

Recreation Centre Design Renovations

Chief and Council have approved funding to advance the design phase of the Recreation Centre renovation project, marking an important step toward enhancing a key community space. A budget has been allocated to support a comprehensive four-stage design process, along with the specialized consultant services required to ensure the renovations reflect the needs, safety, and long-term use of the community.

As part of this initiative, a design proposal has been approved to guide the planning and development of the upgraded facility. Community engagement on this project will be launched late spring of 2026. These improvements are intended to strengthen a vital gathering place that supports recreation, wellness, and community connection for members of all ages.

Amphitheatre Restoration Project – Phase Two

Through the generous support of various funders and local businesses, funding has been secured to move into Phase Two of the Amphitheatre Restoration Project. This phase will include completion of the parking lot, landscaping/plantings, site signage, expansion of the nature trail system, and the finalization of the wedding venue located at the front of the amphitheatre grounds.

This progress brings the project significantly closer to completion and will create new opportunities to host cultural, tourism, and community events in the space. A grand opening ceremony is currently being planned for June 2026, with additional details to be shared as they become available.

Leadership & Governance

The final 30-day commenting period for the Chief and Council Governance Policy is now open beginning April 1 to April 30, 2026. The Governance Policy is available on our website and hard copies have been provided. Comments can be submitted by email to Melissa Snowdon at melissa.snowdon@saugeen.org or online in our feedback form at <https://saugeenfirstnation.com/portfolio-items/governance-policy/> or in person to the drop box at the Governance Building reception.

If you submit a comment and would like to be entered into a draw for a \$200 gas card, please include your name and phone number with your comment.

In Unity,

Chief & Council

6 Cameron Dr,
Southampton, Ontario NOH 2L0
519-797-2781 / sfn@saugeen.org