



Saugeen First Nation #29

Saugeen Band Chief and Council Meeting Monday February 2, 2026 Meeting Highlights

Department Updates

LiINHL Committee

Melissa and Adam provided an update on the LIL NHL Committee. Registration has now closed with a final total of 78 players attending. The number of participating teams increased from seven to eight, with the addition of a U11 boys' team after another team folded, ensuring four local boys could still participate. The committee requested additional financial support from Chief and Council to cover the gap in the overall event budget. Current available funds raised through fundraising efforts, registration fees, and sponsorships.

Melissa noted that any unused funds would be returned. To reduce travel burdens for families, accommodations were moved from the Embassy Suites to the Sheraton in Yorkville, which is closer to the arena. Melissa highlighted ongoing fundraising efforts, including volunteer requirements (20 volunteer hours per family), online sales, giveaways, and an upcoming bingo event, which recently generated nearly \$6,000 in profit. However, sponsorship funding has declined significantly this year.

This was an information update.

Fundraising for Ball Diamond

Brad came to Council seeking direction on proposed upgrades to the community ball diamonds and permission to pursue fundraising efforts. A quote from Backyard Boys outlines significant upgrades, and local businesses have expressed interest in helping fund the project. Brad emphasized the request was for Council's guidance and support to move forward with fundraising. Preliminary estimates place the cost of upgrades to the ball diamonds at approximately \$500,000, with additional costs if improvements to the pow wow grounds are included. Brittany explained the current quote only covers the ball diamonds but could be expanded to include the pow wow grounds. Proposed upgrades to the Recreation Centre ball fields include topsoil and hydroseeding, covered grandstand seating, additional covered spectator areas, dugout improvements, fenced warm-up areas for pitchers to improve safety, and construction of a bridge over muddy/swampy areas. Brad clarified these upgrades currently exclude the pow wow grounds.

Council members expressed appreciation that staff came to Council first before proceeding. Letitia noted the importance of following a clear process for approvals and fundraising requests across departments.

Discussion also touched on previous plans for the pow wow grounds, with Leona recalling earlier development concepts tied to youth centre planning. Randall suggested revisiting those plans to avoid duplicating work and to align future community priorities.

This was an information update

Lands & Leasing

Hydro One

Chief and Council grant access to Hydro One for the completion of a new hydro pole/anchor at 10 Mason Dr.

This was carried

SWIFT RFQ

Contract with Labourtex for the SWIFT Fibre Optics was approved.

This was carried

Emerson Avenue Update

Council received an update on the ongoing situation at the Emerson Avenue ancestral burial site and concerns regarding recent actions by the cemetery registrar. Following the 2023 discovery of ancestral remains disturbed during landscaping work, Saugeen Ojibwe Nation (SON) has been working to secure protections for the site under the Cemeteries Act. Earlier discussions with the cemetery registrar suggested support for a broad burial site investigation across both affected properties to determine the full extent of the burial complex and any previously disturbed remains.

This was an information update.

Travel Acknowledgments

- a. Randall and Letitia to travel for OPG meeting
- b. Theresa to travel to Toronto for annual Health Forum