



Saugeen First Nation #29

Saugeen Band Chief and Council Meeting

Monday, May 4, 2026

Meeting Highlights

Department Updates

Saugeen Fiber Project

Approval to retain Great Lakes Archaeology to complete Stage 1 and Stage 2 archaeological assessments for the Saugeen Fiber Project.

This was carried.

Housing Department

2024/2025 Children's Housing Fund Applicant Amendment

Last year, funding was approved for several housing projects. Due to delays involving Habitat for Humanity staffing changes, projects were delayed 4-6 months while matters were being resolved. As the projects are now moving forward, costs have increased due to inflation and several design revisions. As a result, an amended BCR is being requested to revise the original funding amounts.

This was carried.

RRAP Funding

In the past, an application was submitted for RRAP funding, and a grant was successfully approved. However, CMHC only funds one out of four applications annually. The successful applicant exceeds the RRAP funding amount, with Ontario Works covering the remaining balance between the grant and the total project cost.

This was carried

Elders Building Flooring Replacement

The Elders Building requires maintenance with one of the major priorities being replacement of the flooring in the common area. Funding will be coming from Home and Community Care.

This was carried.

Partnership with Together Design Lab

The Together Design Lab from the Toronto Metropolitan University secured funding through Housing via the Reaching for Home Program from Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation to continue their housing work in Saugeen. Following Phase 1, which involved community engagement and feedback on housing challenges, the approved Phase 2 project will focus on addressing key housing issues, including identifying current challenges, priority needs,

housing access improvements, and supports for those experiencing precarious housing or homelessness. Together Design Lab is known for its extensive First Nations housing research across Canada and will meet with the community again.

This was carried.

Wellness Centre Drainage

The Wellness Centre has experienced significant spring flooding over the past two years, likely due to a lack of proper design and engineering planning before the tiny houses were installed. The back portion of the site regularly floods from snowmelt and heavy rain, with conditions only recently drying up this year. After learning of available year-end funding, proposed installing drainage to address the issue. Work to begin this month if approved.

This was carried.

2025/2026 Children's Housing Fund

The Children's Housing Fund is a multi-year program. Applications for funding have been advertised and will close in mid-May. However, an urgent housing issue arose and immediate repairs are needed. Since no funding remained in the previous year's Children's Housing Fund, Housing requested approval to use funds from the current allocation for the repairs.

This was carried

Housing Subsidy Request

There was a request for a housing subsidy to support the completion of a major renovation and addition to a home. It was noted that housing subsidies have not been widely distributed in recent years, aside from those tied to Habitat for Humanity builds, and that there appeared to be several undispersed subsidies available. Council discussed whether subsidies should apply only to new builds, as had been past practice, or also to major renovations. Concerns were raised about fairness and consistency, as previous renovation requests had reportedly been denied and there was no clear written policy outlining eligibility.

This was defeated.

A formal housing subsidy policy was suggested that would include renovations and minimum eligibility requirements to be developed on this.

Education and Early Years

Library Renovation Updates

Urgent capital repairs needed to reopen the library building, which has been closed since October 2025 due to safety concerns identified through inspections. The work includes both interior and exterior upgrades such as fire safety compliance improvements (new exits, stairs, doors, and emergency lighting), relocation of a shed due to fire code concerns, siding and exterior repairs, structural protection to prevent damage from decking contact with brick, accessibility upgrades to the universal washroom, and correction of tripping hazards and flooring issues. Some issues are immediate safety requirements, while others are necessary longer-term fixes.

This was carried.

Governance & Strategic Initiatives

Communication Plan Update

An update on the communications plan was provided, it was previously presented but has been revised to ensure the timelines and logistics are realistic before release. The updated plan is expected to be shared with the community within the next one to two weeks. Proposed website changes, including adding a dedicated Chief and Council tab to make updates and summary minutes easier to access. The timing of the communications rollout aligns with recent Governance Policy engagement, where community feedback emphasized a need for improved communication from Chief and Council. The plan aims to respond directly to that feedback.

This was an information update.

PowWow Grounds & Ball Diamonds Update

Work has begun on the Pow Wow grounds and baseball diamonds. Some items are on pause until we secure more fundraising dollars. Funding has been applied to and fundraising efforts have begun. The expansion of the Pow Wow grounds and the grandstands are the big priority right now. There are a lot of drainage considerations happening on site. It is anticipated that they would be finished the grandstands and the steel structure over the grandstand before the July long weekend.

This was an information update.

Cigarette Quota

Motion No.23 from the April 13, 2026, Chief and Council meeting was rescinded as an application from a band business was missed in the original package. A new motion was passed to include all 11 retailers that applied for the Tobacco Retailer Quota Allocation.

This was carried.

2026 Chief and Council Elections

The Saugeen Band Chief and Council appoint Scott Jacobs as the Electoral Officer for the 2026 Chief and Council Elections.

This was carried.

Committee Minutes

Finance and Audit Committee

Accepting committee recommendation #1 to have orientation training provided to each new Council.

This was carried.

Accepting committee recommendation #2 to maintain the current contribution rates for all staff and reflect specified rates for non-status employees.

This was carried.

Economic Development Committee

Accepting committee recommendation #1 to conduct a time and cost comparison, including a feasibility study to assess the gas bar in its current location.

This was carried

Accepting committee recommendation #2 to approve Silas application for a youth grant.

This was carried

Accepting committee recommendation #3 to approve Sally's Kitchen for a grant.

This was carried

Accepting committee recommendation #4 to approve Fireside Coffee for a grant.

This was carried.

Accepting committee recommendation #5 to approve Beach Gas for a grant.

This was carried.

Accepting committee recommendation #6 to approve Reel Dreams Production for a grant.

This was carried.

Education Committee

Accepting committee recommendation #1 to approve all Priority 11 students 10-30 from the PSSSP funding.

This was carried

Accepting committee recommendation #2 to approve all Priority 1 students 31-60 from the PSSSP funding. Also, transferring student #35 to the Spring/Summer 2026 budget.

This was carried.

Accepting committee recommendation #3 to approve all "Rama" students' number 67-69 from the Casino Rama funding.

This was carried.

Acknowledging committee recommendation #4 for ESA BGCSB review to be look at on the next meeting.

Social Service Committee

Acknowledging minutes from April 16, 2026.

Beach Committee Minutes

Discussion regarding the removal signs of the driftwood on the beach.

Accepting committee recommendation #2 for the Works Department to proceed with the purchase of a 7-foot beach rake.

Zaag'idiwin Family & Child Welfare Update

Zaag'idiwin provided Council with an update and clarification on the governance, accountability, and operations of Zaag'idiwin under Saugeen law. It was explained that the community and Council directed child and family services to be delivered through Saugeen's own law, with 86% of voters approving the ratified legislation. Zaag'idiwin was intentionally structured as an arm's-length, non-profit organization to ensure continuity, reduce legal liability for Saugeen, provide operational stability, and maintain specialized insurance protections in the high-risk child welfare field. Under the law, Chief and Council act as the corporate member, with responsibilities including appointing or removing board directors, approving audits, and receiving annual reports at an AGM. However, Council is not permitted to participate in daily operations, approve expenditures, intervene in individual cases, or oversee child welfare decisions, as doing so would violate the ratified law and potentially compromise legal protections. Due to confidentiality requirements, individual child and family matters cannot be discussed with Council or even broadly at the board level.

This was an information update.

Travel Acknowledgements

- a. Letitia travelling to Hockley Valley
- b. Chief & Letitia travelling to Manitoulin Island for the Treaty 451/2 gathering
- c. Chief will be travelling to Hamilton for an awards ceremony.

Deputation Day will be moving to Wednesday, May 27th to accommodate travel.