



Saugeen First Nation #29

May 26, 2026

Saugeen First Nation Chief & Council Governance Policy

Community Governance Priorities & Next Steps:

Dear Community Members,

Over the past year, we have heard from many of you through various meetings, discussions, surveys, and other engagement opportunities during our engagement process for the Saugeen First Nation Chief & Council Governance Policy. Your voices have been clear and consistent. From this collective input, three key priorities have emerged that will guide how we strengthen our governance moving forward.

1. Culture, Identity & Intergenerational Responsibility

Our governance must be grounded in who we are as a people. This means honouring our culture, language, land, and the guidance of our ancestors and the Seven Grandfather Teachings. It also means making decisions with a long-term vision—considering not only today's needs but the wellbeing of the next seven generations. We will take action to strengthen identity, support the transfer of knowledge from Elders to youth, and ensure our governance reflects our values in practice.

2. Accountability, Transparency & Effective Leadership

You have made it clear that leadership must be action-oriented, accountable, and transparent. Moving forward, we will strengthen governance structures, clearly define roles and responsibilities, and ensure consistent monitoring and enforcement of policies. Chief and Council are expected to lead by example, communicate openly, and stay connected to the community. Clear expectations for leadership conduct and compliance will also be formalized and reinforced through the development of future Election Law. We will prioritize regular updates, improved access to information, and building internal capacity through training, orientation, and well-defined processes. Our commitment is to turn community input into meaningful, measurable action.

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3. Communication & Community Engagement

Strong governance depends on meaningful and ongoing communication. We will create more consistent opportunities for engagement, including regular community meetings, accessible updates, and clear channels for feedback. Community members play a vital role in governance, and we will continue to support participation, encourage open dialogue, and ensure your voices shape decisions. Engagement will not be a one-time event—it will be an ongoing commitment.

Moving Forward

These priorities are not just statements—they are a call to action. In the coming months, you will see concrete steps to align our governance practices with these themes, including enhanced communication tools, policy development, and opportunities for continued input.

We thank you for your time, your voices, and your commitment to our community. Together, we will continue building a governance system that reflects who we are and supports future generations.

In Unity,

Chief & Council

