



Saugeen First Nation #29

Saugeen Band Chief and Council Meeting Monday, June 1, 2026 Meeting Highlights

Department Updates

Fisheries

Justin provided an update regarding the funding structure for the Saugeen Fish Farm and Hatchery project across past and current fiscal year. Crew members are already "boots on the ground" with building construction scheduled to begin in mid-June. Justin emphasized that funds need to flow immediately to prevent delaying the lined-up workers.

This motion was carried.

Housing

Children's Housing Fund

Chief presented a briefing note from the Housing Department requesting a BCR to approve an amendment to the applicant list, project scopes, and costs for the 2024-2025 ISC Children's Housing Fund. Out of 20 total applicants, 11 projects were selected following an evaluation reviewed by the Operations Infrastructure Committee on July 11th.

This motion was carried.

Elders Grant

Council reviewed a request from a Band member to utilize their 2026 Elders Grant toward the purchase and installation of a mini-split heat pump, as outlined in the attached quote. Council approved the request and authorized the Housing Department to disburse the funds. During discussion, questions were raised regarding eligibility requirements for Elders Grants, including whether the home must be in the applicant's name and whether grants are issued on a per-household or per-elder basis. Council noted that there had been previous instances where both spouses in a household received grants and suggested administration clarify the policy.

This motion was carried.

Council then reviewed a separate request from another Band member to access the remaining \$2,255 from their 2026 Elders Grant. Administration advised that the request was straightforward and did not require additional discussion. Council noted the need for future clarification on Elders Grant eligibility and application policies to ensure consistency in decision-making.

This motion was carried.

Economic Development

Beach Washroom Updates

Council reviewed a request to authorize payment for repair work completed on beach washroom buildings located on the southern portion of the beach. The repairs were required after the buildings were broken into and extensively vandalized near the end of the previous summer season. The Economic Development Officer had previously requested a site assessment to identify urgent repairs, future maintenance needs, and work that could be deferred until spring. Completed repairs included site cleanup, door repairs, replacement of sinks and toilets, and painting. Council was advised that additional repairs will still be required, particularly concerning clogged piping between the washrooms and holding tanks, which may require significant cleaning or replacement.

This motion was carried.

Committee Minutes

Ec Dev Committee

Chief and Council reviewed the Economic Development Committee's recommendations from the May 12, 2026, meeting. Council agreed to acknowledge the recommendation directing the Band Administrator to review the Economic Development Department and identify staffing gaps and support needs. Discussion then focused on the recommendation to establish an Amphitheatre Ad Hoc Committee. Council members noted that a committee had previously existed and suggested reactivating it rather than creating a new one. Council also discussed the recommendation to hire a project manager for major community projects. Members agreed that dedicated project management support is needed due to the number and scale of ongoing projects. Suggestions included seeking external funding, allocating a portion of project budgets toward the position, or incorporating these responsibilities into an Infrastructure Coordinator role if qualified staff are available. Administration was directed to explore options. Council formally approved the recommendation to reopen the former gas bar on July 24, 2026, pending compliance with ECCC requirements. Staff reported that work is underway on an emergency response plan and that required repairs are being addressed.

Recommendations were acknowledged and motions were carried.

Beach Advisory Committee

The Beach Advisory Committee met on May 26, 2026. The Band Administrator attended and provided updates.

The Beach Advisory Committee meeting was acknowledged.

Education Committee

The Education Committee met on May 27, 2026, to review Education Awards, budget matters, daycare updates, and other education initiatives. The committee approved a 2026 Education Awards budget. Council later approved the budget and surplus transfer through formal motions. The committee also recommended holding an emergency meeting after June 5, 2026,

to address an additional pending graduate documentation. Graduates who do not submit required documentation by the deadline will be deferred to the 2027 awards program. A significant discussion focused on recognizing students who reside in Saugeen but are not Band members eligible under Casino Rama funding criteria. The committee recommended developing a separate budget and funding strategy to ensure these students can still be recognized. Council acknowledged the concern and directed administration to explore options for future awards. To address anticipated funding pressures, including student laptop purchases and recognition of non-band-member students, the committee recommended that Education Director Melissa Kahgee Ritchie seek sponsorships and donations from Chief and Council, local businesses, community organizations, and other funding sources. Council supported this approach and emphasized the importance of following established procedures when seeking funding on behalf of Saugeen. The committee also acknowledged Ningwa Kewaquom George for receiving an Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) from Wilfrid Laurier University. Additional updates included:

- The ESA Bruce Catholic School Board review was tabled to a future meeting.
- The daycare was temporarily closed from May 11–22.
- A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the daycare facility was tentatively planned for June 21.
- Planned renovations to BinoojiinhGamig are expected to take approximately seven weeks once construction begins.
- The Education Committee requested that Communications staff be kept informed of BinoojiinhGamig updates so information can be shared with the community.

Council approved the Education Awards budget and related funding transfers, acknowledged the remaining recommendations, and supported ongoing efforts to secure additional funding and improve recognition opportunities for all Saugeen students.

Travel Acknowledgements

- A. Lester to travel for an ALFDC meeting June 22-25.
- B. Theresa to travel to RAMA June 16-18.
- C. Letitia to travel to RAMA June 16-18.