



# Saugeen First Nation #29

## Saugeen Band Chief and Council Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2026

### Meeting Highlights

#### Department Updates

##### Driftwood Corporation Project

The SWIFT Fibre Optic Project is currently underway, with Avertex serving as the contractor. Once completed, the network will be managed by Bruce Telecom. Bruce Telecom has recommended the purchase of additional network equipment to significantly increase the network's capacity and support future expansion. The equipment is necessary for the long-term operation of the fibre network. All costs will be covered through the SWIFT grant funding, with no financial contribution required from Saugeen First Nation.

**This motion was carried.**

##### Governance & Strategic Initiatives- Database/Internal Communication Tool

The Governance Coordinator provided an update on the new internal BCR database and communications platform developed in partnership with NPX over the past six to eight months. Built within Saugeen's SharePoint and Microsoft environment, the system is now ready for launch and is designed to improve internal communication, document management, and access to Band Council information. Key features of the new system include:

- A more user-friendly and organized internal portal for staff, managers, directors, Chief, and Council.
- Centralized access to forms, policies, health and safety resources, benefits information, and management tools.
- A dedicated BCR database that stores Band Council Resolutions alongside related briefing packages and meeting minutes.
- Improved search functionality, allowing users to quickly locate BCRs by keywords or topics.
- The ability to tag relevant departments or staff when BCRs are uploaded, automatically notifying them by email and providing direct access to the documents.
- Locked and standardized forms to prevent accidental editing and retention of personal information.

**This was an information update.**

## **Fire & Emergency Services**

### **Marine and Water Safety Officer Position**

Jackson requested approval to post a Marine and Water Safety Officer position, funded by the Canadian Coast Guard at \$75,000 per year for a two-year contract.

The position will:

- Provide administrative and technical support for Saugeen Fire's marine and water safety initiatives.
- Support the development, implementation, and review of Saugeen Fire's goals and objectives.
- Strengthen collaboration between Saugeen First Nation, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- Enhance the community's search and rescue (SAR) and environmental response preparedness.
- Assist with equipment maintenance and station upkeep.
- Oversee the Coast Guard Auxiliary Program once funding for that program is finalized.

**This motion was carried.**

### **Fire & Emergency Services-Emergency Plan for Fuel/Gas Storage**

A presented draft Fuel Storage Incident Response Plan as part of the broader Emergency Response Plan being developed for Saugeen First Nation. The draft was created in accordance with Environment and Climate Change Canada guidelines and will be reviewed by the Policing and Emergency Services Committee before returning to Council for approval. It was explained that while the emergency response documents are nearly complete, there is a need for a supporting mechanism—such as a Band Council Resolution (BCR) or bylaw—to ensure fuel storage plans, fire safety plans, and other emergency preparedness documents are completed, maintained, and regularly updated. The discussion focused on how compliance could be achieved through education, oversight, and appropriate accountability rather than punitive enforcement. Council members expressed support for the initiative but raised concerns about how any bylaw or enforcement mechanism would apply to privately owned businesses operating on reserve. Council generally agreed that:

- Community education and engagement should accompany implementation of the emergency response plans.
- Businesses should be consulted early to encourage voluntary compliance before considering enforcement measures.
- The Policing and Emergency Services Committee should continue reviewing the draft plans and develop recommendations for Council.
- Education should remain the primary approach, with enforcement considered only, if necessary, in the future.

The current Emergency Response Plan establishes the foundational framework for emergency management in Saugeen First Nation. Future annexes and operational procedures will be developed over time, while community education, emergency notifications, and preparedness initiatives will be expanded as resources become available.

## **Committee Minutes**

### ***Governance Committee***

The Governance Committee has completed its review of the Governance Policy and is recommending it for approval following three years of development and community engagement. The finalized policy, along with the committee minutes, will be circulated to Chief and Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

### ***Health & Wellness Committee***

The Health & Wellness Committee provided updates on several initiatives, programs, and facility projects, with one recommendation requiring Council approval.

**Food Forest Project:** The committee supported a proposal to establish a permanent Indigenous Food Forest at the **Robert Johnson Memorial Site** at the Mino Bimaadsawin Health Centre. The project was secured through the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Indigenous Food Forest Program and will also explore connections with the Amphitheatre project.

**Multi-Purpose/Ceremonial Building:** Flooring installation is underway, furniture has been quoted, and additional funding is still required for the kitchen, bathrooms, and other finishing work. The committee also discussed naming the building and recommended seeking community submissions before selecting a final name.

**Wellness Centre:** The committee highlighted recognition from the Chiefs of Ontario for the Wellness Centre's wraparound mental health and addictions model. Staff reported zero drug-related deaths among program participants, receipt of a drug-checking machine, and ongoing efforts to improve youth supports and collect community-specific health data through ICES.

**Community Health Representative (CHR):** Updates included Renni Nawash's upcoming retirement, transition of the Good Food Box program to the Food Bank, staffing gaps in mosquito control and diabetic shoe programs, and upcoming community events such as the pet wellness clinic and food handling course.

**Home and Community Care:** Staffing shortages may require waitlisting new clients. The committee is exploring PSW training opportunities, elder programming, improvements to hospice-area safety, and renovations at the Elders Building.

**ISC Health Programs:** Updates included monthly cooking classes, school readiness programming, a FASD event in partnership with neighbouring organizations, and coordination with Healthy Smiles for community health events.

**Recommendation #1 was carried.**

### ***Pow Wow Committee***

The Pow Wow Committee brought forward two recommendations regarding improvements to community assets used during the annual Pow Wow and other events.

**Flags and Poles-** The committee recommended purchasing new flags and flag poles from Walid Abdul for \$600. The committee noted that the flags are used for multiple community events, making them a Band asset rather than a Pow Wow-specific expense.

**This motion was carried.**

The committee also presented three quotes for installing lighting at the new Pow Wow grounds. After discussion, Council supported the **BJ's Electrical** quote, which included a three-light pole configuration. Members noted that the existing poles have likely deteriorated and need replacement.

**This motion was carried.**

