



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

A Strong Start to the New Term

Within the first three weeks of the new Chief and Council term, we have already had our first Regular Council Meeting, 12 days of orientation, and one Deputation Day.

We have an amazing team this term, with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and different perspectives that we can draw upon as we move forward. We have already begun putting that knowledge to work and identifying the priorities that will guide us throughout our term.

Committee selections have also been organized for many of our in-house committees and boards. The remaining committees, including the SON Joint Committees, will be selected at a later date.

There is a great deal of work ahead, but we have made a strong start and are committed to maintaining that momentum.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS

The following committees and boards have been established with their respective Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Members:

Infrastructure Committee

Chair: Lester Anoquot

Co-chair: Dwayne Nashkawa

Members:

Marjorie Nashkawa

Janet Galant

James Besito

Education & Early Years Committee

Chair: Fay Roote

Co-chair: Anthony Owl

Members:

Melanie Cameron

Richelle Ritchie

Shawnessy Thompson

Joyce Besito

Janet Root

Finance & Audit Committee

Chair: Dwayne Nashkewa

Co-chairs: Lester Anoquot & Fay Roote

Members:

Stacey John

Stephanie Roote

Tiffany Stewart

Cultural Committee

Chair: Leticia Thompson

Co-chair: Trudy Jacobs

Members:

Leona Roote

Renita Nawash

Mercedes Roote

Angeline Kimewon

Cheryl George

Vicky Cameron

Governance Committee

Chair: Randall Kahgee

Co-chairs: Fay Roote, Leticia Thompson,
Trudy Jacobs, Conrad Ritchie

Members:

Stacey John

Leona Roote

Gabe Ritchie

Richelle Ritchie

Theresa Root

Police and Emergency Services Committee

Chair: Randall Kahgee

Co-chairs: Conrad Ritchie & Warren John

Members:

Leona Roote

Paul Ritchie

Theresa Root

Economic Development Committee

Chair: Lester Anoquot

Co-chair: Dwayne Nashkewa

Members:

Chad Hope

Bryant John

Tiffany Stewart

Youth Committee

Chair: Anthony Owl

Co-chairs: Warren John & Conrad Ritchie

Members:

Brock Pucan

Mercedes Roote

Angeline Kimewon

Jaeden Forrester

Shoshanna Johnston

Sequoyah Cubitt

Leigha Roote

Ningwakwe George

COMMITTEES & BOARDS CONTINUED

Boards

Sageen Driftwood Board

Randall Kahgee
Brad Ritchie
Kirk Roote

Zaagidiwin Board — Council-Appointed Members

Fay Roote
Trudy Jacobs
Sonya Roote

These committees and boards will play an important role in supporting the work of Chief and Council and ensuring that the many priorities of our community continue to move forward.

Health & Wellness Committee Restructuring

As part of our early discussions around community priorities, we have made the decision to separate the existing Health & Wellness Committee into two distinct committees.

While we are still developing the scope and responsibilities of each committee, the intention is for the Wellness Committee to focus specifically on addictions and substance use. This will provide a dedicated space to focus on the challenges surrounding the drug epidemic in Sageen and to explore meaningful approaches to prevention, support, treatment, and community wellness.

The scope of both committees will continue to be developed as we move forward, with the goal of ensuring that each committee has a clear purpose and can effectively address the needs of our community.

TREATY CLAIM UPDATE

Another important matter before us is the upcoming court date concerning the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Treaty Claim. A motion brought by Canada is scheduled to be heard in Toronto on **October 2, 2026**, which also coincides with **Duluth Declaration Day**.

The motion is being brought under **Rule 21 of the Ontario Rules of Civil Procedure**. In general terms, Rule 21 allows a party to ask the court to determine a question of law raised by a pleading before trial where doing so may dispose of all or part of the action, substantially shorten the trial, or result in a substantial saving of costs.

In this case, Canada is asking the court to determine whether the return of land is legally available as a remedy in the SON Treaty Claim. Ontario supports Canada's position on this issue. SON is opposing the motion and maintains its position that the return of land can be considered as part of the remedies available in the Treaty Claim.

This is an important hearing for SON and our community, and all or most members of Chief and Council will be attending in Toronto to stand in opposition to the motion. We are also making arrangements for Saugeen Members who wish to attend. A bus will be organized to provide transportation to Toronto for Members who would like to be present and show their support.

The courtroom itself is small and can accommodate only a limited number of people. Arrangements are therefore being made for additional Members and supporters to gather in a nearby boardroom where they will be able to follow the proceedings. In addition, we are working to arrange a live stream within the community so that Members who are unable to travel to Toronto will still have the opportunity to watch and follow the proceedings.

This is an important moment for our community, and we want to ensure that Members have meaningful opportunities to be informed, participate, and stand together as this matter proceeds before the court.

MOVING FORWARD

What has been shared in this report is only a small snapshot of the work that Chief and Council have identified as priorities and are already working on. There is much more happening behind the scenes as we continue to learn, organize, and move forward on the many matters that are important to our community.

We jumped in feet first with our first Council meeting, and we intend to carry that momentum throughout the remainder of our term. There is a great deal of work ahead, but with the knowledge, experience, and commitment around the Council table, we are ready to take on the challenges and opportunities before us.

We look forward to keeping our Members informed as this work continues and to sharing further updates as we move forward together.

Miigwetch,



Chief Sonya Roote

