



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

LISTENING TO OUR MEMBERS

One of the most important opportunities we have had recently was our Deputation Day, which provided Chief and Council with the opportunity to hear directly from Members about the issues and concerns affecting them, their families, and our community.

The concerns brought forward covered a wide range of areas, including youth and recreation, food programs, roads and infrastructure, housing, safety, health services, and community security.

YOUTH, RECREATION & CHILDREN

Members expressed the need for the Youth Centre and Recreation Centre to be open after school so that our children have safe places to go, participate in activities, and spend time with their peers.

Concerns were also raised about the current lunch program. Members emphasized the importance of providing healthier lunches and food that children will actually enjoy and eat. Ensuring that our children have access to nutritious food and positive spaces is an important part of supporting the well-being of our youth.

ROADS, SIDEWALKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Road maintenance was another concern raised by Members. There were concerns about the condition of our roads and the need for potholes to be repaired more regularly.

Members also spoke about the need for sidewalks throughout the community. This was raised as an important safety concern, particularly for those who walk along our roads in the evening and at night.

HOUSING & MEMBER SAFETY

Housing and tenant-related concerns were also brought forward. Members shared concerns about situations where they do not feel safe in their homes and expressed the need for action to be taken when these concerns are reported.

Our Members deserve to feel safe in their homes and throughout our community, and these concerns will require continued attention.

HOSPICE & END-OF-LIFE CARE

Members also raised concerns about hospice services and access for our own Members. There is frustration that some of our Members have been unable to access hospice care within our community and have instead had to leave the community to receive end-of-life care elsewhere.

This is an important concern, and one that deserves continued discussion as we look at how we can better support our Members and their families during end-of-life care.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Street lighting and community security were also discussed. Members expressed a need for improved lighting throughout the community, particularly in areas where people are walking at night.

There was also discussion about having cameras installed throughout the community as another potential tool to support safety and security.

OUR COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW-THROUGH

One of the most significant concerns raised during Deputation Day was the feeling that concerns brought forward by Members in the past have sometimes been ignored or have not resulted in meaningful follow-up.

Chief and Council heard this concern clearly.

Members should feel confident that when they take the time to come forward and raise an issue, their concerns are being heard and considered. While not every concern can be addressed immediately, it is important that Members receive communication about what is being done and where matters stand.

Improving communication and follow-through will be an important part of our work moving forward.

JOINT COUNCIL WITH NAWASH

This past week, Saugeen Chief and Council also held our first Joint Council meeting with the Council of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

A number of important matters were discussed, including staffing postings and issues within the Environment Office, Treaty Trial Phase 2, the NEOEN Project update, and various SON files.

A key discussion during Joint Council was the need for **greater community involvement and more regular communication with our Members**. There are certain issues where our communities need to have more opportunities to understand what is happening and to be involved in discussions that affect our Nations.

Both Councils recognized the importance of keeping Members informed and providing regular updates so that our communities are not left wondering about important matters.

This is something we want to continue building on throughout the term. Good communication is a two-way process, and we want to create more opportunities for our Members to be informed, engaged, and involved.

OCT. 2- TORONTO COURT HEARING

As part of our continued work surrounding the Treaty Claim, both Saugeen and Nawash will each be sending a bus of community Members to Toronto on **October 2, 2026**, to attend the upcoming court hearing.

The hearing concerns the motion requesting that **“Land Back” be removed as a possible form of compensation for successful land claims**.

Having our Members present at this hearing is an important opportunity for community participation and to witness this stage of the proceedings firsthand. We recognize that not everyone will be able to travel to Toronto, and arrangements are also being made so that Members in the community can follow the proceedings.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

As a reminder to our Members, **September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

A ceremony will be held on the **bridge in Southampton at 11:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this important ceremony as we come together to honour and remember.

MOVING FORWARD

The concerns shared during Deputation Day and the discussions held during Joint Council have reinforced the importance of listening to our Members and keeping our communities informed.

The issues raised are important, and while some will take time and further discussion, we want our Members to know that they have been heard. We will continue working to ensure that these concerns remain part of the conversation and that Members receive meaningful updates as we move forward.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sonya Roote".

Chief Sonya Roote