



Saugeen First Nation #29

Saugeen Band Chief and Council Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2026

Meeting Highlights

Department Updates

A. Governance Coordinator

a. Ceremonial Building

Melissa reported that the Ceremonial Building project is facing a budget shortfall due to scope changes and fluctuating construction costs. Most electrical and HVAC work is complete, with flooring, eavestroughs, and other finishing touches remaining. Chief and Council approved the additional allocation from the Rama budget under Council also supported epoxy flooring over rubberized plank flooring. The remaining previously approved budget will cover the parking lot, shed construction, furnishings, and landscaping. The building is intended to accommodate the Traditional Healer and Jimelda's program, helping relieve space pressures at the Health Centre and freeing up office space in the administration building. Melissa will coordinate with the contractor to complete the remaining work, with a target of late fall for completion and a potential grand opening before winter. Council also discussed the need for better project management on major projects to help prevent cost overruns and incomplete work.

This motion was carried.

b. Orientation Schedule

Melissa provided an update on the upcoming Chief and Council orientation schedule, which is approximately 90% finalized, with facilitators and resources arranged across several days to help manage the volume of information. She will consult with OKT, Alex, Nuri, and Janet to coordinate legal presentations, including updates on the Eastern Boundary, and clarify whether these should be included in the legal or SON sessions. Council also emphasized the importance of inviting the Zaag'idiwin Board to present an overview of its programs, operations, and responsibilities to incoming leadership. Melissa will follow up to arrange this presentation.

This was a discussion

B. Economic Development

a. Beach Portable Toilets

Chief and Council discussed a request for additional funding to cover beach portable toilet services and maintenance, as expenses were increasing due to frequent cleaning, pumping, and restocking during peak periods. Council raised concerns about the number and location of the portable toilets, the frequency of servicing, and the overall costs, particularly given that the beach is not open to the general public. Roy will obtain confirmation of the number and locations of the units and provide Council with further details. Discussions regarding potential permanent beach washroom facilities are ongoing, with proposals still being received.

This motion was carried.

C. Housing Department

a. Increase of Guarantee Amount- CIBC Partnership

Chief and Council approved increasing Saugeen First Nation's mortgage guarantee limit for community members borrowing through private banks from \$1 million to \$10 million. The increase will support the implementation of CIBC's Indigenous Housing Loans Program, which will help eligible members build, purchase, or renovate homes on-reserve. The existing BMO First Nations Market Housing Program has reached its lending limit and is currently suspended pending updated community audits. Council requested an update on the existing BMO program, including loan repayments and the current status of the guarantee. The Housing Department is developing policies outlining borrower and lender requirements before the new program launches. Council also emphasized the importance of ensuring all eligible members have equal access to the program and directed staff to share information through the website, community app, and other communication channels. Members will still need to meet the lender's mortgage qualification requirements, including creditworthiness and down payment criteria.

This motion was carried.

b. 2026 Bruce Power Housing Fund Allocation Request

Chief and Council approved the allocation of the 2026 Bruce Power Housing Fund. The funding will be divided into two areas: \$150,000 will provide five eligible applicants with \$30,000 housing supplements through the CIBC Indigenous Housing Loan Program, which will be combined with the existing SFN housing subsidy of \$28,179 for a total of \$58,179 per applicant. The remaining \$100,000 will be allocated to the Housing Department's Emergency Housing Fund to assist homeowners with major urgent repairs, including septic system replacements. This additional funding will help address housing affordability, reduce barriers to home construction and renovation, and respond to emergency repair needs in the community.

This motion was carried.

c. Emergency Septic Replacement

Chief and Council approved emergency septic system replacements for two residential properties where failed systems had caused wastewater to back up into the homes. The Housing Department will proceed with the urgent work and arrange the financial process with the homeowners, including negotiating a contribution of up to 50% of the costs.

This motion was carried.

Committee Minutes

A. Social Services Committee

The Social Services Committee reviewed a request from a community member for reimbursement of hydro hookup costs he paid in 2024 for two properties occupied by his children. The matter was a follow-up from a previous committee meeting where additional information had been requested. Staff confirmed that hydro hookup expenses normally require pre-approval through Ontario Works (OW) in order to qualify for reimbursement. Because pre-approval was not obtained, reimbursement through Ontario Works was not available. The Band member explained that he believed the work would eventually be paid for by either Ontario Works or the Band, but because his children were living without hydro, heat, power, or water following fire-related circumstances, he chose to pay the costs himself rather than wait for the process to be completed. He stated that he expected to be reimbursed afterward and acknowledged that he did not fully understand the approval process at the time. The committee questioned the difference in costs between the two hydro hookups. The Band member explained the reasoning. The committee recognized that the Band member misunderstood the required process and acted out of concern for his children's safety and living conditions.

This motion was carried.

Travel Acknowledgements

- A. 3 Councillors attending Hawkley Valley on Thursday. Then the following week AFLDC at Blue Mountain.