



Saugeen First Nation #29

Saugeen Band Chief and Council Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026

Meeting Highlights

Department Updates

a. EDUCATION & EARLY YEARS

a. Daycare parking lot upgrades

Melissa requested Council approval for a parking lot upgrade at G'Shawdagawin Daycare to address water pooling caused by drainage issues in the newly extended gravel parking lot. The work will include installing a catch basin and drainage pipe to direct water into the roadside ditch and paving the lot with asphalt to improve safety and durability, particularly during winter. The project will be funded through the remaining renovation budget.

This motion was carried.

b. Village Road Daycare Renovations

Council discussed the proposed renovation of the Village Road Daycare (Binoojiinh Gamig) using 2026–2027 IELCC capital funding and remaining funds from the G'Shawdagawin daycare renovation budget. The upgrades would support a licensed before- and after-school care program, provide space for the Healthy Babies Program, and allow summer day camp to operate without disruptions at the Recreation Centre. Melissa explained that DASA Properties had originally been included in the broader daycare renovation project, which is why additional quotes had not been obtained, and noted that delaying the work could postpone services for families by several weeks. Council raised concerns about competitive quotes, and procurement requirements.

The motion was carried, and then later withdrawn.

c. Winterwear Program

Melissa outlined a proposed Winter Wear Program funded through unused IELCC funds from the 2024/25 and 2025/26 fiscal years. The program would provide Saugeen families living on and off reserve with up to \$300 per child for winter essentials, including a coat, snow pants, hat, mitts, and boots, initially targeting children ages 0–12, with additional funding being explored to support youth ages 13–17. Melissa is working with SportChek in Owen Sound to establish a purchase order option for families unable to pay upfront and wait for

reimbursement. Approximately 260 children are currently registered. Melissa requested a BCR to approve the use of IELCC funds for the program.

This motion was carried.

d. Bluewater District School Board Trustee

Council discussed the Bluewater District School Board trustee position currently held by Richelle, whose term ends November 15, 2026. Although Saugeen and Nawash have an understanding to alternate representation, the transition did not occur when Nawash Council was appointed in 2025. A motion was introduced to support Nawash holding the seat until the end of its term in 2027, but concerns were raised about the existing agreement, historical representation, and the board's term extending to 2030. Council decided to remove the item from the table for further discussion, including potential consideration by Joint Council. Melissa also noted that the current education agreement continues to reflect both communities' concerns about having only one Indigenous trustee representing Saugeen and Nawash.

This was a discussion.

b. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Beach Wasrooms Request for Proposals

Brad presented the recommendation to proceed with DPAI as the successful firm for the beach washroom design and rebuild project. Health Canada assessments identified significant concerns with the age and structural condition of the washrooms near Chesley Lane and 6th Street in North Sauble, including the underground holding tanks. Following an open RFP process that received four submissions, DPAI was selected based on its qualifications, project team, schedule, methodology, and cost. The project includes design, decommissioning, tendering, contract administration, and inspection services. Council approved the recommendation, and the project costs will be forwarded to the legal team to support compensation negotiations with Canada.

This motion was carried.

b. Beach Washrooms Invoice

Brad explained that Backyard Boys was brought in to assess and complete necessary repairs to the beach washrooms after both the plumber and electrician identified extensive work required. The renovations were intended to reopen the washroom buildings and reduce the significant ongoing costs of renting portable washrooms.

This motion was carried.

c. Great Lakes Concrete Invoice

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Brad explained that Great Lakes Concrete was hired to install larger concrete pads for the beach access gates after the original requirements proved insufficient. The gates were installed as part of the beach operational strategy to help manage public access while ensuring Saugeen Band members could access the beach. Three quotes were obtained, but only Great Lakes Concrete was available to complete the work. The gates are now installed, and the team is working on programming the system and registering members' licence plates.

This motion was carried.

c. FISHERIES

a. Aquaculture Project

Council discussed a proposed BCR supporting the Saugeen aquaculture project and its \$2.2 million federal grant from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. Concerns were raised about the unclear BCR, the lack of a detailed project plan and cost breakdown, the remaining funding needed and limited communication with the community about the fish hatchery.

Council members emphasized the need for stronger procurement procedures, financial safeguards, project oversight, and greater consideration of qualified Indigenous contractors and local employment.

Council agreed that the aquaculture BCR required clarification and should be brought back with a clearer project plan, funding details, and appropriate documentation. Members also called for improved community communication about the project's purpose, progress, and economic benefits, particularly its potential to address declining fishery resources.

Committee Minutes

In house committees were discussed and Councillors decided which committee's they would like to sit on for their two year term.

Health portfolio: Chair Anthony, Co-Chair Warren

Wellness: Co-Chair Warren Chair Fay Anthony (attend as a member)

Community & Social Services: leave it for now, discussion with Nicole first

Infrastructure: Lester Chair, Dwayne Co-Chair

Education & Early Years: Fay Chair Anthony Co-Chair

Finance and Audit: Lester, Dwayne Chair, Fay Co-Chair

Governance: Randall Chair, Fay, Letitia, Trudy Co-Chair, Conrad

Policing: Randall Chair, Conrad Co-Chair, Warren

Ec Dev: Lester Chair, Dwayne Co-Chair

PowWow & Cultural Committee: Trudy Co-Chair, Letitia Chair

Youth Committee: Anthony Chair, Warren Co-Chair, Conrad

Travel Acknowledgements

- a. Conrad to travel out of province November 21-23, 2026.
- b. Conrad to travel to IFN meeting Tuesday September 15th
- c. Lester to travel to IFN meeting Wednesday to Thursday, September 16-17th
- d. All Council to travel to Toronto on October 2nd for the treaty claim court hearing.

