

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Aanii Saugeen Members,
I hope everyone is doing well! It has been another busy couple of weeks for Chief and Council, and I would like to share some updates on the work we have been doing, along with some important information for our community.

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Community Committee Updates

Chief and Council have now filled some of the community member positions on the Wellness, Health, and Social Committees. We are pleased to see these committees moving forward, as they will play an important role in addressing the needs and concerns of our community. The following community Members have been appointed:

Wellness Committee

- Katrina Roote
- Shawnessy Thompson
- Cheryl George

Social Committee

- Marjory Nashkawa
- Sylvia Kewageshig

We would like to thank these Members for stepping forward and volunteering their time to serve on these important committees.
There are still vacant seats available, and we encourage any interested community Members to submit an application. This is a great opportunity to get involved, share your ideas, and have a voice in matters that affect our community.
Most of our Saugeen committees are now up and running, with the remaining committees expected to become active as soon as possible. We appreciate the time and commitment of everyone involved and look forward to the important work these committees will be doing.

Home and Community Care – Hospice-Like Space Update

Chief and Council recently received a presentation from Home and Community Care regarding the Hospice-Like Space. During the presentation, we were provided with information on the admission criteria and policies surrounding the use of the space. We learned that the space was completed in 2024, with the first client accessing it in June 2025. Since its completion, we were informed that four clients have been able to utilize the space.

Home and Community Care – Hospice-Like Space Update - Continued...

During the discussion, Cathy Banks agreed that hosting community open houses and information sessions would be beneficial in helping Members better understand the services available, the admission process, and how the space can be accessed.
We encourage community Members to watch for upcoming dates and take the opportunity to visit the program if they have not already done so.
Moving forward, further research will be conducted to explore options that could allow more clients to access the Hospice-Like Space. We want to better understand whether there are opportunities to improve accessibility so that more of our Members and their families can benefit from this important service when they need it.
We appreciate the information provided by Home and Community Care and look forward to continuing these discussions.

Follow-Up on Community Members' Concerns

Our Band Administrator is currently tracking 12 community concerns, eight of which were brought forward by Members during the September 16th deputation day with Chief and Council. The concerns raised during our October 21st deputation day are also being reviewed to determine what steps can be taken to address them. We want our Members to know that the concerns they bring forward are important and are not being forgotten. While some issues may take more time to resolve than others, we are committed to ensuring that they are followed up on and that progress is made wherever possible. We will continue to provide updates to the community as more information becomes available.

Village Gas Bar Update

We continue to work toward our target reopening date of December 1, 2026, for the Village Gas Bar.
The necessary repairs are currently being addressed, and the job posting for the Gas Bar Manager position has now closed. We are hopeful that a new manager will be hired soon to assist with contacting suppliers, arranging inventory, and restocking the Gas Bar in preparation for reopening.
While there is still work to be done, we are making progress and remain hopeful that we will be able to reopen on our targeted date.
We understand that the Gas Bar is an important service to our community, and we appreciate everyone's continued patience as we work toward getting it back up and running.

Joint Council – Three-Day Working Session

Chief and Council recently participated in a three-day Joint Council working session with Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. During these meetings, we discussed a number of important joint issues and initiatives affecting both of our communities.
Some of the topics discussed included:

- Joint Council Protocol Agreement – Discussions regarding the agreement that guides how our two Councils work together.
- Oversight Committee and Terms of Reference – Reviewing the structure, responsibilities, and guidelines for the Oversight Committee.
- Environment Office Programs and Operations – Discussions regarding current programs, services, and operations of the Environment Office.
- Environment Office Administration and Policies – Reviewing administrative processes and policies.
- Business Opportunities – Exploring potential opportunities and initiatives that could benefit both communities.
- Environment Office Incorporation and Financial Management – Discussions regarding the potential incorporation of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office (SON EO), as well as the possibility of Saugeen First Nation overseeing its financial management as an interim measure until incorporation is completed or another option is determined.

The Oversight Committee will be working on these matters and bringing recommendations back to Joint Council for further discussion and consideration.

Strategic Planning Discussions

We also held strategic planning discussions on several important matters, including:

- Environment Office workplace matters and challenges.
- Bruce Power A, B, and C.
- TC Energy.
- The proposed NEOEN project.

An important point that came out of these discussions was the need for better communication with our Members. Both Councils agreed that we need to provide more regular information and improve how we communicate on these important issues and initiatives.

We are working on ways to strengthen our communication methods so that Members of both communities are better informed, have opportunities to ask questions, and can be more involved in discussions about matters that affect our communities and our future.

The three-day session provided an opportunity for both Councils to work through important matters, share perspectives, and discuss the next steps for our joint initiatives.

Communications Update –

Best Wishes and a Warm Welcome!

Our communications rockstar, Justine, is now on maternity leave! We want to wish Justine and her family all the very best as they welcome their new addition. We will certainly miss her and appreciate all the great work she has done keeping our community informed.

But don't worry, we have another rockstar stepping in! Carrie Collins will be taking over the communications reins for the next 18 months.

We are happy to welcome Carrie to the team and look forward to working with her as we continue to keep our Members informed and connected.

Welcome, Carrie, and best wishes to Justine and her growing family!

Closing Remarks

These are some of the things Chief and Council have been working on over the past couple of weeks. There are many issues and initiatives that continue to require our attention, and we remain committed to working through them and keeping our Members informed along the way.

As always, I appreciate the Members who take the time to bring forward their concerns, ask questions, and get involved in our community. Your voices are important, and we will continue to work toward making positive changes for Saugeen.

I hope everyone has a great week. Stay safe and take care of one another!

Miigwetch,



Chief Sonya Roote