

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road  
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**  
**Approved Minutes**

<b>Chair:</b> Wilma-Lee Johnston
<b>Council:</b> Chief Brent Bissaillon (zoom), John (Jack) Trudeau, Steve Meawasige, Kerri Commanda, Shirley McLeod
<b>Regrets:</b> Michelle Owl

**Director of Operations (DOO):** Tracey Seabrook

**Staff:** Jeff Moulton, Director of HR; Felix Stonepoint, Housing Manager; Don Belleau, Infrastructure Project Manager, Danny Bacon, Water Infrastructure Project Manager; Jackie Toulouse, EA to the IDOO; Lilli Doughty, POLEA

**Recording Secretary:** Lilli Doughty

**1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:**

- The duly convened Chief and Council Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm
- Councillor Trudeau said an opening prayer

**2) Adoption of Agenda**

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-01</b>	
That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 28, 2023 as presented.	
<b>Moved by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>Seconded by</b>	Kerri Commanda
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

**3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

- None at this time
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**4) Community Presentations**

- None at this time
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5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) Draft minutes of February 28 , 2023.

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-02</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2023 as presented.</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillion
<b>Seconded by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

6) **Business Arising from Minutes**

- None at this time
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7) **Reports**

a) Chief's Report

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-03</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council accept the Chiefs' verbal report as presented</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>Seconded by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

8) **Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports**

- None at this time
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9) **Business Arising from Minutes & Reports**

- None at this time
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10) **Standing Items**

- None at this time
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**11) New Business**

a.) Human Resources BN Accruals

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-04</b>	
That Chief and Council approve the change in current process to grant vacation and sick leave for all eligible employees on April 1 of each year based on the individual employees entitlement and have vacation and sick leave begin occurring for the next fiscal year and should an employee leave throughout the year recovery of time be consistently applied for all staff members.	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillion
<b>Seconded by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
This current process allows employees to take their vacation or sick entitlement even if they do not have the leave available. The process allows employees to move into a negative leave balance and they then have to accrue more leave monthly to move into a positive balance. This process is an issue if an employee leaves the employ of Serpent River First Nation as they have been “prepaid” these leaves and the “prepaid” time has not been consistently recovered from the employee.	

b.) Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation - Rapid Housing Initiative Round 3 Expression of Interest

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-05</b>	
That Chief and Council support the Expression of Interest for 2 - 5 Plex w/ one bedroom and the other with bachelor suites, Typical Wood Construction in the amount of \$3,085,016.00 and a second Expression of Interest for 4 Duplexes w/ 2 bedrooms and 3 Duplexes with 3 bedrooms, Modular Construction in the amount of \$6,052,709.00 for a total of \$9,137,725.00	
<b>Moved by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Kerri Commanda
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
Canada Housing & Mortgage Corporation released the Rapid Housing Initiative Round 3 and the Expression of Interest is due March 15, 2023.	
On Thursday, February 9th , 2023 a presentation was made to the Housing Committee which detailed the criteria for the Rapid Housing Initiative.	
There were three options for housing presented to the committee for their consideration. The options included a variety of different housing including multi-plex units, single family dwellings, etc. The different options address the current housing needs as per the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Option A addresses 100% housing needs</li> <li>● Option B= 46% of Housing needs</li> <li>● Option C = 58% of Housing needs</li> </ul>	
The decision of the committee was to proceed with Option A which addresses 100% of the current identified housing needs on the First nation which is as per the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10 singles (42%)</li> <li>● 8 w/one dependent (33%)</li> </ul>	

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- 6 w/ 2 or more dependents (25%)

Option A includes 9 structures on 11 lots:

- 2 - 5 plex w/ one bedroom and bachelor apartments
- 4 - Duplex's w/ 2 bedrooms
- 3 - Duplex's w/3 bedrooms
- Total projected cost for is \$9.1 million

Due to the criteria of the application process there were two submissions to the RHI Expression of Interest:

- 1) 2 - 5 Plex w/ one bedroom and the other with bachelor suites, Typical Wood Construction @ \$ 3,085,016.00
- 2) 4 Duplexes w/ 2 bedrooms and 3 Duplexes with 3 bedrooms, Modular Construction @ \$ 6,052,709.00

Successful applications are based upon a scoring system. There were efforts on Serpent River's behalf to maximize the scoring as much as possible. To support the priority of Housing through the Community Development Wrap Around Initiative a commitment of \$652,000 was made in efforts to increase the scoring for the Rapid Housing Initiative Three application. This has a net 0 impact on Serpent River, however will improve our chances for selection as there is a 15% Serpent River First Nation contribution.

c.) Outstanding Certificate of Possession request

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-06</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council acknowledges and supports issuing a Certificate of Possession to Dorina Pine</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillon
<b>Seconded by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dorina Pine requested her Certificate of Possession in 2013, has yet to receive a certificate</li> <li>- BCR motion 2013-05-13-1C-06 Passed on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 to issue the Certificate however there was an error on the BCR listing the wrong lot so the certificate was never issued</li> <li>- Need an updated BCR with correct information to process the Certificate</li> </ul>	

d.) Funding Agreement Amendment Approval Process

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-07</b>	
<b>That moving forward Chief and Council agree, that the Director of Operations can approve a funding amendment via e-mail with a cc to Chief and Council and on a monthly basis do a roll up of funding agreement amendments through a Briefing Note to Chief and Council with the amount and the purpose of the funding amendment</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>Seconded by</b>	Shirley McLeod
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

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- Funding Agreement Amendments no longer require the signature of Chief and Council. An e-mail reply approving the funding agreement amendment with a cc to Chief and Council is adequate to approve the amendment
- The new process was reviewed at the March Finance Committee meeting and was endorsed by the committee as whole for recommendation to change the process as per Indigenous Services Canada's new process

e.) Approval of Finance Policies

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-08</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the implementation of the below noted policies and procedures effective immediately</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillon
<b>Seconded by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current Finance Policies required a review. Funding to support the review and updating of the policies was approved through the First Nations Market Housing</li> <li>- BDO was selected by First Nations Market Housing to support the work to undertake the complete review and update of the current Serpent River First Nations Finance policies. Five policies are for Chief and Council's review and approval:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Use of a Policy and Procedural Manual</li> <li>ii) Organizational Structure and Reporting Responsibilities</li> <li>iii) Finance Committee</li> <li>iv) Conflict of Interest</li> <li>v) Disclosure of Financial Information</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 to review the revised policies and make any recommendations for changes. One minor change for clarification was recommended and adopted</p>	

f.) Maamwesying Ontario Health Team request for BCR

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-09</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the support of Maamwesying Ontario Health Team with ongoing development and reporting needs</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Shirley McLeod
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ministry of Health notified the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team (MOHT) of official Ontario Health Team designation by the Province of Ontario on April 1, 2022</li> <li>- Serpent River First Nation confirms its affiliation on the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team as a Core Partner, and supports participation in all aspects of the Ontario Health Team model as outlined in the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team Collaborative Decision Making Agreement (CDMA)</li> <li>- This work will involve accessing the Indian Register data at IC/ES (Institute for Clinical Evaluative Services) to support the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team with ongoing Ontario Health Team development and reporting needs. Deliverables will support program evaluation, monitoring and planning</li> </ul>	

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g.) Conference Report - COO Health Forum 2023

The Director of Operations (Interim), presented the Director of Health written report from the COO Health Forum 2023 conference

h.) Trustee of Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-10</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council appoints Brent Bissaillon as the new Trustee effective March 14, 2023</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>Seconded by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
The First Nations are required to appoint a Trustee of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund with new appointments being required as the old term has expired and requires Trustee appointments for Ojibways of Batchewana First Nation, Magnetawan First Nation, Mississauga #8 First Nation, Nipissing First Nation, Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, Serpent River First Nation, and Wasauksing First Nation	

i.) Employee Cell Phone Provision and Reimbursement Policy

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-11</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the Employee Cell Phone Provision and Reimbursement Policy as presented</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillon
<b>Seconded by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

j.) Insurance Renewal

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-12</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the change to the current insurance policy to increase the coverage to band-owned homes at \$350/square foot with McDougall Insurance resulting in an approximate \$82,342.67 increase to insurance premiums; and that Chief and Council request a further review of band office structures and equipment take place and the Director of Operations return to council with a proposed costing; and a tender/bid for the provision of insurance be prepared for the year 2024</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillon
<b>Seconded by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
The current insurance coverage for band-owned homes in Serpent River First Nation is inadequate and there is a need to address immediate insurance coverage	

k.) SRFN - Elliot Lake Task Force - Terms of Reference

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-13</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Elliot Lake and that the Terms of Reference for the Serpent River First Nation - City of Elliot Lake be adopted and that the Chief be authorized to sign the proposed Memorandum of Understanding</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>Seconded by</b>	Shirley McLeod
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

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I.) Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation - Section 95 Expression of Interest

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-14</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council support the Expression of Interest for 1 - 5 Plex w/ one bedroom units, Typical Wood Construction and 2 -Duplexes w/ 2 bedrooms and 2 - Duplexes with 3 bedrooms, Modular Construction, 8 Retrofits for Band Owned Homes and a retrofit to the current Geka Wigwam in the amount of \$5,396,924.00</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillion
<b>Seconded by</b>	Kerri Commanda
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
Canada Housing & Mortgage Corporation released the Expression of Interest for Section 95 which was due March 24, 2023	
With the support of the Housing Committee, and given the time sensitivity of this Expression of Interest it was submitted March 23, 2023. It includes the following, however if successful there is flexibility to make alterations to the application:	
5 structures on 5 lots:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 - 5 plex w/ one bedroom and bachelor apartments</li> <li>• 2 - Duplex's w/ 2 bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 - Duplex's w/3 bedrooms</li> </ul>	
8 Single Home Retrofits @ \$75,000 per home	
Geka Wigwam Retrofit @ \$250,000	
Total projected cost for is <b>\$5,396,924</b> million	

m.) Micro-Hydro Station Retro-Active Compensation

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-15</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council accept the one-time payment for approximately \$292,000. from Hydro One and continue the work to put a new agreement in place</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Shirley McLeod
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 1999, the Micro-Hydro Station at Serpent River was built with the support of the former Ontario Hydro with the intent to offset power usage or electricity costs of the Band buildings, and the power produced would be deducted by the power used as a credit. This deduction was taken over by Hydro One when Ontario Hydro ceased its operations. The credit continued until 2012, when there was a change in billing systems. Since that time Serpent River First Nation's Micro-Hydro Station has been providing power to the grid without compensation</li> <li>- This issue was first recognized as part of the Community Energy Plan developing in April 2018, when the consultant reached out to Transmission &amp; Distribution Settlements Division</li> </ul>	

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within Hydro One and corresponded with a key contact about a connection agreement and settlement. At that time, the Hydro One contact noted that ‘things were moving along and no action was needed from the consultant/SRFN at that time’. Unfortunately, the Community Energy Plan went on hold and Hydro One did not continue the conversation with SRFN

- Serpent River First Nation Chief and staff met in Hydro One on February 3, 2022, February 10, 2023 and March 2, 2023 to confirm compensation for hydro generated since 2012 and discuss a path forward for a future agreement. While no formal agreement with Ontario Hydro can be located from 1999, at a meeting held on February 10, 2023, Hydro One agreed to compensate Serpent River First Nation following the original intent of the project
- Hydro One has provided an offer of compensation for approximately \$292,000, for retroactive payment of the hydro generated between April 2012 and December 2022
- A new agreement will be required moving forward with Hydro One. The rate will need to be established with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB)

n.) Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Order 41 - SRFN Child and Family Services Hub

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-16</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council support the application under CHRT Order #41 to do a feasibility and design study for a Child and Family Services Hub and if approved a contractual agreement between SRFN and Third Line will be entered into to complete this work</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillon
<b>Seconded by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation does not currently have the critical infrastructure to adequately serve their children and families. To increase services and supports to the community there is a need to add to our current office space.</li> <li>- Initial discussions with Nogdawindamin representatives and Serpent River First Nation's Social Services and Culture staff identified an office structure that will house 25 offices, culture room, itinerant office space, a walk-in refrigeration, interview rooms, case conference rooms and meeting space. 3rd Line Studio who has a history of developing designs for Indigenous Cultural Office spaces was contacted to draft a proposal for a design study due to the time sensitivity of this application. Nogdawindamin staff are also supporting Serpent River First Nation by assisting in the development of the application. Nogdawindamin also has a close working relationship with 3rd Line. The proposed cost for the design study is \$26,000. and will be fully funded by CHRT 41 if approved. Approvals are within 30 days</li> </ul>	

o.) Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Order 41 - SRFN Mount Lake Child and Family Health Centre

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-17</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council support the application under CHRT Order #41 to do a feasibility and design study for a Child and Family Services Mount Lake Healing Centre and pending approval a contractual agreement between SRFN and Third Line will be entered into to complete this work in the amount of \$28,200 for the feasibility study and \$91,870 for the Class B design</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Kerri Commanda
<b>Seconded by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

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- The current space at Mount Lake is not habitable and would require a complete tear down and rebuild. Work has started to consider what the design of that space would be to support the creation of a Child and Family Healing Centre which would have office space, large conference rooms, quarters for caretakers, etc. Visits to Mount Lake occurred last fall to assess the grounds and determine if any of the current space could be utilized
- Initial discussions with Nogdawindamin representatives and Serpent River First Nation's Social Services and Culture staff is underway. Consultation with community would also be critical to designing space for the families and children of Serpent River First Nation. 3rd Line Studio who has a history of developing designs for Indigenous Cultural Office spaces was contacted to draft a proposal for a design study due to the time sensitivity of this application. (attached) Nogdawindamin staff are also supporting Serpent River First Nation by assisting in the development of the application. Nogdawindamin also has a close working relationship with 3rd Line. The proposed cost for the design study is \$26,000. and will be fully funded by CHRT 41 if approved. Approvals are within 30 days

p.) Family Preservation and Band Rep. Services Funding

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-18</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council support the proposed plan to address the needs of families and their children through the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Ram from Algoma Chrysler in the amount of \$61,459.50 to support Cultural Land Based programming, beds for all children on Serpent River First Nation to ensure all children have a safe and warm place to lay their head and bicycles for all children to promote inclusiveness and recreational opportunities to build healthy bodies for all children</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Steve Meawasige
<b>Seconded by</b>	John (Jack) Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the needs of families and the children of Serpent River First Nation is critical to our future</li> <li>- Funding from previous years has been underutilized</li> <li>- There are current needs within the First Nation and utilizing this funding is critical to be in a position to access future funding</li> </ul>	

**12. Community Questions and Answers**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there any spiritual supports being offered to inmates in jail? <i>No. But could look into that, as well as for the funding for it</i></li> <li>- In regards to the search of remains of residential school students that did not make it home, will the waters be searched as well? <i>Yes, that is already on the radar. River, Lake, Islands</i></li> </ul> <p>The following concerns were brought up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing</li> <li>- Water Treatment Plant</li> <li>- Acid Plant</li> <li>- Communication</li> <li>- Environmental Assessments</li> </ul> <p>Chief and Council answered all questions to the best of their abilities</p>
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**13. Next Meeting Dates**

a) C&C Duly Convened Meeting – Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

**14. Adjournment**

<b>MOTION: 2023-03-28-19</b>	
That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 8:02p.m.	
<b>Moved by</b>	Brent Bissaillion
<b>Seconded by</b>	
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

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