

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road  
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418  
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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting  
Council Chambers  
**Thursday, February 12, 2026**  
**6:00PM**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Chair:** James Owl

**Council:** Erin Carne, Nicole Pelletier, Rebecca Cszaszar, Angela Trudeau, Justin Urquhart, George Coughlin (zoom)

**Regrets:** None at this time

**Director of Operations (DOO):** None at this time

**Staff:** Leila Macumber, Director of Health and Wellness

**Recording Secretary:** Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

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

- The duly convened Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, February 12, 2026 was called to order at
- Opening prayer and smudge by Councillor Urquhart
- Chief provided the following updates:
  - Reminded community members to display both their first and last name when logging on to Zoom, for verification purposes
  - Working on securing new A/V equipment in the Council Chambers, Chief advised that in-person participants will try to speak up as best as possible for virtual participants until such time as the upgrades take place

**2) Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-01**

**That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Council Meeting of Thursday, February 12, 2026 as presented**

<b>Moved by</b>	Nicole Pelletier
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<b>Seconded by</b>	Erin Carne
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<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
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**3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

- Councillor Urquhart and Councillor Trudeau declared conflict item 10 f) Ontario Final Agreement (OFA)

**4) Community Presentations:**

- None at this time

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5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) **Thursday, January 22, 2026**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-02</b>	
That Chief and Council approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, January 22, 2026 as presented	
<b>Moved by</b>	Rebecca Cszaszar
<b>Seconded by</b>	Justin Urquhart
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

6) **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

a) **In-Camera Minutes – Legal Opinion**

- No response has been received from legal counsel at this time, will continue to follow up and focus on getting a definitive response in the coming weeks

b) **Staff Vacancies Update**

- Chief provided an update on the status of staff vacancies, including positions that have been posted for applicants and those that remain outstanding  
 - Discussion was held regarding the potential for remote or hybrid work arrangements. It was noted that remote work is not discouraged and may be considered where appropriate, provided it does not result in a missed opportunity to employ a qualified Serpent River First Nation member

c) **Long Term Care Update**

- Chief and Council reviewed a report outlining the history and current status of the Long-Term Care project  
 - The primary objective is to pursue licensing for a facility capable of serving Serpent River First Nation members  
 - Next steps include engaging the community, establishing a dedicated project team and bringing the initiative back to the community to guide development collaboratively

7) **Reports:**

a) **Chief’s Report**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-03</b>	
That Chief and Council approve the Chief’s Report dated February 12, 2026 as presented	
<b>Moved by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Rebecca Cszaszar
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<p>- The Chief presented his report dated February 12, 2026 with Council and Community, as follows”</p> <p>“- During this reporting period, focus continues on stabilizing and strengthening operational matters within all areas of Administration, supporting Directors and responding to imminent issues</p> <p>- Review of Finance related issues and assisting to clear jams with access to program and project The posting period concludes this week for key positions including HR Generalist, Director of Operations and Director of</p>	

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Finance. There is ongoing attention to clearing hold backs due to outstanding reporting requirements associated with program and project funding

- Onboarding for vacant positions and project supports continues. There are currently 11 positions to be filled and we are hopeful to complete most onboarding by March 31

- Support for the development of departmental budgets continuing. Round 1 of budgets are due from each manager by Friday February 13, 2026 and the initial draft master budget will be assembled for review and amendments during the week of February 16-

20. Round 2 budget adjustments and verification will occur between February 23 and March 6, with an anticipated first review at the March 12 Council meeting

- Weekly Directors meetings are ongoing with regular feedback and updates from departments. Preparations for departmental work-plans to align with the 2026-2027 budget are underway as well as bi-weekly reporting from supervisors, managers and directors

- HR audit RFP is complete and send out to potential consultants for their submissions

- A high number of outstanding project reports in housing is contributing to overall cash- flow issues. Close to \$2 million remains outstanding dating back as far as 2020. Efforts continue to address all reports prioritized by urgency of deadline

- The Cutler Acid site tender has been complete by WSP and ISC with the PAR distributed for signature. SRFN has negotiated a minimum 15% set aside component for FN labour, equipment and materials. Additionally, a 1.25% Administration fee, and salaries x 2 years for Project Manager and Environmental Monitor positions will be paid directly to SRFN. A request for 2 post-secondary student positions for 2 years has also been requested and we are awaiting response before signing the PAR

- CHRT 41 Projects applications are in to ISC for the Mount Lake Family Land Based Culture Centre, the Community Round House and the Social Services Building. Although the files were previously close by ISC for non-response, Senior Staff have committed to funding the completion of the feasibility work and fast tracking review to meet the OFA deadline

- The files were previously close by ISC for non-response, Senior Staff have committed to funding the completion of the feasibility work and fast tracking review to meet the OFA deadline.

The SRFN Capital Planning Study project has been re-engaged to provide long-term infrastructure planning in line with ISC capital management practices. The project has been idle since May 2025 with the consultant citing lack of follow-up from SRFN Administration. With the requested background info transferred to the consultant, an aggressive but thorough schedule has been set to complete the study including engagement with both on and off reserve members who wish to participate

- Additional spend account requests have been submitted to NFCS for Pow-wow 2025 re- imbursement, hunt camp 2025 re-imbursement, Culture Team furnishings and equipment for Rock-Haven, Early Language Program furnishings and equipment for Rock-Haven, march fish camp equipment, march break family trip (Sudbury) and ballpark equipment and upgrades, with applications in process for maple syrup camp, community security cameras and signage

- Special Projects Navigator (CDWAI) has been hired, start date pending

- HONI (Waasmoowin Project) capacity development fund engagementplanning underway. Vegetation management info session upcoming March 3, 2026

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- First Nations Market Housing Fund capacity development initiative discussions complete. Re-engagement in the program is imminent”

**b) Meeting Reports to Council – Councillor Carne**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-04**

**That Chief and Council approved the Councillor Report dated February 12, 2026 as presented**

<b>Moved by</b>	Rebecca Cszaszar
<b>Seconded by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- Councillor Carne presented her Councillor Report to Council and Community, as follows:

**- “1. Chiefs of Ontario – January 28–29, 2026**

- Attended virtually.
- The Director of Health will be bringing forward briefing notes to Council that address several key areas of information arising from this meeting.

**2. Roots and Rising Youth Gathering – January 29–30, 2026**

- Attended on Friday morning to observe presentations, including an information session by Greater Sudbury Police on human trafficking and community awareness.
- Youth participants took part in a youth council development session facilitated by Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. Youth shared thoughtful and practical ideas regarding how they would like the Youth Council to function and what types of activities they would like to see in the community.
- These ideas will be shared with the Youth Council Leads: Councillor Rebecca Cszaszar and Family Navigator Carole Day.
- A key issue identified by the youth was the need for a dedicated and consistent space for Youth Council activities. The group identified the community library as a potential option.
- The afternoon focused on Elder-led storytelling and knowledge sharing.
- In the evening, youth attended a Round Dance hosted by Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, providing an opportunity for connection and community building.
- On Sunday, youth were supported with transportation home following breakfast and a brief community outing

**Mental Health, Addictions and Opioids Conference (Anishinabek Nation) – February 2–5, 2026**

- This conference brought together mental health and addictions workers, community members, and leadership to share knowledge, explore innovative approaches, and strengthen community-based responses.
- A strong emphasis was placed on practical tools and resources that communities can implement at no cost, including:
  - Virtual Reality overdose response training; and
  - Mental Health and Well-Being Assessment tools that support early connection to services and facilitate meaningful conversations with children and youth.
- UCCM Chief of Police James Killeen presented on UCCM’s community-driven approach through programs and services.
- Relevant information, resources, and recommendations from this conference will be shared with the Social Services Department for consideration and follow-up

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**Upcoming Meetings**

- Nogdawindamin Board Meeting – February 9–10, 2026
- Monday.com Training – February 18, 2026
- Bridging the Gap Conference – February 25–27, 2026
- 5 Fires Detachment Board – February 26, 2026 (Virtual)

**c) SRFN LP Sub-Committee Report – Councillor Urquhart**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-05**

**That Chief and Council approve the Councillor dated February 12, 2026 as presented**

<b>Moved by</b>	Erin Carne
<b>Seconded by</b>	Rebecca Csaszar
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- Councillor Urquhart presented his Councillor Report to Council and Community, as follows:  
 “I have attended two Sub-Committee meetings, the first on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the second on February 3<sup>rd</sup> comprising of two Board members from the SRFN LP, Earl Commanda, Firman Latimer, Chief Owl, Councillor Trudeau and myself. The sub-committee was created to work collaboratively on future economic opportunities and to develop engagement strategies for future projects and initiatives to ensure that they align with the Nation’s business values and objectives. The sub-committee is meeting virtually on a weekly basis with the next meeting scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>.”

**d) Waasmoowin Opportunities and Cooperation Council (WOCC) Report – Councillor Urquhart**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-06**

**That Chief and Council approve the Councillor’s Report dated February 12, 2026 as presented**

<b>Moved by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Nicole Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- Councillor Urquhart presented his Councillor Report to Council and Community, as follows:  
 “I attended an in-person board meeting hosted at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie on February 4, 2026. The meeting was my first attending as a director of the board representing Serpent River First Nation, it was informative and productive  
 - The board of directors were briefed by Waasmoowin’s legal team (McMillan LLP) on the Cooperation and Support Agreement with Hydro One Networks INC. (HONI). This document is an important milestone for the Waasmoowin Project and is essential to a mutually beneficial partnership between the 8 First Nations and HONI as the project moves into the future. This document was provided to the leadership of the 8 First Nations involved in the project for review and approval  
 - The board was briefed on the need for the formation of the First Nation Partnership Entity (FNPE) for the Waasmoowin project and approved at the board level to present it to the 8 First Nations in order to form the FNPE by way of a BCR. A director will need to be appointed to the board, by way of a BCR to represent Serpent River First Nation’s interests

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- Briefing notes from the team leads of Waasmoowin were presented to the board. We received an update from the Project Manager, Administrative Lead and the Employment and Procurement Specialist as well as a financial report for review. There is a tentatively scheduled virtual meeting with the Board on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and a scheduled 2-day in-person WOCC board information session on February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in Sault Ste. Marie.”

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

**a) January 14, 2026 – Waawaashkesh Doodem (Deer) Meeting Minutes**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-07</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the Waawaashkesh Doodem Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2026 as presented</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Nicole Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

**b) Waawaashkesh Doodem Report**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-08</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the Waawaashkesh Doodem Report dated February 12, 2026 as presented</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Rebecca Cszasz
<b>Seconded by</b>	Nicole Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- Councillor Urquhart presented his Councillor Report to Council and Community, as follows:  
 “I have attended two Doodem meetings the first held on January 14<sup>th</sup> and the second held on February 4<sup>th</sup> which I attended virtually as I was out of town on an employment obligation. The discussions in the meetings were productive and creative as the Doodem is actively looking for fundraising opportunities to supplement expenses for the annual Jintamok. The round dance planning has been finalized, and a poster was published to community via the Official Serpent River First Nations Administration Facebook page. The event is being held on February 21<sup>st</sup> and I would like to commend the hard work of the Doodem members and the band staff in organizing and preparing for this event. I encourage community members to attend and experience the round dance ceremony. There is a list of recommendations from the Doodem posted in the Waawaashkesh Doodem’s approved minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>. The minutes have been submitted to the agenda for Chief & Councils review. The next Waawaashkesh Doodem meeting is being held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, I encourage community members to join the Doodem to provide their input and assist in the efforts to support the communities’ cultural events”

**c) Task Team Updates**

- Chief provided a brief update on the four established task teams which are Finance, Human Resources, Community Advancement Fund, Off-Reserve  
 - Chief noted that these groups have been initiated to support priority areas and provide guidance and recommendations

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- The HR task team has demonstrated strong progress, including the development of an RFP for an HR audit
- The Chief acknowledged the valuable expertise and skill sets represented across the task teams
- Further updates will be brought forward to Chief and Council as the task teams progress in their work

**d) Doodem and Committee Schedule**

- Chief and Council reviewed the Doodem and Committee schedule for upcoming meetings, as follows:

**Marten Doodem (Lands & Environment):**

- Start Date: February 10, 2026
- Next Meeting: March 10, 2026
- Time: 5pm
- Meeting Format: Hybrid (Second Tuesday of each month)
- Council Chair: Angela Trudeau
- Staff Lead/Contact: Mathieu Gervais/Cynthia Pelletier

**Mukwa Doodem (Health and Social):**

- Start Date: February 18, 2026
- Next Meeting: February 18, 2026
- Time: 4pm
- Meeting Format: Hybrid (Third Wednesday of each month)
- Council Chair: Nicole Pelletier
- Staff Lead/Contact: Leila Macumber/Dorothy McLeod-Tremblay

**Eagle Doodem (Education):**

- Start Date: February 11, 2026
- Next Meeting: March 11, 2026
- Time: 5pm
- Meeting Format: Hybrid (Second Wednesday of each month)
- Council Chair: Rebecca Cszasz
- Staff Lead/Contact: Hilary Trudeau/Nikita Rousseau

**Deer Doodem (Culture, Language and Social Events):**

- Next Meeting: February 25, 2026
- Time: 4:30pm
- Meeting Format: Hybrid
- Council Chair: Justin Urquhart
- Staff Lead/Contact: Robbie Sago

**Housing & Infrastructure Committee:**

- Start Date: February 19, 2026
- Time: 4:30pm
- Next Meeting: To be determined
- Meeting Format: Hybrid
- Staff Lead/Contact: Miranda Pelletier

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**Child Well-Being Committee:**

- Next Meeting: March 4, 2026
- Time: 4:30pm
- Meeting Format: Hybrid
- Staff Lead: Leila Macumber

Start dates for the following Doodems/Committee remain to be determined as they were either inactive or met sporadically during the last Council term:

- Crane Doodem (Communications & External Relationships/Treaty)
- Turtle-Fish Doodem (Restorative Justice, Safety & Security)
- Loon Doodem (Governance & Membership)
- Youth Advisory
- Elder Advisory

**e) Trust Development Report**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-09**

**That Chief and Council approve the Trust Development Report dated February 12, 2026 as presented**

**Moved by** Erin Carne

**Seconded by** Angela Trudeau

**CARRIED** By Consensus

- Chief and Council reviewed the Trust Development Report, which provided an update on the status of Trustee engagement and the overall Trust development process
- It was noted that the Trustees (Lorraine Rekmans, Tania Johnston, Joshua Rickard, Cheryl Hankard) have formally accepted their roles as Trustees
- The Trustee working group will be identified as the “Trust Development Working Group (TDWG)” and updates will continue to be provided as the Trust development progresses

**9) Standing Items:**

**a) Audit Update**

- The 2024/25 audit is near completion
- It was noted that potential dates in late February or early March will need to be identified for the Annual General Meeting (AGM), where the audit can be formally presented and passed with the Community in attendance
- Preparations have also commenced for the 2025-26 audit cycle

**b) Community Safety**

- Councillor Carne provided an update on ongoing discussions with the Blind River OPP Detachment Board regarding the establishment of the Community Safety Zone
- These efforts are part of continued follow-through to address speeding and improve overall safety for community members especially along the highway corridor

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**c) Quarterly Meetings**

- Chief and Council reviewed and confirmed the proposed dates and locations for the quarterly meetings, which are scheduled to align with the seasonal solstices. The schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, March 21, 2026 – Community Hall, 195 Village Road, Cutler, ON POP 1B0
- Saturday, June 20, 2026 - Community Hall, Cutler, ON POP 1B0
- Saturday, September 19, 2026 - Community Hall, Cutler, ON POP 1B0
- Saturday, December 19, 2026 - Community Hall, Cutler, ON POP 1B0

- Confirmed schedule to be distributed by mail to Community

**d) Governance Manual**

- None at this time

**e) RHT Updates**

- Chief provided an update on this matter  
 - The most recent RHTLF meeting took place on January 7, 2026, during which a vote was held regarding the proposed amendments to the Compensation Distribution Agreement. It was not accepted, with the vote resulting in 15 opposed and 6 in favour  
 - Chief advised that additional updates will be communicated once the community portal is operational, as efforts are being made to ensure information is shared in a confidential manner rather than through social media  
 - North Shore Tribal Council held a meeting in early February and a vote was conducted to appoint a new LMC representative; Chief Brent Niganobe from Mississaugi First Nation was selected to fill the vacancy

**f) CHRT 41 Updates**

- Chief provided an update  
 - Serpent River First Nation’s CHRT 41 applications have been successfully submitted and the immediate risk of losing eligibility has been mitigated  
 - Work continues, and there is optimism that at least one of the three proposed projects will be approved

**10) New Business:**

**a) Waasmoowin GP Inc.**

**i) Cooperation Support Agreement (CSA)**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-10**

**That Serpent River First Nation Chief and Council hereby approve the following:**

- 1. Council hereby approves the Agreement and Serpent River First Nation is authorized to enter into the Agreement and each of the documents contemplated by the Agreement.**
- 2. Chief James Owl is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Agreement and such other deeds, documents, instruments and writings contemplated by the Agreement, with such alterations, additions, amendments and deletions as they, in their discretion, may approve or consider necessary, and to perform all such acts and things as may be necessary for the purpose of giving full effect**

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and intent to these resolutions and the Agreement, and such execution will be conclusive evidence of their approval thereof, and to take such further actions as they might consider necessary or desirable in order to carry out these resolutions.

3. The signature of any authorized signatory may be written, printed, scanned, stamped, or otherwise mechanically reproduced or may be an electronic signature or a digital signature created via a medium or a technology that ensures the authenticity and integrity of such signature including, without limitation, DocuSign. Anything so signed will be as valid as if it had been signed manually.

4. These resolutions may be signed in as many counterparts as may be necessary, and may be signed and delivered by any means of electronic communication producing a printed copy, each of which so signed and delivered will be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts together will constitute one and the same instrument and notwithstanding the date of execution will be deemed to bear the date set forth below.

<b>Moved by</b>	Justin Urquhart
<b>Seconded by</b>	Rebecca Csaszar
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- Nishin Meawasige, Waasmoowin Project Manager was in attendance virtually to address any questions from Chief and Council and Community

- Summary of final negotiated draft of Cooperation & Support Agreement (CSA) with Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) for consideration and approval by WOCC and the 8 participating First Nations:

The CSA is an agreement between HONI, WOCC and each of the 8 Nations, intended to ensure that:

- The Nations receive appropriate impact compensation and capacity funding
- The Nations receive appropriate opportunities
- The Nations are appropriately involved in oversight relating to environmental, cultural, heritage and other matters
- The Nations will, through their joint venture entities Waasmoowin NEPL LP and Waasmoowin NSL LP, be given the opportunity to participate in the equity ownership of the two Projects
- HONI will receive sufficient support from the Nations in its permitting process to ensure that Project development will not be delayed
- The Nations will, in due course once the equity ownership arrangements are agreed, provide their support for and consent to the Projects

**ii) Formation of New Entity**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-11**

That Serpent River First Nation Chief and Council hereby approve the following

1. The Band is authorized to subscribe for 1 common share of the GP for a subscription price of \$1.00;
2. The Band is authorized to subscribe for 1 Class A limited partnership unit of the Partnership for a subscription price of \$1.00;
3. The Chief is authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Band to execute and deliver any and all documents required to give effect to the formation and organization of the GP and the Partnership (the "Formation Documents"), including without limitation the selection and approval, in collaboration with the authorized representatives of the Seven Nations, of entity names for the GP and the Partnership;

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4. The proposed forms of the Unanimous Shareholders Agreement, the Partnership Agreement and the Indemnity Agreements (the “Agreements”) have been duly considered by the Chief and Band Council;
5. The Band is authorized to enter into, execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the Formation Documents, the Agreements and any other agreement or document contemplated by, or required to be delivered under or in connection with, the formation of the GP and the Partnership, the Formation Documents, and/or the Agreements (collectively, the “Transaction Documents”);
6. Each Transaction Document to which the Band is a party shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and provisions as may be negotiated and approved by the Chief, and the Chief is authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Band, to sign the Transaction Documents, with such amendments or variations thereto as the Chief may approve, the Chief’s execution of the Transaction Documents to be conclusive evidence of such approval, and the documents so executed are the Transaction Documents authorized by this resolution; and
7. The Chief is authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Band to negotiate, finalize, execute and deliver all such other documents and agreements and to do such other acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give full effect to the foregoing resolutions, including designating from time to time the Band’s representative nominee to the board of directors of the GP.

<b>Moved by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Erin Carne
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- The Band and seven other First Nations (or their designated subsidiary entities) (the “Seven Nations”) intend to participate in procurement programs related to the development, construction, operation and maintenance of electricity transmission projects proposed or developed by Hydro One Networks Inc. and/or its affiliates (“Hydro One”), and/or Waasmoowin GP Inc. and/or its affiliates (“WGP”) (the “Project”).
- The Band intends for its participation in the Project and that of the Seven Nations to be conducted via a limited partnership to be formed under the laws of the Province of Ontario (the “Partnership”).
- The Band and the Seven Nations intend on forming a corporation (the “GP”) to act as general partner of the Partnership
- The Band proposes to enter into a unanimous shareholders agreement (the “Unanimous Shareholders Agreement”) with the GP and the Seven Nations, to provide for, among other things, the management and control of the GP
- The Band proposes to enter into a limited partnership agreement with respect to the Partnership (the “Partnership Agreement”) with the Seven Nations, as the initial limited partners, and the GP, as the initial general partner.
- The Band proposes to enter into indemnity agreements (the “Indemnity Agreements”) in favour of each director and officer of the GP

**iii) Waasmoowin GP Inc. - Board of Directors Appointment**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-12**  
**That Chief and Council appoints James Owl as its representative to the First Nation Partnership Entity (FNPCE) Board of Directors in association with, but not limited to, the Northeast Powerline and Northshore Links transmission line projects in development by Hydro One Networks Inc. and Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council**

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<b>Moved by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Rebecca Csaszar
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<p>- A motion is required to appoint James Owl, Chief of Serpent River First Nation to the First Nation Partnership Entity (FNPCE) Board of Directors in association with, but not limited to, the Northeast Powerline and Northshore Links transmission line projects in development by Hydro One Networks Inc. and Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council (WOCC)</p>	

**b) SITE Resource Group – Memorandum of Understanding**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-13</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council hereby endorse the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Serpent River First Nation and SITE Resource Group</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Erin Carne
<b>Seconded by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<p>- Chief and Council reviewed and executed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Serpent River First Nation and SITE Resource Group</p> <p>- The MOU outlines the extent of both parties to work collaboratively and in good faith in respect to the Waasmoowin GP Inc. Transmission Line projects</p>	

**c) Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) – Credit Guarantee**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-14</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council formally approve a loan guarantee, in the amount of \$300,000, for the operational bank account of the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Angela Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Justin Urquhart
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

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- The SRFN Limited Partnership (SRFNLP) has completed the internal transition of its primary operating bank account from the previous Serpent River First Nation Economic Development Corporation (SRFN EDC) account to a dedicated SRFN Limited Partnership account held with Scotiabank
- To ensure the SRFNLP can maintain and expand its operational capacity following this transition, a guarantee from the Serpent River First Nation (SRFN) is required to secure necessary credit facilities in the name of the Limited Partnership
- The SRFN Limited Partnership is currently in the process of updating its financial and administrative framework with Scotiabank. This procedural update is directly necessary due to a broader strategic decision by the Serpent River First Nation to transition its main corporate banking services from its current provider to the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- To facilitate the SRFNLP's continued, seamless operation and management of working capital, a secured credit facility is essential
- Historically, the credit for the Economic Development Corporation was secured under an arrangement with the SRFN
- Now, as the SRFNLP establishes its independent financial standing, the bank requires security for the new credit facility
- The specific credit facility sought by the SRFN Limited Partnership is a total of \$300,000, structured to cover both the \$200,000 Operating Line for working capital purposes and a \$100,000 Visa for day-to-day spending

**d) Financial Statements**

**i) Q2 Financial Statement**

**MOTION: 2026-02-12-15**  
**That Chief and Council as recommended by the Finance Committee, approve the Q2 YTD Financial Report dated September 30, 2025 as amended**

<b>Moved by</b>	Justin Urquhart
<b>Seconded by</b>	Nicole Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

- The financial report compares the actual revenue and expenses against the approved budget for the full 2025-2026 fiscal year
- The revenue for the first two quarters of the fiscal year was \$8.5 million against the budgeted \$11.1 million for the same period. We are currently at 76.7% against budget when RHT Settlement expenses are excluded. Revenue variance is mainly due to deferred revenue expected to come throughout the year
- Expenses for the first two quarters of the fiscal year were \$8.7 million against the budgeted \$11.9 million for the same period – We are currently at 73.3% against budget when you exclude RHT Settlement expenses with variance explanations below:  
 Wages, Benefits & Pension – \$3.6 million actual vs \$4.7 million budgeted
  - All vacant roles are included in the budget and that contributes to the variance that exists.
  - Home Builds - \$30.0 thousand actual vs \$1.9 million budgeted
  - Working with Housing Department to get an understanding of where the variance is lying
- Overall Serpent River First Nation at the end of Q2 was in a deficit of \$176.0 thousand when the RHT settlement and associated costs are eliminated

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- Previously recommended for approval by the Finance Committee during the previous Council term. Accompanying briefing note had been updated to include pie and bar charts to enhance clarity. Approved as amended

**ii) Q2 Financial Statement**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-16</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council as recommended by the Finance Committee approve the Q3 YTD Financial Report dated December 31, 2025 as presented</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Rebecca Csaszar
<b>Seconded by</b>	Erin Carne
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<p>- The financial report compares the actual revenue and expenses against the approved budget for the full 2025-2026 fiscal year</p> <p>- The revenue for the first three quarters of the fiscal year was \$14.1 million against the budgeted \$16.7 million for the same period. We are currently at 84.6% against budget when you exclude RHT Settlement expenses</p> <p>- Expenses for the first three quarters of the fiscal year were \$13.1 million against the budgeted \$17.8 million for the same period – We are currently at 73.3% against budget when you exclude RHT Settlement expenses with variance explanations below:</p> <p>Wages – \$4.7 million actual vs \$5.7 million budgeted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All vacant roles are included in the budget and that contributes to the variance that exists.</li> </ul> <p>Home Builds - \$30.0 thousand actual vs \$3.0 million budgeted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Housing Department to get an understanding of where the variance is lying</li> </ul> <p>- Overall Serpent River First Nation at the end of Q3 was in a surplus of \$1.1 million when the RHT settlement and associated costs are eliminated</p>	

**e) First Nations Child and Family Services Program (FNCFS) Update**

<p>- The Chief provided an update regarding the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and brought forward documentation previously submitted to Serpent River First Nation Administration approx. 1 year ago which outlines a snapshot of the program’s funding profile</p> <p>- As part of the transition toward the Ontario Final Agreement (OFA), it was noted that Serpent River First Nation is expected to receive approx. \$1-3 million in funding to support services delivered directly to the community</p> <p>- This reflects the devolution of Child and Family Services at both local and national levels, beyond existing service delivery through Nogdawindamin</p> <p>- It was discussed that Serpent River First Nation will need to undertake internal planning and reprogramming efforts and may not utilize the full allocation in the current fiscal year. As well, that significant work is required to take place ahead and in preparation for the signing of the Ontario Final Agreement (OFA)</p>	
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**f) Ontario Final Agreement (OFA) – Prevention Funding**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-17</b>	
That Serpent River First Nation Chief and Council directs that funding prevention under the Ontario Final Agreement (OFA) for the 2026-2027 fiscal year continue to be allocated between the First Nation and Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services in the same manner as fiscal year 2025-2026 until March 31, 2027 or until Serpent River First Nation is ready to have the prevention funding transitioned	
<b>Moved by</b>	Erin Carne
<b>Seconded by</b>	Rebecca Csaszar
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
<p>- Councillor Urquhart and Councillor Trudeau stepped out due to declared conflict</p> <p>- The Ontario Final Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and how it relates to prevention funding and Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services</p> <p>- The Ontario Final Agreement (OFA) is a landmark agreement between the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), and the Government of Canada, designed to implement long-term reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program specifically for Ontario First Nations</p> <p>- The agreement aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End longstanding discrimination identified in 2016 CHRT 2 regarding Canada’s FNCFS program.</li> <li>• Establish a reformed, equitable, and self-determined child and family services system for First Nations children and families in Ontario.</li> </ul> <p>- <b>Development Timeline (Key Dates)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>July 2024</b> – A national draft final agreement was reached but later rejected at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly.</li> <li>• <b>December 2024</b> – Canada announced its mandate to negotiate an Ontario-specific agreement.</li> <li>• <b>Early February 2025</b> – COO, NAN, and Canada reached a <i>provisional</i> Ontario Final Agreement.</li> <li>• <b>February 26, 2025</b> – Chiefs of Ontario, NAN, and Canada formally signed the OFA.</li> <li>• <b>March 7, 2025</b> – COO and NAN jointly filed a motion with the CHRT seeking approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dec 2025–Feb 2026</b> – CHRT scheduled hearings for approval of the OFA</p> <p>- The <b>provisional</b> Ontario Final Agreement provides for the implementation of the reforms contained in the national Final Agreement here in Ontario. It is essentially the same as the national Final Agreement, with the only changes being those necessary for it to be applicable specifically within Ontario.</p> <p>- The Ontario Final Agreement commits ISC to provide \$8.5 billion over 9 fiscal years (April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2034)</p> <p>- Some work has been done with Nogdawindamin staff in regards to Devolution planning but we are nowhere near prepared for devolution of Prevention Services, considering the following: lack of clear policies/protocols/frameworks, insufficient staff/training, funding or resource limitations, risk assessment, etc.</p> <p>- First Nations have until September 30, 2025 to submit a BCR to ISC directing a different prevention funding allocation approach for the first half of 2026-2027, if they so choose. Assuming the Ontario Final Agreement is in effect by then, First Nations have until April 1, 2026 to submit written notice to ISC directing how prevention funding for the second half of 2026-2027 should it be allocated, if they so choose</p>	

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- A First Nation can choose to receive all of the prevention funding attributable to it or to direct some/aa of its FNCFS Agency
- Unless a First Nation provides notice to ISC, prevention funding will continue to be split between the First Nation and its affiliated FNCFS Agency the way it was in 2025-2026
- Starting April 1, 2026, each First Nation will be funded for First Nation Representation Services at its highest annual amount of FNRS funding received over five fiscal years, from fiscal year 2019-2020 to fiscal year 2023-2024, adjusted to inflation and population growth

**g) Cutler Acid Site Update**

- An update was provided on the approved on the Cutler Acid Site remediation project, with funding scheduled to flow beginning April 1, 2026
- The project represents an approximate \$24 million investment focused on remediation and environmental clean-up
- Funding allocations include support for a 2-year Project Manager, a 2-year Environmental Monitor and 1.5% Administration dollars to support communications, coordination and project payments, etc.
- The project also includes student funding opportunities, with a focus on post-secondary students in environmental and water-related fields

**h) Water Treatment Plant Update**

- Chief provided an update on the Water Treatment Plant, including a review of operational and planning considerations
- The WTP was originally designed for upgrades every 10-14 years to accommodate community growth
- Colder temperatures reduce membrane (filter) efficiency which impacts water production capacity. Additional membrane integration that had been anticipated has not yet occurred
- A capital planning study is required to identify long-term solutions, with an estimated two-year timeline to fully address system needs
- Cost associated with water production (trucking water in) continue to be tracked, and Serpent River First Nation is compensated on a dollar-for-dollar basis through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

**11) Community Questions and Answers:**

- Community member raised concerns related to housing and child welfare matters. Chief and Council acknowledged the concerns shared, expressed their well-wishes and advised that follow-up will occur on the matters raised

**12) Next Meeting Date(s):**

- Thursday, February 26, 2026

**13) Adjournment:**

<b>MOTION: 2026-02-12-18</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council meeting of Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:23pm</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Erin Carne
<b>Seconded by</b>	Angela Trudeau

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<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
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