SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

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Special Chief and Council Meeting
Lifestyle Centre, 36 Ballpark Road, Cutler, ON P0P 1B0
Saturday, September 19, 2026
Approved Minutes

Chair: James Owl
Council: Erin Carne, Nicole Pelletier, Rebecca Csaszar, Angela Trudeau, Justin Urquhart, George Coughlin, Angela Trudeau
Regrets: None at this time
Director of Operations (DOO): Natasha Becker
Staff:
Recording Secretary: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The Special Chief and Council Meeting of Saturday, September 19, 2026 was called to order at 1:27 PM

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-09-19-01 **That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Special Chief and Council Meeting of Saturday, September 19, 2026, as presented**	
Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- None declared

4) New Business:

a) Approval of 2026-2031 Serpent River First Nation Strategic Plan

i) Presentation – Cambuim Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS)

- Helen Bobiwash from Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS) presented an overview of the Strategic Planning process and engagement undertaken to date, and that the draft Strategic Plan reflects the voices, priorities and aspirations shared by Serpent River First Nation community members, staff and Leadership
- The presentation summarized the various sources of input and engagement, including community, staff and leadership sessions, observed meetings, surveys and document review
- CIPS advised that approximately 1,200 ideas, comments and suggestions were gathered through the process and organized into community, staff and leadership idea banks to identify common themes and priorities

- CIPS reviewed the four (4) proposed vision options for Serpent River First Nation and emphasized that the language and direction of the Strategic Plan were developed from what was heard throughout the engagement process. The proposed plan identifies seven (7) priority areas and strategic objectives, supported by actionable themes and initiatives intended to move Serpent River First Nation from a shared vision toward implementation and accountability
- The presentation also outlined a practical path forward, including establishing focused priorities, assigning responsibility, integrating commitments into work plans and budgets, regularly reviewing progress, adapting as required, and building organizational capacity
- CIPS thanked community members, staff and leadership for their participation and contributions throughout the strategic planning process

ii) Community Engagement Results

- Chief provided an overview of the community engagement undertaken to support selection of the final Vision Statement for the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan
- As part of the final stage of the strategic planning process, four (4) proposed Vision Statements were identified for community consideration. Community members were invited to provide feedback and indicate their preferred option through an online survey, Mentimeter engagement, and paper surveys at the September 19, 2026 Community Quarterly Meeting

- The four (4) Vision Statement options presented for consideration were:

- **Draft #1 – All Encompassing:** *A strong, healthy, and self-determined Anishinaabe Nation where our people are empowered, our children and youth are inspired, our Elders are honoured, our language and culture flourish, our lands and waters are protected, and every citizen has the opportunity to live with pride, purpose, and a strong sense of belonging.*
- **Draft #2 – Incorporates All Major Themes:** *A strong, thriving, and self-determined Anishinaabe Nation where our people are deeply connected to our language, culture, lands, and waters; where healthy families, opportunities are created, governance is trusted, and every generation is supported to live with pride and purpose, belonging and respect for the next Seven Generations.*
- **Draft #3 – Shorter Community Centric:** *Serpent River First Nation is a strong, healthy, and self-determined Anishinaabe Nation where our people, language, culture, lands, and waters thrive, opportunities abound, and every generation has the foundation to live with pride, purpose, and belonging.*
- **Draft #4 – Self Determining Tone:** *A self-determined Anishinaabe Nation that leads with our values, protects our rights, strengthens our identity, creates opportunity, and shapes a future where healthy, confident, and connected generations thrive.*

- A total of 55 responses were received through the three (3) engagement methods: 38 online survey responses, 7 Mentimeter responses, and 10 paper survey responses. The combined results were reviewed and calculated during the meeting as follows:

Total Feedback Received: 55 responses

- Draft #1 - %34.5 (19)
- Draft #2 - %18.2 (10)
- Draft #3 - %9.1 (5)
- Draft #4 - %38.2 (21)

- Draft #4 received the highest number of responses across the combined engagement methods and was identified by community members as the final Vision Statement

iii) Council Discussion & Decision

MOTION: 2026-09-19-02 **That Chief and Council accept the 2026-2031 Serpent River First Nation Strategic Plan**	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Council discussed the proposed 2026-2031 Serpent River First Nation Strategic Plan and reflected positively on the engagement process and the level of community participation throughout its development; and that meaningful community engagement had been a priority from the outset and expressed appreciation to community members and who contributed their perspectives throughout the process - Council emphasized that the 2026-2031 Serpent River First Nation Strategic Plan reflects the words, priorities and aspirations of the community. Members expressed appreciation for the implementation-focused approach presented by CIPS, particularly the inclusion of a practical path forward to support accountability, regular progress reviews and integration of the Plan into ongoing organizational work rather than allowing it to remain a standalone document - Council members thanked the community for their participation and expressed enthusiasm for moving forward with a shared vision and strategic direction for Serpent River First Nation - Following discussion and consideration of the community engagement results, Council approved the Serpent River First Nation Strategic Plan, including Draft Vision #4 as the selected vision statement	

5) <u>Adjournment:</u>

MOTION: 2026-09-19-03 **That Chief and Council adjourn the Special Chief and Council Meeting of Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 2:38 PM**	
Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus