

"Representing Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota First Nations in Southern Manitoba"



South Wind

"The official newspage of the Manitoba Southern Chiefs' Organization, Inc."



Member 36 First Nations



- Berens River First Nation
- Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation
- Black River First Nation
- Bloodvein First Nation
- Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation
- Buffalo Point First Nation
- Canupawakpa Dakota Nation
- Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation
- Dakota Tipi First Nation
- Dauphin River First Nation
- Ebb & Flow First Nation
- Fisher River Cree Nation
- Gambler First Nation
- Hollow Water First Nation
- Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation
- Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation
- Lake Manitoba First Nation
- Lake St. Martin First Nation
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation
- Little Saskatchewan First Nation
- Long Plain First Nation
- O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation
- Pauingassi First Nation
- Peguis First Nation
- Pinaymootang First Nation
- Pine Creek Anishinabeh Nation
- Poplar River First Nation
- Rolling River First Nation
- Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation
- Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
- Skownan First Nation
- Swan Lake First Nation
- Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation
- Waywayseecappo First Nation

Boozhoo, Tansi, Wastay: SCO Grand Chief Morris J. Shannacappo

I will always remember with great fondness the warm feelings I felt during the Day of Action March when youngsters from the Children of the Earth School stood along the fence, waving and cheering.

The march was about many things – getting a better deal for our people, both on and off reserve, respect for treaty rights, educating non-Aboriginal people about our issues, and getting the attention of governments.

It was also about pride. It was with great pride that we marched through Winnipeg on June 29. And it was with pride that those Indian children, from an inner city school in an impoverished area of the city, came out to cheer us on. We were all proud of each other.

Southern Chiefs' Organization chose to begin its section of the march on Dufferin Avenue where a young Aboriginal man, Matthew Dumas, was shot by Winnipeg Police in January, 2005. We began our march there because the inner city is the part of Winnipeg where First Nations have been relegated to living in poverty.

It was also heartening to see street people, young Indian men and women, raise their hands and fists, yelling encouragement as our march passed through the downtown streets. This is where people who try to escape the poverty of the reserve too often wind up. It was great to see that their spirit was still alive.

The march – the Chiefs and Indian people who took part as well as non-Aboriginal people who showed support by walking along side us – showed everyone that are reasons to be hopeful. In these people we have great resources that can be drawn on, but we must be organized and determined. Our foes in government will try to undermine our will, to play us off



National Day of Protest, June 29, 2007.



Grand Chief Shannacappo speaks at The Forks.

against each other, and to engage in all kinds of sneaky and deceptive tactics.

My role as Grand Chief is to work with the other Chiefs so that we can keep our campaigns organized and focused. It is also our role to sort through the proposals and policy suggestions that governments throw at us, lobbying for what is worth while and rejecting what is not, always watching for the poison hidden within the goodies.

All of us have a role to play; Chiefs and Councilors, Indian people living on reserves and off. We are each others' strength. This is what will make governments respond. It was an honour for me to be elected Grand Chief of the Southern Chiefs' Organization. I promise to give my heart, mind and my energy to the task ahead.



Grand Chief Shannacappo heading the march on Dufferin Ave.

Busy first few weeks at Southern Chiefs' Organization

This summer has been a busy and delightful one in the 36 First Nations that belong to the Southern Chiefs' Organization.

In addition to the usual roster of summer pow-wows and Treaty days, there have been summits where we dealt with First Nations business.

One of the most notable celebrations was the Peguis Centennial, which marked the anniversary of the 1907 illegal taking of St. Peter's Indian Reserve by Canada. In 1998 the surrender of land was deemed illegal because of Canada's failure to comply with the Indian Act.

The significance of this centennial was noted well beyond the borders of Peguis, which is the largest First Nation in Manitoba. Dignitaries attending the opening ceremony included AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Ron Evans, MKIO Grand Chief Dr. Sydney Garrioch, Premier Doer and various provincial and federal government representatives.



Grand Chief Shannacappo and Chief David Crate at SCO Summit.

Most of all, though, this was a great day for Chief Glenn Hudson and the community of Peguis First Nation. It was a hot day but we were all able to speak, eat and enjoy the entertainment while sitting in the shade under the roof of the recently constructed outdoor entertainment complex. This facility is one of many attractions Peguis band members can feel proud about.

Congratulations to the Southeast First Nations (Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation, Black River First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation, Bloodvein First Nation, Little Grand Rapids First Nation, Poplar River First Nation and Pauingassi First Nation) who announced a \$20 million expansion for its South Beach Casino.

The project will include a hotel, pool, restaurant and a 500-person banquet room. Congratulations to the Southeast First Nations Chiefs and Council members.



Courtesy of Grassroots News

An event that demonstrated how we have prospered was the official Grand Opening of Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation (TWCC) new office facility in downtown Winnipeg. TWCC provides financial assistance to entrepreneurs and is owned by five Tribal Councils and six Independent First Nations in Manitoba.

The summer months are our busiest time for pow-wows and Treaty celebrations and we tried to get to as many as possible. There were a few events I couldn't make it to this summer but I intend to visit these communities during my time as Grand Chief.

One of the events that I did attend was the Traditional Give-away hosted by AFN Manitoba Regional Vice-Chief Katherine Whitecloud held in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. In early 2006, she promised to invite leaders from around the province to her home community — *to feast them*". It is always nice to see people, who are in public life, follow through on their promises.

It has also been a very busy July, in terms of taking care of business. There were summits for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Southern Chiefs' Organization and the National Indian Treaties 1-11 Gathering. At the AFN Assembly, it appeared that the AFN may have taken a bit too much credit for what was accomplished through the hard work of our First Nations across the country. At the Treaties 1-11 Gathering, a consensus "to continue the Treaty movement" was reached by the Chiefs and leaders present. And one of the many highlights at our recently held SCO summit on July 31-Aug. 1, 2007, hosted by the Fisher River Cree Nation, was the endorsement of our Day of Action and future plans by the Elders who were invited to speak and provide advise during the second day of the Summit. Meegwetch Elders!

At SCO during the last couple of months, we had meetings with various provincial and federal cabinet ministers and I always took several other SCO Chiefs with me when lobbying on behalf of our First Nations.

I could go on for a long, long time discussing the issues that we must address, but our newspaper space is limited, so visit our website at <http://www.scoinc.mb.ca> or tune-in to the weekly 15-minute SCO Radio show, Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on NCI.

And, as always, you can see me at various events, including pow-wows, where I have continued to be an announcer and emcee.



Meegwetch!
Ekosi!
Pidamayepi do!



Grand Chief addresses the AFN Assembly, July 2007, Halifax



l-r: Grand Chief Shannacappo, Alan D. Park, CEO, Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win (TWCC) and DOTC Ken McKay at the Open House of TWCC.



Grand Chief Shannacappo offering Opening Remarks at Peguis Treaty Days.



Grand Chief Shannacappo congratulates MB AFN Vice Chief Whitecloud for her Leadership Feast held at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

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