# South Wind

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



*Send comments or feedback to:*

Southern Chiefs'Organization
200-286 Smith St., Wpg. MB
Ph: (204) 946.1869
Fax: (204) 946.1871


*Message from*
***Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson***

Miigwech, Ekosi, and Thank you for all your kind words on our debut of *South Wind* newspage. This newspage will continue to keep you informed of our dedication to work hard for all the southern Chiefs and the communites in Manitoba.

Recently, we traveled to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to offer our support on the grand opening of the *Lee Baker Memorial Wichozani Centre*. The centre was dedicated to the recent loss of their beloved son and band Councillor Lee Baker of which the centre bears his name.

*Grand Chief Chris Henderson presenting a gift to the Lee Baker Memorial Wichozani Center.*

*Official ribbon cutting by the Lee Baker family.*

Losing a loved one unfortunately reached the community of Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation where Chief Irvin McIvor and family, sadly lost their mother, Lena Clara McIvor, the '*rock of the family*' to a tragic accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during their time of mourning.

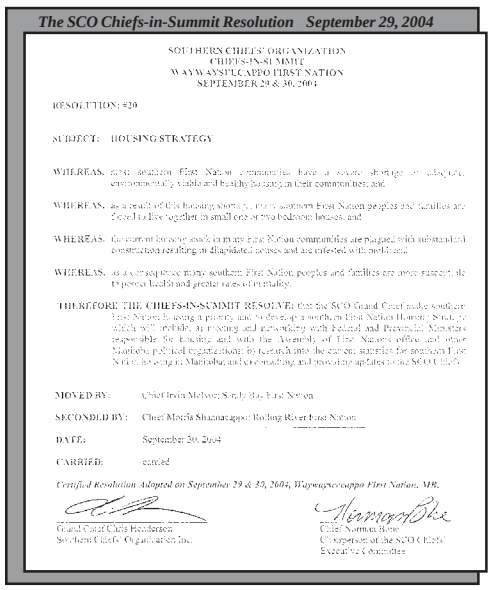
*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted —— Matthew 5:4*

# Southern Chiefs gather to discuss critical Housing needs

*l-r Chief McIvor, Chief Nelson, Chief Stagg, and Chief Thunder*

- "87 homes should be condemned due to MOLD" — Chief Terry Nelson, *Roseau River First Nation*
- "Let's access those natural resources and human resources …we have the ability to take control for ourselves and build proper housing" — Chief John Thunder, *Buffalo Point First Nation*
- "WE need to get focused"— Chief Norman Bone, *Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation*

On November 4, 2004, the Southern Chiefs and Council members gathered to discuss the severity and crucial importance of housing issues facing First Nations members. The intent of the meeting was to discuss the Southern Chiefs Organization Housing Strategy, which directs focus on Resolution No. 20. A presentation facilitated by SCO Housing Advisors was aimed at the Chiefs in attendance. The presentation offered several interim solutions to address the housing crisis.



*The SCO Chiefs-in-Summit Resolution September 29, 2004*

SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION
CHIEFS-IN-SUMMIT
WAYWAYSEECAPPO FIRST NATION
SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, 2004

RESOLUTION: #20

SUBJECT: HOUSING STRATEGY

WHEREAS, many southern First Nation communities have a severe shortage of safe, dry, environmentally viable and healthy housing in their communities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this housing shortage, many southern First Nation people and families are forced to live together in small one or two bedroom houses; and

WHEREAS, the current housing stock in many First Nation communities are plagued with substandard construction resulting in dilapidated houses and are infested with mold; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence many southern First Nation people and families are more susceptible to poor health and greater rates of mortality;

THEREFORE THE CHIEFS-IN-SUMMIT RESOLVE: that the SCO Grand Chief make Southern First Nations housing a priority and to develop a southern First Nations Housing Strategy, to address such issues as housing and infrastructure with federal and provincial Ministers responsible for Housing and with the Assembly of First Nations office and other Manitoba political organizations; to research into the current statistics for southern First Nations living in Manitoba, and for consulting and providing updates to the SCO Chiefs.

MOVED BY: Chief Irvin McIvor, Sandy Bay First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Morris Shannacappo, Roseau River First Nation

DATE: September 30, 2004

CARRIED: carried

*Certified Resolution Adopted on September 29 & 30, 2004, Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB.*

Grand Chief Chris Henderson
Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.

Chief Norman Bone
Co-Chairman of the SCO Chiefs' Executive Committee

The majority of First Nation membership believe housing is a treaty right; however, receiving a house **should not** include vandalism resulting in depreciated house value and recurring renovations. Several Chiefs voiced concern of this particular issue with membership, "*this is a crisis in our communities*" said, Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation. *We have to take pride in our communities and in ourselves for our future."*

According to statistics on housing "Many First Nations are facing a housing crisis. Unless action is taken quickly, the already unacceptable housing conditions are only going to get worse, with population growth on reserves that is twice the Canadian average, " stated Auditor General Sheila Fraser in her 2004 report tabled in the House of Commons." (*aboriginaltimes*. July August 2004, pg. 12)

To accelerate progress and participation two (2) Chiefs were nominated and appointed to represent the southern Chiefs at the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs' Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI). The two Chiefs nominated were Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation Chief Irvin McIvor and Black River First Nation Chief Frank Abraham. One of the outcomes of discussion was the overall support received from the Chiefs of the recent work accomplished on Housing. SCO leadership has indicated their desire to see recent work accomplished and be further developed. Future Housing discussion will be scheduled in the near future.

## Indian Residential School Museum of Canada

Congratulations to Long Plain First Nation on the upcoming grand opening of the Indian Residential School Museum of Canada in 2008. The museum will be housed at the former Portage Indian School which now sits on Long Plain Reserve land adjacent to Portage la Prairie and is known as the Rufus Prince Building. The museum will aim to tell the story of the Canadian Residential School system by measures of artifacts, documents, photos, and a traveling exhibit. For further information visit www.longplainfirstnation.ca/museum.

*(Sources: www.turtleisland.org & Indian Residential School of Museum of Canada)*

*"from a place of hurting to a place of healing" —*

*Rufus Prince Building*

**Next Issue**: SCO Justice
*"Policing and Policing Relations in Manitoba"*

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