



# South Wind

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

Send comments or feedback to:

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

## Addressing Policing in First Nation communities?

Message from  
Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson



l-r: Chief Wallace Moar and Grand Chief Chris Henderson

### O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi Healing Lodge

**B**ooshoo, Wash-ta-dow, Tansi, Hello. On November 17, 2004, I traveled to O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation (formerly known as Crane River) to attend a monthly Board of Governors meeting of the O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi Healing Lodge (OHL).

At that time, I was asked to become a member of the Board of Governors along with eight (8) other members. With this role, I will support the objectives and mandate of the Healing Lodge. I am very honored to be asked to be part of an excellent team that truly believes in wholistic Justice.

The main focus of the O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi Healing Lodge is to use the teachings and the gifts that creator has given us as Anishinabe people to help our Aboriginal offenders. Elders are beneficial in incorporating a wholistic model which addresses the spiritual, the emotional, the mental, and the physical aspects of an offender.

The O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi Healing Lodge is situated on the north shore of the community. The participants receive extensive guidance from an Elder on traditional teaching methods such as the sweat lodge and sharing circles.

Until next time, take care. *Miigwech!*



Southern Chiefs' Organization  
Invites and Welcomes you to join us at our  
Christmas Open House  
December 15, 2004  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Southern Chiefs' Sub-Office  
200 – 286 Smith St., Winnipeg



Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation addressing large crowd regarding on-reserve policing.

**O**n November 22, 2004, a peaceful demonstration was held at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg to show support for the Fisher River Cree Nation. Chief David Crate and Council of Fisher River want to establish a Dakota Ojibway Police Services (DOPS) detachment in their community.

Chief David Crate and the Council of Fisher River Cree Nation with the support of their citizens have readied the

community for policing services. To date, a centrally located facility for a detachment headquarters has been identified within the community, and housing for detachment officers has also been secured.

To date the Province of Manitoba is unwilling to fund this arrangement which would ensure safety and security of the community and its members by providing needed community-based policing services. Ongoing discussions and negotiations between the Province and Fisher River Cree Nation will continue.

(Source: Fisher River Cree Nation Press Release, Nov. 17, 2004)



Motivated demonstrator showing support for Fisher River Cree Nation

The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry (1991) recommended the establishment of community-based policing services and the development of Aboriginal policing services for Aboriginal communities. To date this includes four policing agreements, including: The Dakota Ojibway Police Service, and Swan Lake, Chemawawin, and Waywayseecappo First Nations. In the current year, detachments will be established at Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. This will provide a total of six agreements in the Province of Manitoba, while Saskatchewan has over thirty.

### Southern Chiefs' Organization Justice Program

Nahanni Fontaine, SCO Director of Justice

**I**n response to the tragic death of J. J. Harper, who was shot and killed by a Winnipeg police officer, the 1991 Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry (AJI) provided a set of recommendations for improving the delivery of justice services to Aboriginal peoples in Manitoba.

The AJI provided recommendations on a variety of judicial issues including the implementation of traditional forms of justice; Aboriginal over-representation within every aspect of the system; systemic and institutional racism and the relations this environment creates; Aboriginal & Treaty Rights; and community-based policing to name a few. An underlying principle derived from the AJI was the transfer and implementation of an indigenous justice system that would best serve our people.

To this end, in 2001, the Southern Chiefs' Organization established its Justice Program which currently provides analysis of the current judicial system and advocacy on behalf of the southern First

Nations. SCO's Justice Program works hard to advocate in the areas of community-based policing; Aboriginal and police relations; public complaints; devolution of probations services; gang research and prevention; restorative justice; policy and development; community justice models; and addressing the current conditions of Manitoba's Portage Correctional Facility for Women. SCO is currently intent on devising projects geared toward the transfer of certain justice programs to SCO from the Province of Manitoba.

By way of example, negotiations with the Province in the devolution of probations services began in 2001 and will see the creation of an autonomous southern First Nations Probations Agency. Additionally, the organization seeks to design and implement culturally specific justice programs that are informed by the expressed needs of its widely diverse Aboriginal constituency. SCO will assist its member First Nations to assume full responsibility for the administration of Aboriginal justice programs.

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