



South Wind

Happy New Year
2005
from the Staff
at SCO!

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

Interview with Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson

Chris Henderson hails from a strong Ojibway / Cree background from the Black River First Nation and Sapotaweyak Cree Nation. He has been in the leadership role of Southern Grand Chief for over seven (7) months. Grand Chief Henderson sat down to share highlights of events that have occurred during his terms as Grand Chief.

To date, what has been your best experience as being Grand Chief? Please keep in mind that I have been only in this position for seven (7) months, but the best experience I have had since being elected as the Southern Grand Chief would have to be *actually being elected* by our Southern Chiefs for this very important and sacred role. That in and of itself has been a very humbling experience.

How is the SCO Radio Show going, and what kind of feedback has the South Wind newspaper page received? External communications continues to be a top priority for me. We will continue implementing our communication strategy through radio, print, and

the web. With these two vehicles of communications we are informing our Member First Nations and their citizens about our organization and what types of activities and issues we are involved in. We will continue the **SCO Radio Show**, heard on NCI-FM 105.5 every Tuesdays at 6:00 PM, as well as with our "**South Wind**" newspaper printed in the **Grassroots News** bi-monthly.

What is the most difficult issue you had to face while being Grand Chief? The most difficult circumstances that I have to deal with since I've become Grand Chief has been not having the ability or resources to satisfy all requests that we receive, whether they be for political or financial assistance. As well,

what I need to point out and stress that as the Southern Grand Chief, I am nothing more than a political advocate. I do not govern. I am but a trusted political servant acting on behalf of the Ojibway, Dakota and Cree First Nations of Southern Manitoba. This is a point that needs to be understood and respected by our people. It is not within my mandate to tell any of our Chiefs what to do, or how to govern their First Nations.

Miigwech



l-r: Grand Chief Dennis White Bird- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, National Chief Phil Fontaine, Chief Irvin McIvor; Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, and Grand Chief Henderson

What are some challenges do you foresee in 2005 for SCO? Externally, I see several issues that we will need to tackle from a regional perspective. In no particular order, we will need to ensure that our Member First Nations, in and around Lake Winnipeg, are directly involved in any remedial measures, or strategies, that may be developed by the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada regarding the survival of Lake Winnipeg. We have to remember that as well as having a spiritual connection to the land, we also have a spiritual connection to the water as well. We are not stakeholders, we are the original stewards to the land and the water.

Other challenges include addressing the housing shortages in our Southern First Nations, ensuring our health needs are met and maintained, addressing the formal justice enforcement system, improving the resourcing for policing on First Nations, and actively supporting our Southern First Nations fishermen. These are some of the challenges that I and our Southern Chiefs will be working on in 2005.

What are your 3 priorities in 2005? My three (3) priorities for 2005 are continuing to strengthen SCO, internally and externally. Second, getting out to our Member First Nations as much as I possibly can, especially once the pow-wow season begins. And finally, doing my best to take care of my mind, body and spirit in this new year.



Celebrates 30th Anniversary

DAKOTA OJIBWAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

The DOTC was established in Brandon, Manitoba in August, 1974 which essentially involved the Southwest Region of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. The Tribal Council is the predecessor of all existing tribal councils in Canada. SCO congratulates DOTC on 30 years of improving the lives of their Member First Nations and people.

Birdtail Sioux First Nation • Canupawakpa Dakota Nation • Dakota Plains First Nation • Long Plain First Nation • Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation • Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation • Sioux Valley Dakota Nation • Swan Lake First Nation

1974-2004



l-r: Chief Viola Eastman, Chief Orville Smoke, Chief Dennis Meeches, Grand Chief Henderson, Chief Irvin McIvor and Chief Robert Daniels.

In Memory

Gladys Elaine Cochrane

August 8, 1946 — December 18th, 2004
Southern Chiefs' Organization
Office Manager 1998-2004



It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that the Southern Chiefs' Organization has lost its longest serving employee, Ms. Gladys Cochrane (*nee Sinclair*) of Pequis First Nation.

After a brief battle with cancer, she passed onto the spirit world on early Saturday morning, December 18, 2004, at the St. Boniface General Hospital in Winnipeg.

Ms. Cochrane faithfully and loyally served the Southern Chiefs' Organization from its inception in 1998. She will always be remembered for her friendliness, loyalty and commitment.

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Gospel of John 19:26-27



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