



# South Wind

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

## SCO Health Advocate Update

**F**rom the role of SCO Health Advocate, I take this opportunity to introduce the members of the Health Portfolio and to provide you with a brief overview of Health and future plans.

momentum, we assist in fully informing the Member communities' Health staff on all resources available through the Health Advocate Office. This shared information process is exercised on a continuing basis through community visits.

SCO Health Advocate Office is comprised of the following members:

- Del Assiniboine, Health Advocate (SCO)
- Doreen Sanderson, Policy Analyst (SCO)
- Val Whitford, Administrative Assistant (SCO)



There are many concerns of Health that we as a team collaborate and assist our member First Nations. For instance, the SCO Health Advocate Office assists other Health Offices and elected Leadership in dealing with the ever increasing of funding for program areas. This task is accomplished by proposal development or by participating in negotiations with First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) or the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Currently, we have positive developments at the national level that are gaining momentum since the announcement by the Federal Government to develop an Aboriginal Blueprint to improve the health of Aboriginal people. In September 2004, the First Ministers met regarding health issues, they are to report back in one year following that meeting. It was at this meeting, that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) presented a Health Action Plan to address First Nations Health. The AFN is encouraging other First Nations to develop workplans outlining their goals and how they plan to achieve them. Presently, the SCO Health Advocate Office is taking a lead on developing a workplan and a preliminary draft is in progress. Member First Nations will be consulted to provide input as they develop.

Future Health issues will be covered in upcoming issues of *South Wind*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Del Assiniboine, SCO Health Advocate

Message from  
Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson



*l-r: Grand Chief Henderson, Chief Roland Hamilton, Bloodvein First Nation; and Chief Raymond Keeper, Little Grand Rapids.*

**B**ooshoo! Wash-ta-dow! Tansi! Greetings to our Southern Chiefs, Council Members and First Nations citizens. As we begin this New Year with a strong desire to advance our agenda and continue to strengthen SCO, internally and externally, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief update of our progress to date.

Back in September 2004, we hosted our first regular SCO Chiefs-in-Summit on the Waywayseecappo First Nation. A total of twenty-one (21) Resolutions were adopted by the Southern Chiefs covering a range of issues from housing, environment, land conversion, policing and taxation.

Of particular note, **Resolution #08, Subject: SCO Constitutional Review Task Force**, calls for the formation of a "Constitutional Review Task Force", which will comprise of our Southern Chiefs and various technicians who will review the current SCO Constitution and recommend possible amendments to the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit.

Regarding **Resolution #16, Subject: Southern First Nations Environmental Stewardship**, we have drafted an Environmental Strategy Draft Framework in response to this resolution. We will be presenting this draft strategy to our Southern Chiefs in February 2005 for their information, consideration and feedback. This strategy will be of particular interest to our Member First Nations in and around the shoreline of Lake Winnipeg. Environment will also be the focus of an upcoming article in the "*South Wind*" newspaper.

With that, I wish you and your families the very best in 2005!



Another area that we continue to overcome and address is accessing Provincial Funding and Provincial Programs, however, this process is hindered due to the position taken by the province that on-reserve issues are a federal jurisdiction. As the Health Advocate, the issue of jurisdiction is a high priority and is a starting point to achieving positive results in the near future. To sustain

## Manigotagan River Manitoba's Newest Provincial Park

**O**n December 3, 2004, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer announced the province's newest provincial park, "Manigotagan River".

On hand at this announcement was Chief Harold Crow of the Pauingassi First Nation, Chief Ian Bushie of the Hollow Water First Nation, Chief Roland Hamilton of the Bloodvein First Nation and Chief Raymond Keeper of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

Situated near the mouth of the Manigotagan River about 115 kilometres north of Pine Falls, close to the northwest tip of the Nopiming Provincial Park, this pristine and breathtaking area of about 7,432 hectares will now be protected by a 750-metre boundary from each bank. The Manigotagan Provincial Park is home to majestic wildlife including moose, black bears, wolf, caribou and eagles. It is also home to spectacular plant life including prickly pear cactus, Canada yew (the only yew found in Manitoba), elderberry and green ash.



*l-r: Minister of Conservation Stan Struthers; Chief Harold Crow, Pauingassi First Nation; Chief Ian Bushie, Hollow Water First Nation; Manigotagan Mayor Greg Wood, and Premier Gary Doer.*

### Manigotagan: "waterfalls making a loud noise"

(News Source: Government of Manitoba News Release)