



South Wind

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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

Seeking Justice for an Injustice

Message from
Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson



Winnipeg lost one of their son's tragically on January 31, 2005 to a gunshot by a Winnipeg Police Officer during a suspected robbery incident. Several events were held in support to bring public attention to this unfortunate loss. On February 1, 2005, a press conference was held by some of the SCO Chiefs to denounce this excessive use of fatal force by the Police Service. A vigil was held on Thursday to help the journey of Matthew Dumas and on Friday,



Chief Terrance Nelson, Roseau River First Nation speaks to a crowd of supporters on behalf of the tragic loss of Matthew Dumas.

February 4th, a peaceful yet spiritual rally was held on the steps of City Hall. Family members and friends continue to grieve the terrible and sudden loss. A press conference is scheduled to hear a statement from the parents of Matthew Dumas. Organizers and supporters of the family are striving to reach justice for the shattering loss of their son, nephew and friend.



l-r: Chief Morris Shannacappo, SCO Nahanni Fontaine, Chief Irvin McIvor, MORN Leslie Spillet, and Chief Terrance Nelson show support during a Press Conference on Feb. 1, 2005 for Matthew Dumas who was fatally shot by Winnipeg Police .



Supporters for the family of Matthew Dumas at rally to seek justice held on the steps of Winnipeg's City Hall, Friday, Feb.4, 2005.

Booshoo! Wash-ta-dow! Tansi! Greetings to our Southern Chiefs, Council Members and First Nations citizens. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Chief & Council of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and the Events Coordinator, Harold Blacksmith for hosting the 2005 Dakota Nation Winter Fest in Brandon, MB.

I had the great honour of attending and participating in the Opening Ceremonies as well as in the first Grand Entry of the Wacipi. It was inspiring to see such a high calibre of talent and participation by all.

SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION



Secondly, I also want to thank all the Chiefs in attendance at the AMC Special Chiefs Assembly held on the Long Plain First Nation from January 25—28, 2005. There was plenty of discussion, presentations and networking on the important issues of Health and Housing.

Miigwech, to the citizens of Long Plain First Nation for their gracious hospitality and their strong sense of community.

With that, take care until next time. *Miigwech*



Next Issue: FAI/Child & Family Matters

Our Sacred Responsibility

Heidi Cook, SCO Executive Assistant Special Projects

In keeping with our sacred responsibility to Mother Earth, a Resolution supporting Environmental Stewardship was passed by Chiefs at the September 2004 Chiefs-in-Summit at Waywayseecappo First Nation. Given this direction, SCO staff prepared an *Environmental Strategy* which identifies key issues and a plan of action. **The Strategy will be formally presented to Chiefs on February 18, 2005 at a special meeting in Winnipeg.**

The *Environmental Strategy* is guided by a focus on providing solutions to water quality problems in our province. Water is essential to life, and Lake Winnipeg, the largest freshwater lake in Manitoba, is under considerable threat from both localized and widespread sources of pollution. The area that drains into Lake Winnipeg is roughly 1,000,000 km², covering parts of four provinces and four states.



One of the biggest challenges we have to address is "nutrient loading". Agricultural fertilizers, manure and our own sewage contain nutrients which stimulate plant growth. In excess amounts, these nutrients fuel the extensive algal blooms we see formed on surface waters

during the summer months. Some types of algae are simply a nuisance, but others can form toxins which can be fatal to wildlife and humans.

Another urgent issue is the Devils Lake Diversion in North Dakota, plans to divert water from a separate watershed into the Red River and Lake Winnipeg, in violation of international law, are underway. This raises the potential for foreign organisms to enter our water and compete with, prey on or spread disease to our native aquatic species, as well as reducing water quality in general. The water diversion is on schedule to begin operating this summer in July.

In addition to these challenges, our water bodies are also at risk from the effects of global climate change. The balance of the food chain will be upset if species are allowed to become endangered or extinct. There are issues with E.coli at beaches and the effects of hydro regulation on water flow and quality.

Awareness of the problem is the first step towards creating a solution. We must come together in recognition of our responsibility to Mother Earth, and ensure a world that is clean and healthy for future generations.

For more information regarding Environment activities: contact Sam Murdock or Heidi Cook at the SCO Sub Office, 946-1869.