



# South Wind

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

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Message from  
 Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson



Grand Chief Henderson and Brenna Grafton, student at U of W.

Booshoo! Washte! Tansi! Greetings to our Elders, Southern Chiefs, Veterans, Council Members and First Nations citizens.

I recently attended a Special Chiefs' Assembly in Vancouver, British Columbia, hosted by the Assembly of First Nations to discuss the recognition and implementation of First Nations Governments. This assembly was well attended by our Southern Chiefs who contributed to the debate and discussions over this three-day assembly from March 29, 30, and 31, 2005.

Other issues that were raised at this assembly by some of our Southern Chiefs, like Chief Tina Leveque from the Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation, included the immediate need to address the Bill C-31 identification system across Canada by holding a national conference to discuss this pressing issue facing First Nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals who recently invited me to their communities and events: Chief Robert Maytwayashing: Lake Manitoba First Nation Career Fair; Ms. Sharon Roberts: Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation Senior 1 - 4 Students Recognition Dinner and Awards; and Ms. Brenna Grafton: the University of Winnipeg Aboriginal Speakers Series.

I take great honour in being invited to attend community events and make it a top priority to get out to our Member First Nations as much as I can. So I say Meegwetch to these individuals for inviting me to their events! The pleasure was all mine.

Until next time, take care and God Bless!



Next Issue: AFN Special Chiefs Assembly - Vancouver

## Implementing TLE agreements in Manitoba

On March 17 and 18, 2005, Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson and other Southern Chiefs travelled to Saskatoon, SK, to learn about the Saskatchewan First Nations' experiences in implementing their Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement.

Last September 2004, Grand Chief Henderson was mandated by resolution adopted by the Southern Chiefs to research and review options addressing the implementation of TLE agreements and the land conversion process in Southern Manitoba.

The SCO delegation included Chief Tina Leveque from the Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation, Chief Robert Daniels from the Swan Lake First Nation, Chief Morris Shannacappo from the Rolling River First Nation, and representatives from the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba.

In Manitoba, 19 First Nations, represented by the TLE Committee of Manitoba (that includes Brokenhead and Rolling River) signed onto the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement in May 1997. Prior to this Framework Agreement, seven (7) First Nations, which includes Swan Lake and Roseau River, signed their independent TLE agreements.

Under some of these TLE agreements, First Nations have the ability to buy, or acquire, lands on a willing buyer/willing seller basis within rural and urban municipalities. Unfortunately, some of the independent TLE First Nations who have acquired lands under their TLE agreements are still waiting to have these lands set aside as reserve by Canada. Some of these First Nations have been waiting for more than ten (10) years to have their TLE lands converted to reserve status.

In 1992, the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement was signed. Since then, Saskatchewan First Nations who possess TLE



l-r: Chief Morris Shannacappo, Rolling River First Nation; Chief Tina Leveque, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation; 3rd Vice Chief, Delbert Wapass, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; Grand Chief Henderson, and Chief Robert Daniels, Swan Lake First Nation, on trip to Saskatoon.

agreements have had their TLE lands converted to reserve status. In some cases, these acquired, or purchased, lands have been set aside as reserve by Canada, on average, in less than two (2) years.



l-r: Michael Littlejohn, Roseau River Anishinabe Nation and Chief Robert Daniels, Swan Lake First Nation, Saskatoon, SK delegation participants.

The SCO delegation heard from the Province of Saskatchewan, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Sask. Region) and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations on the lessons learned from implementing their TLE Framework Agreement.

One major theme that emerged from this forum was that all parties signatory to the Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement work together in partnership in implementing this agreement.

**Treaty Land Entitlement claims are claims that First Nations make in an effort to get more land promised to them in the Treaties.**