



Message from
Southern Grand Chief
Chris Henderson



Grand Chief Henderson presents Dennis White Bird with an original Cyril Assiniboine painting .

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

I want to take this opportunity to once again congratulate Mr. Dennis White Bird on his appointment as Manitoba's first Treaty Commissioner. On Tuesday July 26, 2005, in Winnipeg, I had the privilege of "toasting and roasting" Mr. White Bird, as well as presenting him with an original Cyril Assiniboine painting on behalf of the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba. We wish him continued success in his new role.

Congratulations are also in order for the Long Plain First Nation, on July 28, 2005, Long Plain held an official grand opening for the Keeshkeemaqua Conference and Gaming Centre located on Long Plain land within the City of Portage la Prairie. Congratulations to Chief Dennis Meeches and the Arrowhead Development Corporation on their latest achievement.

And finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the First Nations for inviting and allowing me to participate in the Grand Entry's for their Pow-Wows.

Until next time, May the Creator watch over you and your families and God Bless!

Meegwetch!



South Wind

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

SCO RELEASES TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT REPORT

On July 19, 2005 a Press Conference was held at the SCO sub-Office to create public awareness of the research findings of provincial comparisons between Saskatchewan and Manitoba regarding Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation.

Several factors were evident in the report, "based on the results of the research undertaken in this study, it is evident that the TLE implementation in Saskatchewan, on balance, is much more efficient than the Manitoba process. In a number of cases in Saskatchewan, the TLE implementation process has taken less than two years."

The report titled "Comparative Analysis of TLE Implementation in Manitoba and Saskatchewan with Focus on Solutions for Manitoba First Nations" covers issues such as 'dealing with municipalities, dealing with third part interests, environmental assessment and land survey and general economic development issues concerning use of land.'

Did You Know?

The Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement details the way Canada, Manitoba and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc. (TLEC) have agreed to fulfill outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) obligations in Manitoba for Entitlement First Nations (EFN's) represented by the TLE committee. The Framework Agreement settles the land debt that is owed to the First Nation that did not receive all the lands that they were entitled to under the Treaties 1,3,4,5,6 and 10.

Excerpt from Executive Summary - TLE Comparative Analysis 2005

In order to facilitate the Manitoba TLE implementation process, the following general recommendations have been identified (section 7.0 provides the recommendations in specific form):

- 1) A lack of mutual understanding between First Nations and municipalities is a significant issue. It is recommended that First Nations pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (M O U) w i t h municipalities.

- 2) There is a lack of clarity surrounding the definition of the term "reasonable" with regard to assessing whether municipality is sufficiently responding to a First Nation TLE request. It is recommended that clarity be established in order to create a timelier basis upon which First Nations can obtain support when dealing with an unreasonable municipality.



Grand Chief Henderson speaks to the media regarding the TLE Comparative Analysis Report.

- 3) The disparity between the tax loss compensation given to rural municipalities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan has contributed to a lack of cooperation in TLE

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TLE IMPLEMENTATION IN MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN WITH FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS FOR MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS



PREPARED FOR THE SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION INC.

BY

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implementation. It is recommended that appropriate mechanisms be put in place to ensure more timely cooperation by rural municipalities.

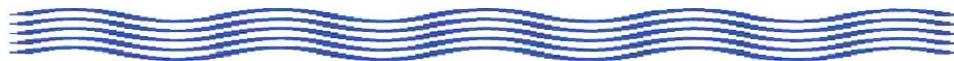
- 4) The fact that First Nations are required to incur annual property taxes on purchased land (fee simple) places an unfair burden on First Nations when the process is being slowed by the actions and/or inactions by other parties. It is recommended that appropriate mechanisms be put in place to reduce this burden in such circumstances.

- 5) There is a recognized need for greater resources to be placed in environmental assessment and land surveys in the TLE implementation process. It is recommended that the federal and provincial government be pressured to comply with their TLE commitments to provide sufficient resources to implement the process in a timely manner.

- 6) There seems to be a general lack of urgency on behalf of the federal and provincial government to implement their constitutional obligations concerning TLE. It is recommended that creative efforts be undertaken to ensure that both levels of government are held accountable to their respective constitutional obligations.



WATER FOR LIFE



David Suzuki, Chair of the David Suzuki Foundation, is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster. Dr. Suzuki is recognized as a world leader in sustainable ecology.

Conference

Enjoy an evening with
Keynote Speaker,
Dr. David Suzuki at the
Gala Dinner on Day One.

Hear from experts on local and international water issues, find out what is happening in our communities, and learn how you can take action!

October 19 & 20, 2005

Ramada Marlborough Hotel ~ 331 Smith Street ~ Winnipeg, Manitoba

Contact: Southern Chiefs' Organization for Further Information ~ (204) 946-1869 ~ www.scoinc.mb.ca ~

Grand Opening for Long Plain First Nation Keeshkeemaqua Conference and Gaming Centre



Grand Chief Henderson presents Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation a plaque of congratulations on the Grand Opening of the Keeshkeemaqua Conference and Gaming Centre.

- Future plans for Long Plain First Nation reserve land includes the structure of a Governance Office Complex located within the City of Portage La Prairie.

- A Sod-Turning Ceremony recently took place on August 3, 2005 for the Office Complex.

- Chief Dennis Meeches stated that the building should be completed by March 2006.

On a beautiful morning of July 28, 2005, the official grand opening of the Keeshkeemaqua Conference and Gaming Centre took place.

In the next few weeks, community members, the general public and especially the avid Bingo players can expect to play a game of chance at the **Big Foot Bingo**.

The name derives from the Sasquatch replica that was donated to Keeshkeemaqua Conference Centre from the artist who created the Keeshkeemaqua statue situated on the grounds of the Conference Centre.



ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS



AMC ELECTS RON EVANS FOR GRAND CHIEF

Congratulations

On July 27, 2005, at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg, fifty-nine (59) Chiefs gathered to vote for the next Grand Chief for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The voting ended up a victorious win by Norway House Cree Nation Chief Ron Evans over Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation member Bill Traverse.

On behalf of the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba we congratulate Grand Chief Ron Evans.



Former AMC Grand Chief Dennis White Bird places the AMC headdress on the new elected AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans.