



*Message from
Southern Grand Chief
Chris Henderson*

Booshoo! Washte! Tansi! Greetings to our Southern Chiefs, Elders, Veterans, Council Members and Indian peoples. I hope this message finds you all well.

I want to congratulate our SCO First Nations youth representatives who represented the First Nations youth of Southern Manitoba at a recent meeting with the Federal Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott in Winnipeg on August 26, 2005. Ms. Stacey Soldier (Swan Lake First Nation), Ms. Jessica Gaywish (Rolling River First Nation) and Ms. Lesley Sutherland (Waywayseecappo First Nation) did an excellent job in communicating and conveying our key issues and challenges to Minister Scott. I must commend these young ladies for being fine ambassadors for our Indian youth of today!

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

Meegwetch!



“Congratulations”



On September 1, 2005, I had the honour of witnessing a wedding.

On Thursday September 1, 2005, SCO had the utmost honour and privilege of hosting a wedding ceremony. This sacred ceremony brought together O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation's Chief Wallace Moar and his bride-to-be Shirley. SCO Grand Chief Henderson's offers his congratulations to the new bride and groom and wishes them all the best!

South Wind

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

Pauingassi First Nation solvent abuse issue

Southeast Chiefs Call on the Federal and Provincial Governments to meet immediately and Deal with the Pauingassi First Nation Solvent Abuse Crisis

(Winnipeg, August 25, 2005)

Southeast Tribal Council and Southeast Child & Family Services are calling for an immediate meeting with the Federal and Provincial governments to deal with this crisis of solvent (sniff) and alcohol abuse and make real commitments to the Pauingassi First Nation. SERDC, with all program heads, will be traveling to Pauingassi next week to meet with the new Chief and Council to discuss ways that we can assist the community through the current crisis.

“Not unlike many remote communities in Manitoba and Canada, Pauingassi faces an ongoing problem with solvent and other serious health, social and economic problems. This situation is not unknown to the community leaders and the fact that their efforts are restricted by the lack of resources to deal with the issues”, says Chief John Thunder, Chairman of the Southeast Tribal

“We need some immediate help in the short term. The short-term crisis is lack of health care, social services resources, police services and no adequate recreation and cultural services.”

second level services for Pauingassi. Southeast has attempted to bring about a positive change with existing programs and services. Most times the community struggles to operate the programs effectively without appropriate and proper resources. This places the community without organized activities for the youth. Sniffing and alcohol have become the answer to their frustrations.”

Short-term recommendations:

- Pauingassi must have resources to deliver a mobile treatment program and supported living program
- Pauingassi must have a consistent and permanent nursing services
- Pauingassi must have a consistent and permanent police services



Chief John Thunder, Buffalo Point First Nation, Chair of the Southeast Tribal Council speaks to the media regarding the crisis of solvent abuse on the Pauingassi First Nation.

- Pauingassi must have 2 support workers to work with Eric Kennedy (C&FS Supervisor) and 2 community development officers

Long-term recommendations:

- Federal Government consider funding options to the First Nation federal funding formula 21-1, which is being prepared by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada for Treasury Board consideration
- Pauingassi must have an Airport to provide a proper response to medical needs
- Pauingassi must have adequate funding on an as-needed basis for Child and Family Services
- Pauingassi must also have consistent and sustainable funding for all health, social, housing and economic development programs.

SERDC and SEC&FS are inviting the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs, Andy Scott, and the Ministers of Health and Justice to come up and view the situation in Pauingassi. They are also calling on provincial representation as well.

Southeast Tribal Council Communities

- Berens River First Nation
- Black River First Nation
- Bloodvein First Nation
- Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation
- Buffalo Point First Nation
- Hollow Water First Nation
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation
- Pauingassi First Nation
- Poplar River First Nation



SCO First Nations Youth meet with INAC Minister Andy Scott



Stacey Soldier, member Swan Lake First Nation — Faculty of Law student

On Friday, August 26, 2005, I attended a youth meeting with the Minister of Indian Affairs, Andy Scott.

I had been asked to attend the meeting by Grand Chief Chris Henderson to represent Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) and present the Minister with documents and letters

outlining some of the issues that our First Nations have. Initially, I was perplexed to be asked to go as I believe that our leadership have the best tools and are the best people to be meeting with the politicians. As youth, we look to our leaders to sit at the table and negotiate and pressure the government to do their part in addressing our needs. I understood the situation was that Grand Chief Henderson was at first invited but later told that he was not.

I attended the meeting with Lesley Sutherland from Waywayseecappo First Nation and Jessica Gaywish from Rolling River First Nation. We came to the meeting with the expectation that we would have two hours to meet with the Minister. When I asked the question of the time each representative would get to outline their issues to a government representative at the meeting, I was told in a very abrupt manner —that we were mistaken in believing we would have the time that we thought we would get. We were told that Minister Scott had a Cabinet meeting to attend and we would only have one hour with him. However, I appreciated that during the meeting, Minister Scott elected to stay with us and continue discussions.

The meeting itself gave us an opportunity to present issues on Agriculture, post-secondary funding, TLE land conversion process and our upcoming "Water for Life" conference and economic development initiatives.

We started the presentation off by giving the Minister the letter regarding Agriculture. I stated that we have had reports from our First Nations that there has been difficulties in leasing Crown Lands and that we are aware that we need to be dealing with the province on this issue as well. Our farmers are not eligible for certain programs to assist them in sustaining or expanding their operations. I encouraged him to meet with Grand Chief Henderson and our leadership to follow up on our needs and requirements relating to this issue.

We then gave him the Winnipeg Free Press article on Pauingassi First Nation and the gas sniffing problem. All of the representative groups from other political organizations talked at great length about the addiction situation, not only in Pauingassi First Nation but in all areas of the province. Several made poignant appeals for suicide prevention funding, an area that is woefully under funded.



Minister Andy Scott Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

At this point in the presentation, I gave Minister Scott a letter I wrote to illustrate my experience as a post-secondary student. Leslie spoke to this issue and gave information on the difficulties in accessing housing as a student.

Both, Leslie and Jessica spoke to their issues and presented their documents to the Minister. Jessica spoke to the issue of economic development and the problems occurring in accessing funding. The SCO representatives agreed that this was a great opportunity to highlight youth issues to the federal government.

Prepared by Ms. Stacey Soldier



Grand Chief Chris Henderson is pleased to announce his appointment of Mr. Sam Murdock as his Chief-of-Staff, effective September 1, 2005.



Grand Chief Henderson presenting Chief Irvin McIvor, Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation a blanket for their Traditional Pow Wow Celebrations.



Congratulations Chief Morris Shannacappo and Council of Rolling River First Nation on the Graduating class of the 2nd Annual Youth Business Camp.

DOCFS Youth Camp



Participants sharing their viewpoints with the leadership during the Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services Cultural Camp.

On a gorgeous Thursday afternoon, August 25, 2005, Grand Chief Henderson had the privilege of traveling to the Spruce Woods, Provincial Park for the First Annual Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services (DOCFS) Cultural Camp.

This outing was used to educate, promote and enhance the traditional teachings to the youth as well to some of the foster parents that care for these amazing youth. The youth had to opportunity to deliver a message to their Chief & Council of what they would like to see in their First Nation in terms of accessing more recreational and cultural activities.



During the last day of the event, comedian Don Burnstick and Grand Chief Henderson had the opportunity and honour to address the youth on the importance of keeping and appreciating our traditional knowledge.

Mr. David & Sherryl Blacksmith were the primary teachers for this event along with Councillor Curtis Assiniboine of Long Plain First Nation.

Approximately fifty (50) youth within the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC) received a certificate for their participation and completion of this cultural camp.


Register NOW! for the Water for Life CONFERENCE
 October 19-20, 2005
 Contact SCO @ (204) 946-1869 for registration.