



Message from
Southern Grand Chief
Chris Henderson



Southern Grand Chief Henderson and Dr. David Suzuki participate in a Press Conference at the Water for Life Conference.

Booshoo! Aniin! Washte! Tansi! Greetings to our Southern Chiefs, Elders, Veterans, Council Members and Indian peoples.

First of all, I want to acknowledge and congratulate the SCO staff for all their hard work and effort in the success of the Water for Life conference. It was an important milestone in addressing water issues as it affects us all in our everyday living.

Secondly, I would like to thank Chief Ken Chalmers for hosting the upcoming Dakota First Nations Summit titled, "Non-Signatory Status for Dakota Nations in Manitoba," being held Friday, November 4, 2005 on the Birdtail Sioux First Nation. This Dakota Summit will address issues of Self-Government, Gaming and Land Claims amongst other issues.

I would like to congratulate Chief Garnet Woodhouse on being elected Chief of the Pinaymootang First Nation on October 24, 2005. Welcome Back to Indian Politics.

And finally, we would like to offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Cindy Beyer of the Fisher River Cree Nation, who unexpectedly passed away on October 27, 2005.

Meegwetch

South Wind

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

www.scoinc.mb.ca

HONOURING OUR VETERANS

To those who gave their lives for our country we will remember them.

November 8, 2005 2005
this date has been
earmarked as National

Aboriginal Veterans Day. To acknowledge this day, SCO has partnered with the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority-Aboriginal Health Services (AHS) and the Deer Lodge Health Centre to host an reception for Aboriginal veterans.



Year of the Veteran • Année de l'ancien combattant

This event is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m with guest speaker Mr. Jim Bear, nephew of the late Sgt. Tommy Prince, along with other speakers. The event is open to the general public. Planned for the event is a Color Guard Procession, Traditional Drum group performing an honor song, and ending with bannock and tea.

Meegwetch to all the First Nations Veterans who are still with us and those who have traveled their journey, your sacrifice and dedication will always be remembered.

Location: Deer Lodge Centre
Life and Learning Centre
2109 Portage Avenue, Wpg.
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2005

In this **The Year of the Veteran** the National Aboriginal Veterans Association will conduct their Annual Service of Remembrance on **Tuesday, November 8, 2005.**

The service will take place at the Winnipeg Aboriginal Centre at Higgins and Main. Colour parties, drum groups and dancers will participate.

The President of the Manitoba Chapter of the Aboriginal Veterans Association, Michael Kannon says he is expecting this year's service to be the most colourful and interesting than in years gone by. He said, "We hope the general public and all Veterans Organizations will come out to support our efforts in this **Year of the Veteran** Service of Remembrance".

The service will begin at 11:00 am. We ask everyone to be seated by 10:45 am.

Remember, Freedom Is Not Free

We Will Remember Them



MB Commercial Inland Fishers Federation Inc. (MCIFF) to host 1st AGA

The assembly is being hosted in coordination with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), the Manitoba Keewatinow Ininew Okimowin (MKIO) and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF).

As per the certified Resolution MCIFC 2005-04-05, the convening of the assembly is to ratify the By-Laws and hold elections for the Chairperson and Board of Directors. The resolution also mandated the establishment of the MCIFF to create a political voice for all inland commercial fishermen.

will be sent to all potential members. Registration and payments for membership will also be taken at the door. **ONLY REGISTERED MEMBERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.**

A social entertainment evening featuring *The Breeze Band* will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

**November 9 - 10, 2005
Canad Inns, Polo Park
1405 St. Matthews Avenue
Winnipeg, MB**

For more information contact any of the following individuals.

Janette Thomas, AMC: (204) 987-4124
Doreen Sanderson, SCO: (204) 946-1869
Glen Sanderson, MKIO: (204) 927-7500
Allan Gaudry, MMF: (204) 223-0227

Ken Campbell, (204) 642-8278 or Cell (204) 641-1057
(Chairperson for the Lake Winnipeg Commercial Fishermen Advisory Group).

Advance registration forms and membership applications



Water For Life a Success

The Water for Life conference, held on October 19th and 20th in Winnipeg, was a great achievement in public awareness and direction setting. People from all over Manitoba came out to learn about the various water issues, and to discuss what actions we need to take to ensure we all have 'water for life'.

A message that was voiced by many over the two days was that respect for our waters is very important, and that First Nations can help bring that to the wider community. Our current water quality troubles are created because we do not respect the gifts of clean water, and that we need to first have respect in order to create real solutions.

David Suzuki was present on the first day of Water for Life, attended the water ceremony that opened the conference and took part in a press conference with Grand Chief Henderson. That evening, he delivered a powerful message about the state of our environment, opening many eyes and inspiring people to take action to protect our mother earth.

Water for Life was successful in bringing people together to connect on the fundamental importance of water, and to focus on how we restore and *protect our precious resource*. Many people expressed their appreciation for having the opportunity to unite on an issue of common interest to all. SCO would like to thank everyone who came out, to all the participants and volunteers – thank you for making Water for Life a success!



Dr. David Suzuki, Water for Life; Keynote Speaker



Water for Life participants look on during Opening Remarks during Day One.



Chief Ken Ducharme, Gamblers First Nation; Dr. David Suzuki and Council Member from Gamblers First Nation.



Heidi Cook, Conference Organizer presenting SCO Environmental Strategy.



Chief Irvin McIvor, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation; Dr. David Suzuki and Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin First Nation.

An Act providing for the Crown's Recognition of Self-Governing First Nations in Canada

Bill S-16

Informational Workshop

November 7-8, 2005

Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue
Wellington "B" Winnipeg, Manitoba

For Registration Forms Contact:

Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council
4820 Portage Avenue

Headingley, Manitoba R4H 1C8

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DAKOTA OJIBWAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

Your RIGHT to vote!

The need to increase democratic participation has been in the news a lot recently. I would like to examine this issue from the position of First Nations' residents. First Nations' voter turnout is low in provincial and federal elections in rural Manitoba because we are in the middle of ridings almost always won by a large margin by the political party most hostile to our interests.



interests. Within Winnipeg there are affluent ridings,

One possible solution would be to create ridings in southern Manitoba that would consist of only First Nations voters. Although current ridings are drawn geographically, they also represent sets of common

EDITORIALBY:
Chief Morris Shannacappo, Rolling River First Nation

poor-area ridings, and so on. This common interest isn't shared between rural First Nations and surrounding rural areas. More than a century ago, status Indians were confined to small "reserves" within territories that would become populated by people who would be treated differently in every respect. When we got the vote more than four decades ago, the political system was already rigged to keep us ineffective.

How long can we play a game that is so rigged that we can never win?

I'm not arguing that the separate constituency concept is the best solution, just that it would be an improvement. If somebody can come up with a better approach to address the concerns of our southern First Nations, great! But things must change. How long can we play a game that is so rigged that we can never win?