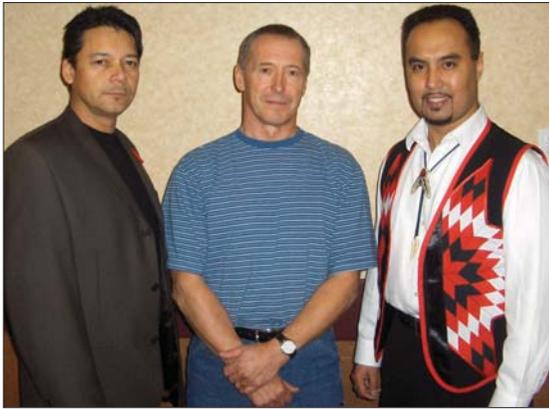




Message from  
Southern Grand Chief  
Chris Henderson



L-R: SCO Chief of Staff, Sam Murdock, Ken Campbell, newly elected MB Commercial Fisheries Chair, and Grand Chief Henderson at the Inland Fisheries AGM, Nov. '05

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

On November 24 & 25, 2005, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premiers of the provinces and territories, and the representatives of the national aboriginal organizations met for a First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in Kelowna, B.C. I had the privilege and opportunity of attending and observing this historic meeting.

At the end of this FMM, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced and committed more than \$5 billion over the next five years to 'close the gap' between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians in education, health, housing, and economic opportunities. To compliment and strengthen these commitments, the Assembly of First Nations and Canada, as represented by the Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, agreed to a specific First Nations Implementation Plan.

On November 28, 2005, the federal government was defeated on a vote of non-confidence in the House of Commons. As a result, a federal general election has been set for January 23, 2006.

No one knows for sure how the commitments made at the FMM will be affected by the outcome of the next federal election, but I want to encourage all our Indian peoples to carefully consider their options when they exercise their democratic right to vote on January 23, 2006.

*Meegwetch!*

# South Wind

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

[www.scoinc.mb.ca](http://www.scoinc.mb.ca)

## AFN and Canada reach AIP on Compensation for Indian Residential School Survivors

**O**n November 21, 2005, AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine announced that an Agreement in Principle (AIP) was reached with the federal government and residential school survivors and their families. This agreement represents a major victory and vindication for all.

"This is the largest and most comprehensive settlement package in Canadian history," said National Chief Fontaine. "Today marks the first step towards closure on a terrible, tragic legacy for the thousands of First Nations individuals who suffered physical, sexual, or psychological abuse."

The National Chief, on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations, and the Hon.

Frank Iacobucci, on behalf of the Government of Canada, signed an historic and unprecedented Agreement in Principle, which was then approved by Cabinet on November 21st. This agreement meets the overall standard that the AFN has been seeking – that it be demonstrably fair and just to the survivors, and that it would lead and contribute to reconciliation, respect, and recognition.

Less than six months ago, on May 30, the AFN and the federal Cabinet signed a Political Accord that recognized the need for reconciliation and healing. Today's settlement is based in part on the AFN's Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to Compensate for Abuses in Indian Residential Schools released last November 2004. This includes a national apology; an improved compensation

process for victims of sexual and physical abuse, a lump sum payment for former students; and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission with both national and regional processes. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation will receive additional funding for another five years.

The Agreement in Principle also calls for an expedited process to resolve the claims of the elderly. Survivors currently involved in class action lawsuits also qualify for all of the benefits of the settlement package, including compensation. The AFN's report and approach was endorsed by residential schools survivors, lawyers involved in class action



Photo courtesy of AFN

cases and the churches.

"While no amount of money will ever heal the emotional scars, this settlement package will contribute to the journey on the path to healing — not only for all residential school survivors, but for their children and grandchildren. For they too, have suffered and witnessed the affects of this abuse," said the National Chief. "It is also crucial to have dealt with this legacy of the past before moving ahead into historic discussions about our future at the First Minister Meeting."

The First Ministers Meeting was held recently on November 24-25, 2005 in Kelowna, BC where National Chief Fontaine provided Chiefs, Elders, and delegates an overview of the Compensation Process.



Photo courtesy: <http://www.longplainfirstnation.ca/museum/index.html>

The following information is to assist in inquiries and questions on the Indian Residential School Compensation announcement.

1.) **IRS Federal Government Help Desk Line: 1-800-816-7293**

General information on the AIP Application Forms are being developed and should be mailed out before March 2006.

A family member of an IRS survivor who passed away after May 30, 2005, may apply

2.) **National Survivors Support Line: 1-866-925-4419**  
24 Hours a day, seven days a week

On-line information, visit the IRSRC website at [info@irs-rqpi.gc.ca](mailto:info@irs-rqpi.gc.ca)

Source: <http://www.afn.ca/article>



# The Southern Chiefs' Organization Invites and Welcomes you to join us at our Annual Christmas Open House.

Wednesday  
December 14, 2005  
11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Southern Chiefs' Organization  
Winnipeg Sub-Office  
200 - 286 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba



## Passport Activity

Last year, we had a blast with this activity. You're invited to participate and get a chance to WIN the DOOR PRIZE!!

<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Projects	 <b>PASSPORT ACTIVITY</b> 2005 Open House <i>Explore the Adventure</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chiefs'	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communications	
Please Print:		
Name: _____		
Organization: _____		
Telephone: _____		

*Everyone is welcome to join us, come and celebrate the festive holiday season with Grand Chief Chris Henderson and the Staff of SCO.*

# Merry Christmas

## Christmas Basket Raffle

3 tickets for \$5.00. This year's Christmas basket includes fantastic items. Contact the SCO Sub-Office for raffle tickets.

