



South Wind

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

www.scoinc.mb.ca

SCO encourages First Nations people to VOTE on Election Day!

Voting is about choosing the government that will run the country.

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

First Nations people rarely, if at all, participate and vote in mainstream elections – such as municipal, provincial and federal elections. We want to change this and we are asking you to exercise your democratic right to vote on January 23, 2006.

I want to thank all our special guests who joined me and the dedicated staff at SCO on Wednesday December 14, 2005, at our Annual X-mas Open House. I especially want to recognize and acknowledge the SCO Staff, especially SCO's Ms. Annette Spence who took the lead in coordinating and organizing the Open House, and the helpers for their excellent work. Congratulations on a job well-done!

Let's remember that our peoples only acquired this right to vote federally in 1960. So, if we want to ensure that our rights and issues are not only respected, but more importantly, addressed by the federal government, let's get out and do what we can to ensure our voices are heard, respected and followed on Election Day!

I am pleased to announce that SCO will be launching a public awareness campaign encouraging all our First Nations people to vote in the next Federal General Election on Monday January 23, 2006.

In closing, on behalf of the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba and the SCO Staff, I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Please remember not to drink and drive during this holiday season!

Meegwetch!

Southern Grand Chief
Chris Henderson



AMC's Keewatin Winnipeg Youth Initiative with Grand Chief Henderson



NCI's Corey "the Coyote" Whitford picking the Winning Ticket!



SCO's own Ellen Jean Contois and Grandson Jackson Asham

Meegwetch to all those who attended the SCO Open House, we had lots of fun and food. Looking forward to seeing you again.

HO! HO! HO! Merry Christmas!!



Chief Terrance Nelson,
Roseau River Anishinabe
First Nation



Chief Irvin McIvor
Sandy Bay Ojibway
First Nation



SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION
CHIEFS-IN-SUMMIT
WAYWAYSEECAPPO FIRST NATION
SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, 2004

RESOLUTION: #21

SUBJECT: SCO TO IDENTIFY & ORGANIZE THE FIRST NATION VOTE IN WINNIPEG

WHEREAS, 55% of the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) elected in the Province of Manitoba are elected from the city of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated 30,000 First Nation voters live in the city of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Southern First Nations to be able to influence provincial and federal elections; and

THEREFORE THE CHIEFS-IN-SUMMIT RESOLVE: to hereby direct the Southern Chiefs' Organization to help identify and organize the First Nation vote in Winnipeg.

MOVED BY: Chief Terrance Nelson; Roseau River First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Irvin McIvor; Sandy Bay First Nation

DATE: September 30, 2004

Carried: carried

Certified Resolution Adopted on September 29 & 30, 2004, Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB

Grand Chief Chris Henderson
Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.

Chief Norman Bone
Chairperson of the SCO Chiefs'
Executive Committee

GET OUT & VOTE !!

Let your voice be heard and counted

Why Vote?

Voting is our fundamental right and we vote to decide who will represent us in making the rules by which we agree to live together.

What Are Elections All About?

In an election, we vote for the candidate of our choice in our electoral district. The candidate with the most votes is elected. He or she then becomes a **member of Parliament**.



First Nation women make up a large part of the Voting population —
Jocelyn McIvor

Words I Need to Know

An **elector** is a Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old by election day.

The **candidates** are the persons wishing to be elected.

The **voters list** includes the names of people who are registered to vote. I receive my **voter information card** by mail. It confirms that my name is on the voters list and tells me when and where to vote.

“The polling station is the place where I go to vote.”

The **deputy returning officer** gives me a ballot. He or she can also help electors mark their ballots.

The **poll clerk** crosses my name off the voters list when I vote. The **ballot** is the paper listing the names of the candidates in my electoral district. Voting in Canada is by **secret ballot**. The **voting screen** is the private area I go behind to mark my choice on the ballot.

After I mark my ballot, I return it to the deputy returning officer who tears off the tab without opening the ballot so that my vote remains secret. Then I place the ballot into the **ballot box**.

How Do I Vote?

There are three ways I can vote.

I can vote at an **advance poll**. Advance polls are for those who cannot or do not wish to vote on election day. All electors can vote at an advance poll. I can find out the place and times for advance voting on my voter information card or by contacting Elections Canada at the telephone number on the card.

I can vote by **special ballot**. Voting by special ballot is done by mail or at the **office of the returning officer** in my electoral district. I can contact Elections Canada for more information.

I can vote in person on election day. On election day, I go to my polling station to vote. The dates, times and polling station address are on the voter information card.

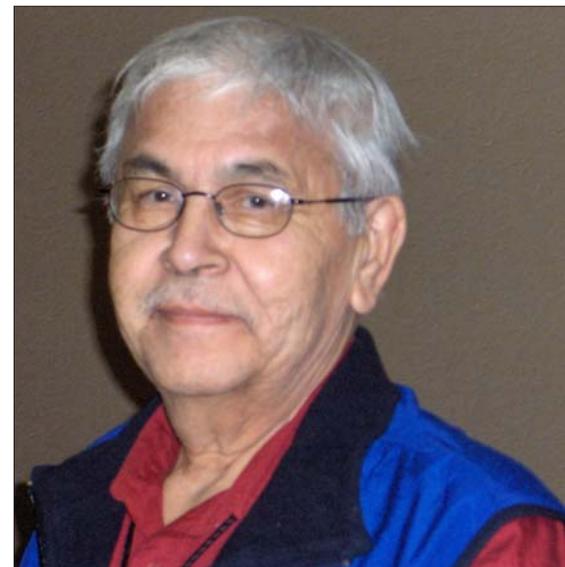
At the polling station, I find the table that has the number matching the one on my voter information card. Two election officers are at the table: the **deputy returning officer** and the **poll clerk**. I give my **name and address** to the deputy returning officer. Most people are already registered on the voters list. If I am not on the voters list, I still have an opportunity to **register on election day**. I can register with the deputy returning officer at my polling station by providing **proof of my identity and residence**.

I can also register by making a sworn statement of my identity and residence and by having another elector already registered in the same polling division accompany and vouch for me. The poll clerk **crosses my name off** the voters list to show that I have voted. The deputy returning officer gives me a folded ballot. That person can also **help me** if I have difficulty marking my ballot. I can also bring a friend or family member to the polling station to assist me.



Get out & Vote! Corey “The Coyote” Whitford is voting!

I go behind the voting screen. No one can see for whom I vote. I **mark an X** in the circle beside the name of the candidate I choose. I **fold my ballot** so my vote remains secret. I take my folded ballot back to the deputy returning officer who **tears off the tab**. The deputy returning officer gives me back my ballot. I **put my ballot in the ballot box**.



Everyone can VOTE! — You must be 18 years old to vote.
Elder Nelson James

The Election – I Make a Choice

When there is an election, I should receive a **voter information card** in the mail, which confirms that my name is on the **voters list**.

This card is important. It tells me how, when and where I can vote. If I do not receive my card, I will **contact Elections Canada** to find out how to get my name on the voters list so that I can vote. I can learn the **names of the candidates** by visiting the Elections Canada Web site at **www.elections.ca** during the election period.

“I can also learn their names and policies by listening to the radio, watching television, reading newspapers and talking to friends and family members. I will choose the candidate I wish to represent me.”



For more information: www.elections.ca 1-800-463-6868 (toll-free)