



Message from
Grand Chief Chris Henderson



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

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the party members of the Federal New Democratic Party of Canada for adopting two (2) resolutions at their annual party convention in Winnipeg last month. These resolutions direct Premier Gary Doer and his Manitoba Government to lobby and pressure the new Federal Conservative Government to honour and implement the Kelowna Accord that was signed on November 25, 2005, at Kelowna, BC.

Commitments were made by the Premiers, territorial leaders, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit leaders and then Prime Minister of Canada, Paul Martin, in Kelowna to reduce the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in areas like housing, health, education, economic opportunities and governance.

For your information, we have re-printed the Conservative Party of Canada's platform on 'Aboriginal' issues that they campaigned on during the 2006 election campaign.

Finally, I want to congratulate Mr. Jim Prentice on his appointment as the Minister of Indian & Northern Affairs by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. We look forward to meeting and dialoguing with Minister Prentice in the coming months.

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

Meegwetch!



South Wind

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

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The Conservative Party's Campaign platform on 'Aboriginal' issues

Following is the text of the Conservative Party's platform for aboriginal affairs in the 2006 election

A Conservative government will:

- Accept the targets agreed upon at the recent Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders, and work with first ministers and national aboriginal leaders on achieving these targets.

- Support the development of individual property ownership on reserves, to encourage lending for private housing and businesses.

- Let aboriginal parents choose the schooling they want for their children, with funding following the students.

- Replace the Indian Act (and related legislation) with a modern legislative framework which provides for the devolution of full legal and democratic responsibility to aboriginal Canadians for their own affairs within the Constitution, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

- Pursue settlement of all outstanding "comprehensive claims" within a clear framework that balances the rights of aboriginal claimants with those of Canada.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper

- Adopt measures to resolve the existing backlog of "specific" claims so as to provide justice for aboriginal claimants, together with certainty for government, industry, and non-aboriginal Canadians.

- Implement all of the recommendations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development contained in its fourth report on Resolving Indian Residential School Claims, to expedite the

settlement of claims and save money.

- Recognize the contributions of Aboriginal veterans, and redress 60 years of inequity by implementing the resolution of the House of Commons to acknowledge the historic inequality of treatment and compensation for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit war veterans, and take action immediately to give real compensation to these veterans in a way that truly respects their service and sacrifice.

To what may avail from this platform is yet to be witnessed and felt amongst First Nation people across Canada.

Letter from Minister Jim Prentice



Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable Jim Prentice

I was honoured and privileged in February 2006 to be asked by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to serve as the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development (the government department is called INAC, which stands for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada). I served as the Opposition Critic for this portfolio from July 2004 to January 2006.

I have some expertise in this area. I served as a member of the federal Indian Land Claims Commission for ten years, seven of them as Co-Chair. I am acknowledged to have some considerable experience in this area, along with some long considered views about how we should be sensibly making the lives of Canada's aboriginal peoples better while


respecting the legitimate rights of all Canadians.

Future developments in the north, including the proposed Mackenzie Valley Gas pipeline, offer further opportunities for the North, many of which have important benefits for the economies of Alberta and the nation as a whole.

I will be meeting with Canadians who are interested in these issues throughout my mandate, and I would welcome any views you may have.

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NOTICE OF TREATY NO. 2 GATHERING

Treaty 2 was signed on August 21, 1871
between the Dominion Government and the Ojibway Nations

Keeseekoowenin First Nation

Pinaymootang First Nation

Lake Manitoba First Nation

Lake St. Martin First Nation

Ebb & Flow First Nation

Little Saskatchewan First Nation

O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation

Dauphin River First Nation

Skownan First Nation

Tuesday, March 7, 2006
9:00 a.m.

Lake Manitoba First Nation School
Lake Manitoba First Nation
Treaty No. 2 Territory

For further information contact:
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