



South Wind

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

www.scoinc.mb.ca

Lake Manitoba First Nation hosts Agriculture Forum

On Monday February 20, 2006, First Nations agriculture producers and ranchers from across Southern Manitoba gathered in Lake Manitoba First Nation for a First Nations Agriculture Forum.

Close to 40 producers and several Southern Chiefs participated in this second forum organized and hosted by the SCO. The first agriculture forum was held last July 2005 at the Waywayseecappo First Nation.

Among some of the notable presenters at the February 20 meeting was Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture, Ms. Rosann Wowchuk.

Following Minister Wowchuk's presentation, SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson asked for her commitment to work with First Nations producers and ranchers, as well as assisting First Nations in qualifying for assistance under Manitoba's Emergency Measures Organization in areas like flooding of lands.

In previous years, the Federal Department of Indian Affairs assumed full responsibility for natural disasters like flooding and wind storms on Indian lands. However, INAC has contracted this responsibility to the province's EMO, which has caused First Nations to fall between the cracks in this jurisdictional wrangling between the federal and provincial governments. First Nations maintain that they are a federal responsibility because the Treaties were signed between the Indian nations and the British Crown, and not the province.

Minister Wowchuk did commit to speaking with her cabinet colleague, Minister Scott Smith who's responsible for EMO, on behalf of First Nations producers to resolve this matter.



Agriculture Minister Rosann Wowchuk attended the FN Agriculture Forum to speak about Provincial programs available to First Nation farmers.

Other topics discussed at the forum included the pledge by the Crown to provide agricultural assistance and supplies to First Nations under the terms of the Treaties.

"On behalf of SCO, I want thank Lake Manitoba First Nation's Chief Robert Maytwayashing and the Council for being excellent hosts for this agriculture forum," stated Grand Chief Henderson. "I also want to thank those Indian producers, ranchers and leaders who made it out this forum."

Another First Nations Agriculture Forum is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2006, at the Waywayseecappo First Nation. Stay tuned for more information.



Chief Robert Maytwayashing, Lake Manitoba First Nation addresses the farmers and producers.

The next scheduled First Nations Agriculture Forum is scheduled for April 10, 2006 at Waywayseecappo First Nation.

Congratulations to our First Nations children!



Sage Kent and Grand Chief Henderson

On behalf of SCO, I want to congratulate all our Indian children who competed in the 11th Annual Southeast Hockey Tournament on February 24-26, 2006, in Winnipeg. I want to especially congratulate this year's Novice Division Champs, the *Anishinaabe Magic* (Team White) for winning their division!

I also want to acknowledge and commend nine-year-old Sage Kent, who will be traveling with her mother, Lee-Anne, to attend the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico later this month. Last October, Sage attended SCO's Water For Life conference and met Dr. David Suzuki. As a result, she has a strong and passionate interest in environmental issues affecting Indigenous peoples around the globe. Have a safe and educational trip, Sage!

Meegwetch!
Grand Chief Chris Henderson



Anishinaabe Magic wins the Novice Division at the Southeast Hockey Tournament on February 24-26, 2006.



TRADITIONAL POW WOW

In honour of Residential School Survivors

March 31, — April 2, 2006
Black River Band Hall
Black River First Nation



Black River First Nation

Honourariums paid for Dancers



Community Feast & Give-A-Way
Sunday, April 2, 2006

Canteen and Security Available

For More Information Contact:

Mabel Starr & Nadine Abraham

(204) 367-4052

Or

Valerie Vandel (204) 367-8089

Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation hosts Residential Schools Conference

Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation hosted another successful conference on February 22 & 23, 2006. With well over 300 people in attendance from many surrounding communities, this forum was convened by Sandy Bay's Chief Irvin McIvor to provide up-to-date information on the details of the Assembly of First Nations' Indian Residential School Compensation agreement-in-principle (AIP) signed with Canada last November 2005.

Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson, AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans and AFN Vice-Chief Katherine Whitecloud were in attendance to give opening remarks as well as offering their views on the AIP.

Mr. Bob Watts, on behalf of National Chief Phil Fontaine, and Ms. Charlene Belleu, Manager of the Assembly of First Nations Residential School Unit, were also in attendance. Ms. Belleu provided a detailed presentation on the AIP to clarify any uncertainty of how and when compensation will be provided to residential school survivors.

"The purpose of the Lump Sum payment is to compensate for the "Common Experience" of survivors in loss of language, culture and family life. This is not meant to compensate for sexual or serious physical and psychological abuse, harms for which additional compensation will be available. All former Residential School Survivors are eligible to the lump sum, including the ones who have already settled their claims, received compensation and signed a release," states the AIP.

Some of the important time lines to remember for the Common Experience Payment (CEP) are;

- by **March 31, 2006** a Final draft will be presented to Cabinet for Approval.
- **May 1, 2006**, presented to the Courts across Canada for approval and consent
- Once Courts approve, a **6-month mandatory waiting period** begins to allow Survivors to study the agreement and decide if they want to participate or opt out.
- **November 1, 2006**, benefits will be given to survivors who choose to be a part of this agreement.

In addition, early payment of \$8,000 will be given as early as possible to the survivors age 65 and over and as well, to the sick who may be under the age of 65. In order to receive this down payment a **simple application form** will be provided to the survivors and is currently being prepared by the Assembly of First Nations.

For more information call the Southern Chiefs' Organization at 204-946-1869 or Toll Free 1-866-876-9701 or the Assembly of First Nations at Toll Free 1-866-869-6789 or check their website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/



Sandy Bay Indian Residential School participants.



Indian Residential School survivors



AFN's Bob Watts and Charlene Belleu



Sandy Bay Indian Residential School