



South Wind

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

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MB Grand Chiefs meet with Premier Doer to press 'Indian' issues

Manitoba's three (3) Grand Chiefs met with Manitoba Premier Gary Doer and some of his Cabinet Ministers on Monday April 3, 2006, at the Legislative Building.



The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the post-Kelowna process. Last November, former Prime Minister Paul Martin, the Premiers of the provinces, the territorial leaders and the heads of the national Aboriginal organizations met in Kelowna, B.C. for a First Ministers

Meeting on Aboriginal issues. There they concluded an agreement to tackle the quality-of-life agenda for Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples.

Since this Kelowna meeting, a federal election was held on January 23, 2006, and the Conservative Party won a

minority government. Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice have not officially confirmed their support for the Kelowna Accord.

At this April 3 meeting with Premier Doer, he stated his government was in full-support of the Kelowna agreement and that he would continue to lobby and pressure this new federal government to honour and implement the accord. Premier Doer also committed his government's on-going support for the Treaties in Manitoba.

"As a first priority, we will always first and foremost honour and abide by the Treaties", stated Premier Doer.

"Over all, I would describe this meeting with Premier Doer has positive and constructive", stated SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson. "Aside from the



l-r: Grand Chief Henderson, Grand Chief Ron Evans, Premier Gary Doer, AFN Vice Chief Katherine Whitecloud, Minister Eric Robinson, Minister Oscar Lathlin, Grand Chief Sydney Garrioch and Minister Tim Sale.

Kelowna discussion, I did table specific issues that required this provincial government's attention and action. On-going problems with provincial public utilities in the TLE land conversion process were raised, as well as much needed changes to the Law Enforcement Review Agency to ensure greater accountability within the Winnipeg Police Services."

During this exchange, the Premier apologized for the absence of his Justice Minister, Gord Mackintosh, at this meeting. Coincidentally, Justice Minister Mackintosh was announcing the closure of the Women's Portage Correctional Institution, as well as unveiling plans for the establishment of a women's healing lodge to be located in Southern Manitoba, during this meeting.

Premier Doer was receptive to these SCO specific issues and committed to another meeting with the three (3) Grand Chiefs within the next four (4) months.



Message from
SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson



l-r: Grand Chief Henderson, Elder Nelson Tanner, Chief Robert Maytwayashing and Chief Murray Clearsky

Booshoo! Aniin! Tansi! Washte! Greetings!

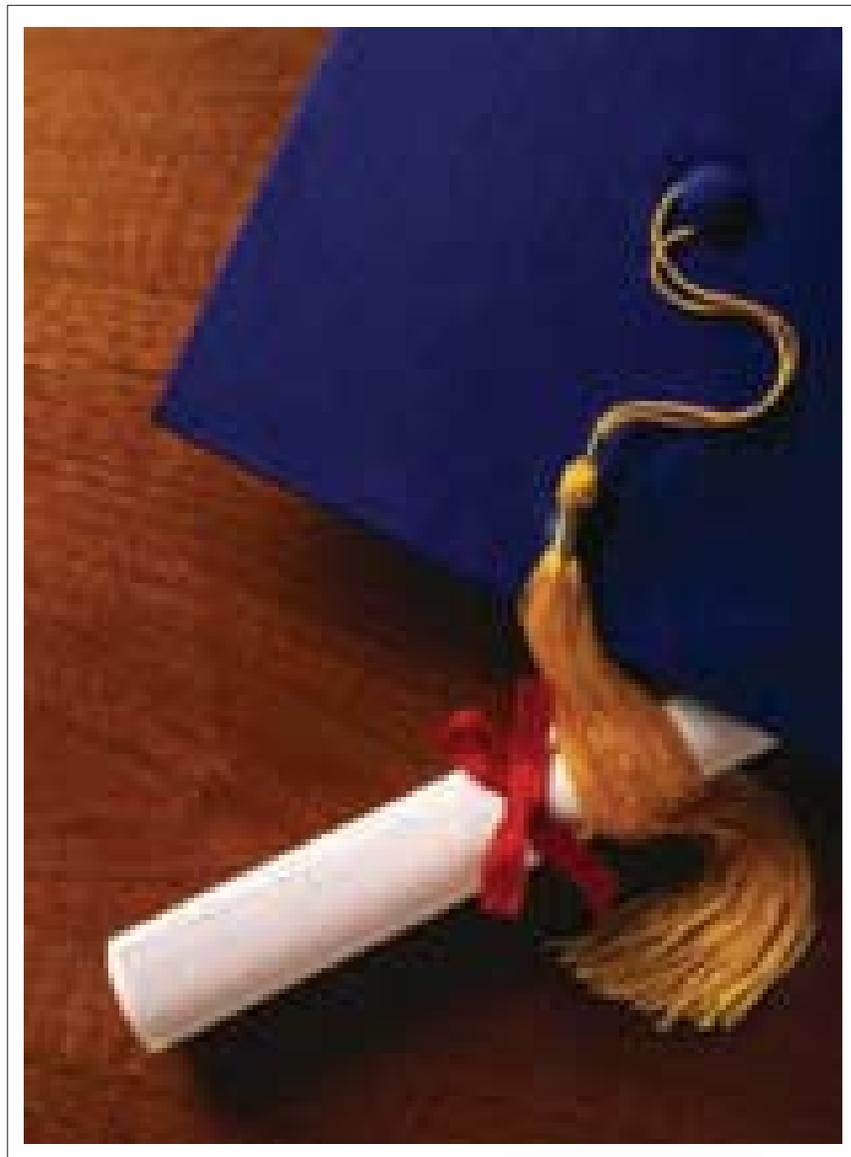
I want to begin by acknowledging and thanking our Indian farmers and ranchers for attending and participating in our 3rd First Nations Agriculture Forum on April 10, 2006, at the Waywayseecappo First Nation. I also want to thank our Host Chief, Chief Murray Clearsky and the fine Anishinabe people at Wayway for hosting us and our ag-producers. The purpose of the ag-forum was to strategize on how Indian farmers and ranchers could capitalize on the Federal Government's promise of providing more money to Canada's farmers.

On April 4, 2006, our Indian Nations and people were disappointed with the Conservative government's first Throne Speech. Our issues and concerns were literally shut out and absent from this government's priorities and objectives in this new parliamentary session. However, there were commitments made by Prime Minister Harper to assist and aide Canada's farmers. We hope that Indian ag-producers will have the opportunity to access these programs that are expected to be pumped with more money from this new government.

On behalf of SCO, I want to offer our full-support and backing to our Northern Brothers and Sisters of the MKIO region in denouncing the 'racist and sexist' language used by provincial government bureaucrats that were caught on tape earlier this month. These statements were both appalling and disgusting. I want to applaud and commend the MKIO Grand Chief Dr. Sydney Garrioch and the Northern Chiefs for going public with this 'tape' and offer our empathy to those Indian individuals who were the subjects of this 'racist and sexist' tirade.

Finally, I want to congratulate Chief Ken Whitecloud of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and Chief Dennis Meeches of the Long Plain First Nation on their recent elections.

“Congratulations to our
First Nations Graduates!”



On behalf of the 36 Southern Chiefs of Manitoba, we
commend and congratulate all our First Nations
students graduating from their post-secondary studies!