



South Wind

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

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The Federal Budget disappoints SCO First Nations

What was promised in Kelowna last November by the federal, provincial and territorial governments was nowhere to be seen in the first budget unveiled by the Stephen Harper government on May 2, 2006.

quoted as saying he wanted to "put the wheels on" the Kelowna Accord. Furthermore, when Stephen Harper was campaigning in Winnipeg during the 2006 Federal Election campaign last December, he did state that he would honour the Kelowna Accord. So obviously, there is a great deal of disappointment and discouragement."

The Kelowna Accord, which was reached by then prime minister Paul Martin and provincial and aboriginal leaders, targeted \$5.1 billion in key quality-of-life indicators affecting Indian, Metis and Inuit peoples across Canada. The agreement would have invested much-needed dollars in areas like housing, health, education, and economic development.

Instead, the federal budget said the Conservative government will commit to meet with Aboriginal leaders, the Provinces and the territories to "develop a new approach" to meet the targets agreed upon at the First Ministers Meeting in Kelowna in 2005. The budget promises \$450 million over two years for programs on education, children, families, water and housing. It also identifies \$2.2 billion for the financial compensation package offered to survivors of the Indian residential schools system.

"The agreement would have invested much-needed dollars in areas like housing, health, education, and economic development."

"There is no doubt that the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba are extremely disappointed with this Conservative government's first budget," stated Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson. "Expectations were set high by this new Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice when he was often

The need for financial resources in critical areas like housing, education and health services within the SCO First Nations is not in dispute. Time and time again, the SCO Chiefs have mandated the SCO Grand Chief to advocate for more resources. As the population of Indian peoples throughout Southern Manitoba continues to grow, the demand for programs and services far outweighs what is actually provided by the Federal Government.

In terms of the Conservatives' priorities for addressing Aboriginal peoples' issues, they have stated they will embark upon a campaign encouraging private home ownership on-reserve. While the concept of individuals owning their own home on-reserve is currently being practiced by some First Nations, there are other First Nations where this will not work. First Nations like Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Bloodvein and Poplar River are isolated communities which do not have year-round access roads and the local employment rate and economy is not at a point which would allow private home ownership.

It's expected that this Conservative budget will be passed in the House of Commons with the support of the Bloc Quebecois Party. The Liberals and the New Democrats have stated they will vote against this budget.

Message from
SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson



As of June 1, 2006 the Sub-Office of Southern Chiefs' Organization will be located to 225-530 Century Avenue, Winnipeg.

Booshoo! Aniin! Tansi! Washte! Greetings!

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our mothers in Indian Country a belated Happy Mothers Day!

As well, I want to offer our respects and acknowledge all the missing Aboriginal women across Canada. On May 14, 2006, the Sisters in Spirit Campaign held their memorial walk in Winnipeg in honour of these missing Aboriginal women.

On May 18 and 19, 2006, the SCO Chiefs will once again meet in Summit at the Lake Manitoba First Nation. By the time you receive this information, the Summit will have come and gone. It is here where the Chiefs will consider amending the SCO Constitution to strengthen the role and accountability section of the Office of SCO Grand Chief. The two proposed amendments are a formal Oath of Office, to be sworn and signed by the Grand Chief elect, and a Code of Conduct, to be followed and observed by the Grand Chief.

In other news, I am pleased to inform you that SCO's Winnipeg Sub-Office will be relocating from downtown to 530 Century Avenue. The SCO Chiefs' Finance Committee approved of this relocation in their mission to reduce SCO's operating expenses. Stay tuned for our official announcement of a Grand Opening!

In conclusion, I want to say *Meegwetch* to the Red River College and the University of Manitoba for inviting me to participate in their Graduation Pow-Wow's. The honour was all mine.



SCO Chiefs REACT to the Federal Budget!



"It doesn't surprise me. The limited mention of Indians in the budget. No surprise. If anything, this is a status-quo budget. No increases, or cut-backs, in our capital budgets."

Chief Norman Bone,
Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation
(Riding Mountain Band) (Treaty No. 2)



"The budget did nothing for us. I'm very disappointed. There's a demand for housing and we need additional land to build those houses."

Chief Cornell Pashe
Dakota Tipi First Nation
(Independent)



"We have to take a wait and see approach, since there is not specific details on the budget as of yet."

Chief David Crate
Fisher River Cree First Nation
(Treaty No. 5)



"It [the budget] shows us that we can't depend on the Canadian government, if we continue to depend on Canada we will always have to react. Economic development ventures is the way to go."

Chief Terrance Nelson
Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
(Treaty No. 1)



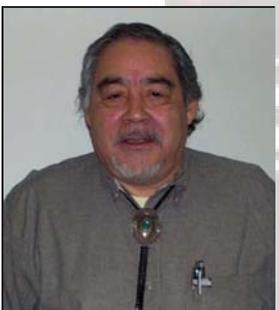
"It just shows where we as First Nations fit in the Conservative government agenda. Once again our issues are being put on the federal governments' back burner."

Chief Ian Bushie
Hollow Water First Nation
(Treaty No. 5)



"I don't care about the federal budget, what I care about is Rolling River First Nation budget. If we could move forward with our TLE and be able to develop our own projects without dealing with all the loopholes and red tape, then RRFN can become self-sufficient!"

Chief Morris Shannacappo
Rolling River First Nation
(Treaty No. 4)



"Budget documents pointed out that over the last five years, federal spending has grown by about 4.3 per cent or \$350 million a year and to date, Swan Lake First Nation has yet to benefit directly from any of these increases."

Chief Robert Daniels
Swan Lake First Nation
(Treaty No. 1)



"This is no surprise to me considering our past experience with the government, we have been always short changed and with this new budget, our grassroots people will not get what is needed in our communities."

Chief Garnet Woodhouse
Pinaymootang First Nation
(Treaty No. 2)



"Typical federal treatment of First Nation communities, — hurry up and wait attitude, while our people at the community level are suffering with housing, health and economic development issues."

Chief Ken Chalmers
Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation
(Dakota Band)



"What budget! \$450 million! That's it! It's a pittance! A drop in the bucket! There's absolutely nothing there to meet the real needs of our communities."

Chief Robert Maytwayashing
Lake Manitoba First Nation
(Treaty No. 2)



"Some urban organizations are happy with the budget because it more or less creates a divide and conquer process that they [government] are putting towards our own people."

Chief Emery Stag
Dauphin River First Nation
(Treaty No. 2)



"We are very disappointed with this budget because there is no money for community infrastructure and no increases for health dollars at all. It all boils down to making life difficult for First Nations on-reserve."

Chief Sheldon Kent
Black River First Nation
(Treaty No. 5)