



South Wind

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Pauingassi First Nation in need of new air strip



In a country that prides itself on its human rights record and ranks as one of the best countries to live in by the United Nations, Canada is failing the Ojibway people of the Pauingassi First Nation to provide the most basic necessities of life.

On May 23, 2006, Pauingassi First Nation's Chief Harold Crow hosted SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson, on his first official tour of Pauingassi as SCO Grand Chief.

"If there's ever been a case to be made about why this new federal Conservative Government should honour and implement the Kelowna Accord, I would argue that the Pauingassi First Nation is a prime example of why the critical investments identified in the Kelowna Accord are needed," stated Grand Chief Henderson. "The things that we take for granted in the more southern part of Manitoba are evidently lacking in this isolated community of Pauingassi."

Among the major needs is a new air strip and port. As it currently stands, residents of Pauingassi who travel by plane must land at the air strip in Little Grand Rapids First Nation. There, they must board a boat which travels across Fishing Lake to the community of Pauingassi, which is approximately 20 to 25 minutes when the waters are calm. In the wintertime, transportation is provided by a winter road. But even the winter roads are becoming more and more problematic with global warming, which is causing milder and warmer winters.

"Our most critical need right now, as it's been in the last 20 years, is for a new airport and strip," stated Chief Harold Crow. "We've approached the Province of Manitoba about getting a new airport, but they are reluctant to build unless the federal government agrees to share the costs. We've been told to wait and be patient, which we have been. But it's only a matter of time before we see tragedies as a result of not having access to quick and safe transportation for our people."

Pauingassi First Nation is no stranger to seeing its share of tragedies. Last summer, the *Winnipeg Free Press* featured an expose on the gas-sniffing epidemic afflicting some of the people of Pauingassi. This feature ran on the eve of former Prime Minister Paul Martin's Cabinet meeting in Winnipeg. It was at this time where First Nations youth confronted former Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott on the plight on Pauingassi. Thankfully, dedicated community workers have tackled the gas-sniffing problem amongst the young people and have reported less use and abuse. However, the problem still exists amongst older residents.

Last September, Pauingassi First Nation celebrated the Grand Opening of the Omiishoosh Memorial School



Grand Chief Henderson and Chief Harold Crow examine the proposed plans for the airstrip at Pauingassi First Nation.

(named after a respected elder, Mr. Charlie Owen), which houses kindergarten to Grade 9 students.

Amongst the resiliency of the people is a strong respect for the land, water and Ojibway language. Young pre-schoolers are 100% fluent in their first language of Ojibway.



The Omiishoosh Memorial School in Pauingassi First Nation.



l-r: Grand Chief Henderson, Chief Harold Crow, SERDC Executive Director Joe Malcolm and Pauingassi First Nation Councillor Robert Owen.

Message from SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson



l-r: Grand Chief Henderson presents plaque to Manitoba Treaty Commissioner Dennis White Bird on his Grand Opening as Chief Deborah Chief and Chief Irvin McIvor look on at the Lower Fort Garry where Treaty No. 1 was signed.

Booshoo! Aniin! Tansi! Washte! Greetings!

I want to thank Chief Robert Maytwayashing, the Council Members and the Anishinabe people of the Lake Manitoba First Nation, Treaty No. 2 Territory, for hosting the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit on May 18 & 19, 2006.

On May 16, 2006, the Auditor General of Canada, Ms. Sheila Fraser, released her Status Report which concluded that the federal government has made unsatisfactory progress in implementing recommendations from her previous reports on First Nations issues.

"Some of these recommendations address serious issues that are important to health and well-being, including mould in houses on reserves and the food mail program for northern communities," stated Ms. Fraser.

The audit focused on 37 recommendations made between 2000 and 2003 in reports that covered economic development, housing on reserves, third-party intervention, health care, the food mail program, comprehensive land claims, and reporting requirements for First Nations.

It appears that we as Indian Nations and peoples have found an ally in the Auditor General and hope that the federal government responds accordingly and meaningfully to her recommendations.

In closing, I wish you and your families well.

Meegwetch!



Lake Manitoba First Nation hosts SCO Chiefs-in-Summit



Grand Chief Henderson and Chief Robert Maytwayashing exchanging gifts of appreciation at the Chiefs-in-Summit.



l - r: Grand Chief Henderson, AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans, AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine, Elder Lawrence Smith, and Chief Maytwayashing.

On May 18 & 19, 2006, the Lake Manitoba First Nation played host to the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba as they gathered and met in Summit.

A total of three (3) resolutions were adopted by the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit which focused on:

1. Seeking compensation for the "1960's Scoop" survivors similar to that of survivors of the Indian Residential Schools system;
2. Political support for Southern First Nations pursuing wind energy developments; and,
3. Political and technical support for Warriors of the Lost Boys in their pursuit of compensation and justice.

On Day One, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine addressed the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit. Much of his speech focused on the details and specifics of the final compensation agreement for survivors of Indian Residential Schools.



As well, National Chief Fontaine stated that the Kelowna Accord, which was signed last November by the former Liberal Federal Government, is in fact "not dead", despite it not being reflected in the Conservative Government's first budget.

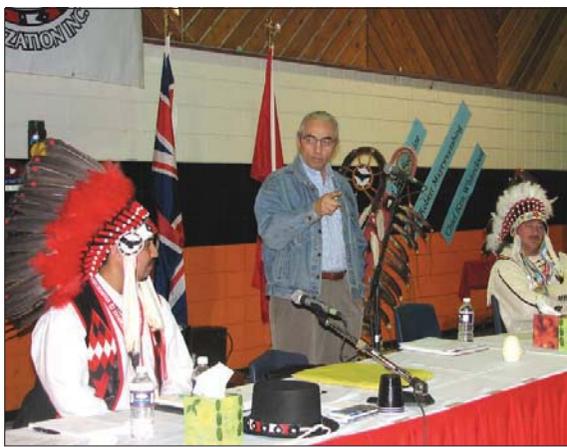
"We remain very hopeful that this new government will unveil a new agreement, or process, that will match, or exceed the commitments that were made in the Kelowna Accord," stated National Chief Fontaine.

"On behalf of the Lake Manitoba First Nation, I want to thank the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba for giving us the opportunity and privilege of hosting this Summit," stated Chief Robert Maytwayashing.

Meegwetch to Host Chief Maytwayashing, the Council Members and the Anishinabe people of the Lake Manitoba First Nation for hosting the SCO Chiefs and staff for this two day Summit.



National Chief Phil Fontaine addresses the Chiefs-in-Summit.



The National Chief provides details on the Residential Schools compensation agreement.



Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation, and Chief Robert Daniels, Swan Lake First Nation, in attendance at the Summit.



Chief Linda Twoheart, Sagkeeng First Nation; Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin First Nation and Chief Garnet Woodhouse, Pinaymootang First Nation.



Mr. George Myran "Kee-Ta-Ba-Ne-See (Circle Thunderbird) June 14, 1921 - May 10, 2006

Peacefully on Wednesday May 10, 2006, Mr. George Myran left on his Journey to the Spirit World.

Mr. Myran was born at the Long Plain First Nation on June 14, 1921. He received his education at the Portage Residential School. When Canada was at war, he volunteered and enlisted on October 21, 1942.

He served his community as Chief of the Long Plain First Nation, but his main occupation was carpentry.

In June 2004, during the election for SCO Grand Chief at the Long Plain First Nation, Mr. Myran was present and blessed the SCO Eagle Staff and SCO Headdress. When the victor was declared, Mr. Myran presented and placed the headdress upon the new Grand Chief's head.

