



*Message from
SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson*



l-r: Manitoba Treaty Commissioner, Dennis White Bird, First Nation Veteran Mr. Melvin Swan and Southern Grand Chief Henderson attend the 5th Annual Bear Clan Gathering held at St. Norbert, MB.

Boozhoo! Tansi! Wash-tay! Greetings to our Elders, Veterans, Southern Chiefs, Council Members and Indian peoples.

Recently, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Mr. Phil Fontaine, has questioned the priorities of the Stephen Harper government after learning of the Conservative government's funding cuts to a First Nations tobacco control program. He also questioned, "...if this government really cares about First Nations", after the Conservatives earlier rejected the Kelowna Accord which would have infused \$5 billion into housing, health, education, and economic development on First Nations, as well as watching Canada, under the Harper government, oppose the United Nations' Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Fortunately, the vote that occurred at the UN's Human Rights Council was 30 to 2, whereby Russia and Canada voted against adoption of this draft declaration.

I have to concur and agree with the National Chief's observations and concerns. And this is one of the reasons why our leaders and people gathered together in Winnipeg on September 27: To voice our opposition to these various health funding cuts and hold-backs, as well as to show our anger and frustration at this Conservative government.

Meegwetch!



South Wind

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

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Transfer of Community Corrections and Probation Services stalled

Negotiations under the Memorandum of Understanding and Protocol Agreement to transfer the delivery of Community Corrections from the Province of Manitoba to First Nations and Metis agencies is currently at a stall-mate.

The reason: Manitoba is adamant that the union representing provincial government employees must have a seat at the negotiating table to protect current probation officer's jobs. The Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union (MGEU) represents employees working for the Government of Manitoba.

"At this critical point, we do not agree with the province's position and insistence that the union be involved at the negotiating table," stated SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson. "We feel that their expertise would be better utilized and served at a working-group level, as opposed to a senior negotiating level under the current Joint Implementation and Management Committee level."

On May 31, 2005, the SCO, MKIO and the MMF entered into the MOU and Protocol Agreement with the Province of Manitoba. The primary objective of this process is to establish three (3) community corrections agencies: a Southern and Northern First Nations agency, and a Metis agency. They would be mandated to develop and deliver a full range of community correctional services, consistent with the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba Report (1991). Since May 31, 2005, negotiations have been on-going but have recently come to a stand-still with the province demanding the MGEU be involved in the devolution talks.

To make matters more interesting, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer recently shuffled his Cabinet on Thursday September 21, 2006. Mr. David Chomiak is now the new Minister of Justice and Attorney General. He replaces Mr. Gord Mackintosh who is now the Minister for Family Services and Housing.

"We congratulate Mr. Chomiak on his new portfolio and are eager to meet with him to resolve this stall-mate," said Grand Chief Henderson. "I also want to take this



Official Signing Ceremony of the MOU Agreement of the Devolution of Probation Initiative, May 31, 2005

opportunity to commend former Justice Minister Mackintosh on his work and accomplishments as the Minister who signed this MOU and Protocol Agreement."

For information on the MOU and Protocol Agreement, please contact the SCO's Justice Department or visit the SCO website at www.scoinc.mb.ca.



MB Premier Gary Doer



New Minister of Justice, David Chomiak

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going but have recently come to a stand-still with the province demanding the MGEU be involved in the devolution talks.

Sagkeeng First Nation hosts 2nd Annual March against drugs and alcohol abuse

On a beautiful Thursday, September 21, 2006, the Sagkeeng Anishinabe First Nation held its 2nd Annual March against drugs and alcohol abuse.

The Sagkeeng Mino Pimatiziwin Family Treatment Centre and the March for HELP Planning Committee took the lead in organizing and coordinating this year's march.

March participants included Elders, teachers, parents, children, Sagkeeng Councillor Myles Courchene on behalf of Chief and Council, and SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson.

"On behalf of SCO, I want to commend and congratulate the Planning Committee, the Treatment Centre, and the Anishinabe people of Sagkeeng for organizing and participating in the 2nd Annual March against drugs and alcohol abuse," said Grand Chief Henderson. "Drugs and alcohol abuse goes against 'Mino Pimatiziwin' and I strongly encourage people who may have addiction problems to seek and get help."

This year's march began on the North Shore of Sagkeeng in front of the Child and Family Services building and ended at the Sagkeeng High School.



First Nations' HEALTH CUTS Rally

Over 500 loud and proud Indian people rallied in Winnipeg on September 27, 2006, in support of denouncing the recent federal health cuts in Manitoba. This rally was organized and coordinated by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The Federal Conservative Government recently undertook a \$1 billion savings exercise to see where they could save money in all federal departments. As a result, the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Manitoba withheld 25% of monies committed at a First Minister's Meeting on Health with National Aboriginal leaders on September 13, 2004.

This holdback instituted by FNIHB affects the following First Nations health programs: Maternal Child Health, Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention, and First Nations Head Start.

These programming cuts come despite the federal government's \$13.2 billion surplus for the 2005-06 fiscal year.



You are Invited to Join us at our
Open House
 Southern Chiefs' Organization
 Winnipeg Sub-Office

Thursday, October 12, 2006
 12:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. 225—530 Century Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB R3H 0Y4

"to better understand the business of farming and how it can be improved"

First Nations Agriculture Committee Forum IV

Wednesday,
October 11, 2006
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Peguis Community Hall
 Peguis First Nation,
 Hodgson, MB

NOTICE OF SCO Chiefs-in-Summit November 1 & 2, 2006

Chief Ken Whitecloud, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation would like to extend an invitation to all the Southern Chiefs of Manitoba to attend the upcoming **Chiefs-In-Summit** scheduled for November 1 & 2, 2006 held on the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

Further to the direction given at the third First Nations Agriculture Forum held in Waywayseecappo First Nation, on April 10, 2006, the First Nations Agriculture Committee agreed on a course of action for First Nation producers and incorporated the Indian Agriculture Council of Manitoba on August 23, 2006.

The terms of reference for the **Indian Agriculture Council of Manitoba** will be presented to First Nation producers at the fourth First Nations Agriculture Forum on October 11, 2006.

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