



*Message from
SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson*



Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation

Boozhoo! Tansi! Wash-tay! Greetings!

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the following SCO Member First Nations on their recent Grand Openings.

On October 4, 2006, Chief Murray Clearsky and the Waywayseecappo First Nation celebrated the Grand Opening of their new Health Centre; and, Chief Norman Bone and the Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation opened their Child and Family Services Building in Keeseee on October 6, 2006.

Kitchi-Meegwetch to both First Nations for inviting me to be a part of these special community celebrations!



Far left: Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation along with community members, Elders and Grand Chief Henderson.

South Wind

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

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Fire destroys school and band office in Black River First Nation

In the early morning hours of Thursday October 5, 2006, a fire destroyed the school and band office complex in Black River First Nation.

Thankfully, no one was in the building when the fire broke out.

"This is a huge loss for the community, because this complex was the centre of our community," stated Black River's Chief Sheldon Kent. "We've lost everything, but thankfully the community has banded together to deal with this ordeal and we will pull through this."

Damage to the complex is estimated at over \$3 million. Among the items lost in the fire included financial documents, administration files, computer equipment and archival materials containing historical pictures and information about Black River.

"We tried valiantly to battle the blaze when we got on the scene," said Acting Fire Chief Charlie Black. "But by the time we arrived with our fire truck, the blaze was burning out of control and our lone pump was not enough to put out the flames."



Charred remains of School and Band Office.

Fire fighters from the nearby town of Pine Falls and Sagkeeng First Nation were dispatched to help battle the fire, but by the time they arrived in Black River it was too late.

The cause of the fire may have been electrical according to some people of Black River, which may have started in the northeast corner of the band office. An investigation is now underway by the RCMP and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.



Black River First Nation's volunteer firefighters extinguish remaining hot spots.

"My daughter was pretty upset to see her school burnt to the ground," said one mother of a student. "She enjoyed her time using the computer lab during and after hours at the school. And she and her friends always used the school gym in the evenings. Now, they'll have no where to go."

The school housed approximately 155 kids from nursery to Grade 8 with 40 adult education students using the facility as well.

Later on that day, SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson paid a visit to Black River to witness the charred remains of the office complex and lend his moral support to the community. "On behalf of SCO, I want to offer my condolences to the Chief and Council and people of Black River on the loss of their school and government complex," said Grand Chief Henderson. "I also want to offer our political and moral support, in any way, to help in the rebuilding efforts that will be led by the leadership at Black River."



l-r: Black River First Nation's Councillor Warren Bird, Councillor Oral Johnston, and Chief Sheldon Kent (missing in Photo: Councillor Cheryl Bird).

UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Council
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Human rights and indigenous issues
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous people, Rodolfo Stavenhagen

MISSION TO CANADA
V. RECOMMENDATIONS
A. Recommendations to the Government

Legislation

97. That new legislation on Aboriginal rights be enacted by the Parliament of Canada, as well as provincial legislatures, in line with the proposals made by RCAP; and that the structure and functions of the public administration dealing with Aboriginal issues, such as INAC, be adapted to a human rights centred and participatory development approach; and that Canada fully implement and renew existing treaties in order to protect the rights and interests of Aboriginal people and reconcile the interests of society as a whole with the terms of the treaties.

Treaties

98. That from a human rights perspective, it should be clearly established in the text and spirit of any agreement between an Aboriginal people and a government in Canada, and supported by relevant legislation, that no matter what is negotiated, the inherent and constitutional rights of Aboriginal peoples are inalienable and cannot be relinquished, ceded or released, and that Aboriginal peoples should not be requested to agree to measures in whatever form or wording.

Poverty, social services, education and health

105. That adequate housing in a large number of Aboriginal communities be declared a priority objective, as recommended by RCAP, and that adequate credits, investments and other resources be appropriated to solve this urgent problem with the shortest possible time frame.

Lands and resources

106. That legislation be enacted and effective measures be implemented to expand the existing effectively usable lands and resources base of First Nations, and Inuit communities to ensure their social, economic and cultural survival and well-being; and that regional treaty commissions and an Aboriginal Lands and Treaties Tribunal be established as recommended by RCAP.

Sustainable economic development

110. That Aboriginal peoples should always be consulted in advance and be active participants in the design and execution of any development programme or project in their regions or territories or which may effect their living conditions, as provided for in ILO Convention No. 169; and that government and private enterprises engaged in such activities take into account the needs and interests of the affected Aboriginal people at all stages of these programmes and projects.

Aboriginal women

106. That the Government address with high priority the lack of legislative protection regarding on-reserve Matrimonial Real Property which places First Nations women living on reserves at a disadvantage.

107. That particular attention be paid by specializing institutions to the abuse and violence of Aboriginal women and girls, particularly in the urban environment.

Administration of justice and related justice issues

108. That efforts be increased at all levels to reduce and eliminate the overrepresentation of Aboriginal men, women and children in detention, in particular by establishing measurable outcomes, and that Aboriginal alternative justice institutions and mechanisms be officially recognized and fostered with full participation of Aboriginal communities.

109. That the Government of Canada, in keeping with both its domestic constitutional jurisdiction and its international human rights obligations, immediately join and participate fully in the Ipperwash Judicial Inquiry.

International policy on indigenous peoples

110. That, in the field of international human rights of indigenous peoples Canada continue to play a leading role as a regular and widely

recognized donor to the voluntary funds for indigenous peoples and to the International Decade; and that it adopt an even more constructive leadership role in the process leading to the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as demanded by numerous Canadian Indigenous peoples' organizations and expected by many other organizations worldwide.

B. Recommendations to civil society

112. That the various orders and levels of civil associations undertake joint and coordinated efforts to combat and eliminate anti-Aboriginal prejudice, racism, intolerance and stigmatization, just as is being done regarding visible minorities.

113. That Canada's political parties take stands in favor of the individual and collective rights of the country's Aboriginal peoples.

114. That the mass media provide a balanced and non-discriminatory view of the human rights needs and aspiration of Canada's Aboriginal people in order to help educate the general population about issues related to racism, discrimination, intolerance and social exclusion.

