



*Message from
SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson*



l-r: Southern Grand Chief Henderson with Chief Terrance Nelson, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation address the media regarding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on November 17, 2006.

Boozhoo, Washtay, Tansi, Greetings!

This month of November marks two milestones across Indian Country:

1. November 2006 is the tenth year anniversary of the release of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples; and,
2. November 25, 2006, will mark the one year anniversary of the First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues and the Kelowna Accord.

Our national organization, the Assembly of First Nations, marked these events last week in Ottawa by releasing a report card on the Government of Canada's record on implementing the many recommendations flowing from the RCAP Report. The AFN gave the federal government an "F" in all areas regarding the recognition and implementation of our Treaty rights.

In responding to the release of this Report Card, Canada's Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice stated his government is committed to honouring treaties.

I find this response most interesting, considering this same government is also voting and actively working against the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Meegwetch!

South Wind

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THE UN'S DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On Friday November 17, 2006, SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson called upon the Federal Conservative Government to reverse its objections to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and support its adoption.

At a press conference held at the SCO Winnipeg Sub-Office, Grand Chief Henderson was joined by Chief Terrance Nelson of the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation and federal Liberal Member of Parliament for Churchill, Ms. Tina Keeper.



l-r: Chief Morris Shannacappo, Rolling River First Nation; Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation; AFN Regional Chief (AB) Wilton Littlechild; Grand Chief Henderson and Councillor Keith Murdock, Fisher River Cree Nation.

"We have been informed that Canada will vote at the UN General Assembly (Third Session) to delay the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," stated Grand Chief Henderson. "We wish to express our dismay at Canada's continuing lack of support for the Declaration. The Declaration is a human rights instrument of great import to Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world. Since Canada considers itself a leader on human rights issues, we ask that Canada change its position and support the declaration."

On June 29, 2006, at the UN, Canada and Russia voted against the declaration that was adopted by the UN's Human Rights Council by a vote of 30-2. Work on the declaration has been taking place over the past 20 years.

At a International Indigenous Nations Treaty Summit on November 12 and 13, 2006, hosted by the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, it was learned by delegates from the International Treaty Council that the Government of Canada was attempting to convince some African countries to delay the adoption of the declaration by moving a procedural motion at the UN.

"If this procedural motion is adopted, it would delay the adoption of the declaration for at least a year, which would guarantee it's demise," stated Assembly of First Nations Alberta Regional Chief Willie Littlechild at the Treaty Summit.

The UN declaration is described as an "aspirational" document, which if adopted by the Member States of the UN, would not be legally binding on domestic countries such as Canada. It would however direct all governments

around the world to recognize and honour the fundamental rights and freedoms of Indigenous peoples, including the rights identified in Treaties entered into between States and Indigenous peoples.

While at the Treaty Summit, Grand Chief Henderson along with Chief Norman Bone of the Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, Chief Morris Shannacappo of the Rolling River First Nation, and Councillor Keith Murdock of the Fisher River Cree Nation, had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, the author of the UN's Study on Treaties between States and Indigenous Populations.



l-r: Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation; Grand Chief Henderson; Dr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, UN Special Rapporteur; Chief Morris Shannacappo, Rolling River First Nation; and Councillor Keith Murdock, Fisher River Cree Nation.



New Indian Agriculture Council of Manitoba formed

The Southern Chiefs' Organization hosted a Fourth Southern First Nations Agriculture Forum on November 21, 2006, at the Peguis First Nation (Treaty No.1).

Close to 60 First Nations agriculture producers, primarily ranchers, met to consider establishing a proposed Indian Agriculture Council of Manitoba Inc. as well as electing a Board of Directors for the council. In the end, the First Nations producers adopted the by-laws of the Indian Agriculture Council of Manitoba, which has the following objectives:

1. To develop a strong, viable and sustainable agriculture sector for Indian producers in Manitoba;
2. To develop programs for business development, training, environment, risk management, finance and marketing; and,
3. To act as an advocate for the interests of Indian producers in Manitoba.

Producers also selected and elected the following First Nations producers to serve as the inaugural Board of Directors of the newly formed council:

1. Chief Ralph Beaulieu – Ebb and Flow First Nation (Treaty No.2)
2. Chief Murray Clearsky – Waywayseecappo First Nation (Treaty No.4)
3. Mr. Darryl Bear – Peguis First Nation (Treaty No.1)
4. Mr. Herb Hudson – Peguis First Nation (Treaty No.1)
5. Mr. Joe Missyabit – Lake Manitoba First Nation (Treaty No.2)

“On behalf of SCO, I want to congratulate our Indian agriculture producers for establishing the Indian Ag-Council of Manitoba, as well as congratulating the new board of directors on their election,” stated SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson. “I look forward to continuing to advocate on behalf of our farmers as it relates to the Treaty right to farming and working with the new council.”

In terms of membership in the council, it is restricted to First Nations agriculture producers. Membership fees into the council will be among the first orders of business once the new board meets. It is estimated that there are 100 to 120 First Nations farmers and ranchers across Southern Manitoba.

Also in attendance at the forum were representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Both officials committed to working with the new council and the board.



l-r: New Board of Directors for the Council: Chief Ralph Beaulieu, Ebb & Flow First Nation; Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation; Mr. Darrel Bear, Peguis First Nation; Mr. Joe Missyabit, Lake Manitoba First Nation, and Mr. Herb Hudson, Peguis First Nation.



l-r: Grand Chief Henderson presents gift to Councillor Glynis Sutherland of Peguis First Nation for hosting the First Nations Agriculture Forum.

“Strengths of Manitoba First Nations Agriculture”

(Reprinted from First Nation Farmer's Database, by Ms. Pam Knutson, April 1, 2006)

- There are existing First Nation producers with knowledge in operating farm enterprises (livestock and crops);
- There are a large number of First Nation youth that can be attracted to the agriculture industry, as one in eleven Manitoba jobs depends on agricultural production;
- There is an established agricultural land base on reserves with agricultural potential that is presently underutilized;
- Potential tax advantages on reserve operations, such as land tax and income tax; and,
- Greater proportion of First Nation farmers are in livestock production which is Manitoba's economic advantage.

Respected Elder honoured in Hollow Water First Nation



Mr. Philip Moneyas

A dedicated family man and community volunteer was honoured at a special ceremony at the Hollow Water First Nation on Friday November 17, 2006.

Mr. Philip Moneyas was the guest of honour at this community celebration that was organized by his family and friends and attracted special guests like SCO Grand Chief Chris Henderson and Mr. Joe Malcolm, Executive Director of the Southeast Resource Development Council.

“On behalf of SCO, I am honoured and privileged to be here tonight to honour this man that has given of himself so freely to the many young people of this First Nation,” stated Grand Chief Henderson. “He has taught many of them how to square dance and has contributed greatly to Hollow Water's reputation as the ‘square dancing’ capital of Southern Manitoba!”

As well as teaching young people to square dance, Philip himself has been dancing for over twenty (20) years competing in many square dance competitions. He has also been actively involved in helping raise funds for Hollow Water's Annual Black Island Days for over 17 years.

At the tender age of 15, Philip started working as a fisherman. He married his wife, Lorraine, when he was 18 years old. Today, him and his son, Wayne, own a restaurant in Hollow Water called “Big-A-Boys”.

On behalf of SCO, congratulations once again to Mr. Philip Moneyas for his years of service and commitment to the youth and to the community of the Hollow Water First Nation.

