



Head Office

Swan Lake First Nation Unit 2 – 4820 Portage Avenue, Headingly, Manitoba R4H 1C8

Winnipeg Sub-Office

105 – 1555 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Phone: (204) 946-1869 Fax: (204) 946-1871

R3H 1B5

www.scoinc.mb.ca

Toll Free: 1-866-876-9701

SCO Chiefs Stand in Solidarity with Shoal Lake #40

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 26, 2015 (Winnipeg, MB) - The announcement that was to be a celebration of commitment from three levels of government to Shoal Lake #40, turned into an occasion of mourning yesterday afternoon. The City of Winnipeg and the Ontario and Manitoba provincial governments agreed to their portion of funding for the development of an all-weather access road for the community, yet, the federal government committed to only \$1 million to research the proposed project, leaving the community in a continued state of isolation.

The community of Shoal Lake #40 was relocated 100 years ago in order for the City of Winnipeg to access the lake's fresh water supply for their citizens, yet the community of Shoal Lake #40 has been under a boil water advisory for 18 years. Secluded on an island, Shoal Lake #40, who had negotiated the development of an all-weather road nearly a century ago, has had no access to resources all this time and recently declared in a state of emergency when their only transportation failed to provide them access to the mainland.

Southern Chiefs' Organization's (SCO) Grand Chief Terrance Nelson stated, *"If the City of Winnipeg paid Shoal Lake First Nation for the water it receives, the community would not have to beg the government to build a road; they would be financially independent and they would develop the road on their own. Instead, Winnipeggers pay everyone else for the water from Treaty 3 Territory and Shoal Lake First Nation receives no compensation at all"*

In November 2014, the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit unanimously passed a resolution to support neighboring community Iskatewizaagegan 39 in their ongoing fight in seeking redress for decades of damages done to their waterways and livelihoods by governments and developers. SCO, which represents 32 First Nation communities in Southern Manitoba, also declares solidarity with Shoal Lake #40 in Treaty 3 Territory, and supports their fight to implement their treaty rights.

The SCO urges the City of Winnipeg and Canadians to condemn the federal government for contributing to Shoal Lake #40 living in a deplorable state; being forcibly secluded from access to resources and clean drinking water.

For further information, please contact Grand Chief Terry Nelson at (204) 946-1869, (204) 223-7730 or via email at grandchiefnelson@scoinc.mb.ca.

-30-