



# South Wind

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

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## Special Chiefs' Assembly focuses on renewing the AFN with bold reforms

Several Southern Chiefs from Manitoba attended the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs' Assembly on March 27 to 29, 2006, in Gatineau, Quebec.

The focus of this assembly was to consider and debate proposed recommendations on renewing and reforming the AFN.

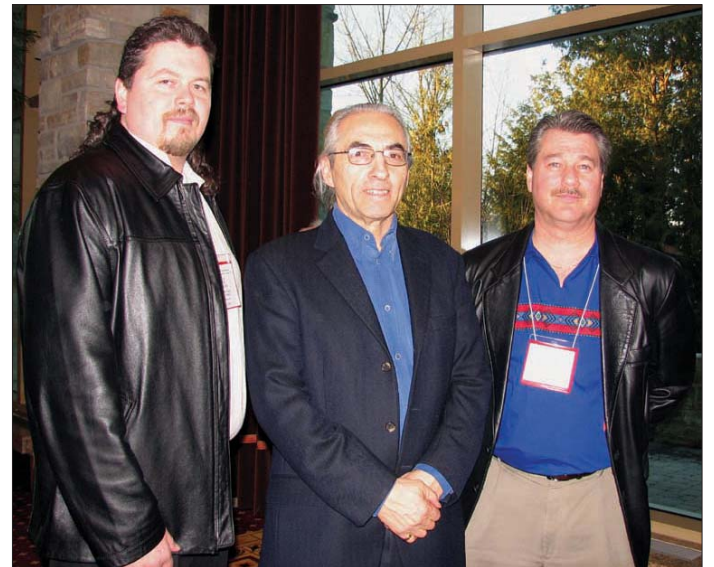
In November 2003, the AFN's Renewal Commission was formed and its mandate was to:

- Strategically plan a process from conception to implementation;
- Engage in a bottom up and inclusive dialogue with First Nation;
- Communicate the initiative to a large and varied audience;
- Generate ideas and options, working to generate consensus; and,
- Report on progress and outcomes through the tabling of a major report.

The Commission held 24 public hearings between March 2004 and January 2005 across Canada.

In December 2005, the Commission tabled its report and recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly in Ottawa. The report, titled "AFN Renewal Commission: A Treaty Among Ourselves", focuses on five broad themes:

- Accountability;
- Universal Vote;
- New Structures;
- Relationships; and,
- Administrative Improvements and Efficiencies.



l-r: Chief Ian Bushie, Hollow Water First Nation; National Chief Phil Fontaine, and Chief Robert Maytwayashing, Lake Manitoba First Nation, at Gatineau.

During a Manitoba Chiefs caucus at the March 2006 assembly, the most contentious recommendation debated was the **Universal Vote** for AFN National Chief. Questions were raised on the mandate and role of the National Chief, and it was pointed out that the AFN is not a government, but is composed of Indian, or First Nation, governments.

If anything, the role and mandate of the National Chief is similar to the role of the SCO Grand Chief. Neither position possesses any inherent political authority and no governing powers. Any political authority that is devolved, or passed down to the National Chief or Grand Chief, comes from the collective Chiefs-in-Assembly or SCO Chiefs-in-Summit.

In the end, the Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a national regional committee to review and define the role and purpose of the AFN, using the AFN Renewal Commission's report and recommendations as a guide. This committee will then be mandated to produce its report at the AFN's Annual General Assembly in July 2006 in Vancouver, B.C.



Chief Irvin McIvor, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation

### REPRINT Broadcast News

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## Mb first nations want review on baby death

SANDY BAY FIRST NATION, Man — A Manitoba First Nation northwest is demanding a review after the death of a premature baby at a hospital in Portage La Prairie.

Chief Irvin McIvor says a woman in her 20s was left alone in an examination room earlier this month and was forced to give birth herself, despite screaming for help.

He says the baby, born about three-and-a-half months premature, fell to the floor and died.

Officials with the regional health authority have refused comment on the incident.

But spokeswoman Winnie Pauch (pouch) says there have been ongoing efforts to improve communications with aboriginal communities about hospital procedures.

McIvor has written to hospital administrators, demanding a review of the incident and family members have written Winnipeg's medical examiner, asking for a copy of the autopsy report.

McIvor says there've been other incidents where aboriginal people have received questionable treatment.

Chief Irvin McIvor, "we are not going to let this incident go unnoticed!"





# Take a Stand!

## STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### in our homes and our nations!

The scope and seriousness of wife abuse is increasingly becoming known in our society. Thirty percent (3 in 10) of Canadian women reported at least one incident of physical or sexual violence at the hands of a marital partner in a large-scale 1993 national survey on violence against women conducted by Statistics Canada. Of the women who had been abused, one-third had feared for their lives during the abusive relationship.

The profound negative effect on children who witness their mother being assaulted is now being recognized. Children are affected in their emotional development and behaviour, as well as in their educational adjustment. Children, especially boys, who witness violence are more likely to be violent when they grow up. Witnessing violence in childhood increases the likelihood of a man becoming an abusive husband and causing severe injuries.

Source: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn/Public Health Agency of Canada>



*SCO Director of Justice and Sagkeeng First Nation member, Nahanni Fontaine and son, Niniichaanis.*



*A message brought to you by SCO*

