

**Head Office**

Swan Lake First Nation, Unit 4 - 4820 Portage Avenue, Headingley, Manitoba R4H 1C8
Phone: (204) 832-0220 Fax: (204) 832-0269

www.scoinc.mb.ca

Winnipeg Sub Office

225 - 530 Century Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0Y4
Phone: (204) 946-1869 Fax: (204) 946-1871 Toll Free: 1-866-876-9701

www.scoinc.mb.ca

May 27, 2010

To All SCO First Nations

The 2010 SCO Grand Chief Election will be held on June 17, 2010 at the Pine Creek First Nation. This decision was passed by resolution at the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit held on May 5th and 6th at the Dakota Tipi First Nation. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for the election is Ms. Noella Eagle who is from the Canupawakpa Dakota Nation. She was appointed as CEO by the SCO Chiefs Executive Committee who met on May 26, 2010 at the Wayseecappo First Nation.

The election will begin at 10 a.m. beginning with a public forum where all candidates for Grand Chief will have an opportunity to address the electors as well members of the public in attendance. As per the SCO Constitution, only SCO members Chiefs or designated proxies are allowed to vote.

Details and rules relating to the election and candidate requirements are attached in the "ELECTORAL RULES FOR THE OFFICER OF THE GRAND CHIEF OF THE SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION". Please post and make the document available to your First Nation members.

Candidates' papers must be filed and submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by June 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Noella Eagle, Chief Electoral Officer may be contacted at (204) 851-1578 or through e-mail at cedarsage@hotmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Noella Eagle, Chief Electoral Officer.



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**ELECTORAL RULES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF OF THE
SOUTHERN CHIEFS ORGANIZATION**

Approved by Executive Council May 26, 2010

ELECTORAL RULES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF OF THE SOUTHERN CHIEFS ORGANIZATION

1. Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer

- a. At least two (2) weeks prior to the Summit at which the election for the office of Grand Chief is to occur, the Executive Committee shall meet and appoint by motion a Chief Electoral Officer
- b. Once appointed, the Chief Electoral Officer is an absolutely impartial officer of the Summit accountable directly to the Summit
- c. The Chief Electoral Office can be removed only for cause by resolution of the Summit

2. Functions of the Chief Electoral Officer

- a. The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for, but not limited to the following duties:
 - i. Presiding as Chairperson of the election proceedings;
 - ii. Ensuring that proper facilities are in order to conduct the elections;
 - iii. Ensuring that all arrangements for the ballots, ballot boxes, and polling stations are made;
 - iv. Making arrangements for an All-Candidates Open Forum prior to the election and presiding thereat;
 - v. Devising nomination forms and receiving nominations of candidates for the Office of Grand Chief and ensuring that they are in proper form;
 - vi. Mail or fax the names and brief particulars of the candidates to the Chiefs using the official list of Chiefs at the SCO Office at least seven (7) days before the election
 - vii. Counting of ballots (after voting has occurred) in the presence of the Summit;

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- viii. Announcing the results when counting of the ballots is complete;
- ix. After the counting of ballots, to publicly declare to be elected to the Office of Grand Chief the candidate having a majority vote of fifty (50%) percent plus one (1) of the registered representatives of member First Nations pursuant to the Constitution of the Southern Chiefs Organization;
- x. Conducting the Oath of Office of the newly elected Grand Chief;
- xi. Submitting a written report on the election including details of results to the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks after the elections; and
- xii. Performing such other duties as may be required to properly conduct the election

3. Timing of the Election

- a. The election for the Office of Grand Chief shall take place at the Summit at which the election is to occur
- b. As soon as the election results have been announced, the declared winner shall take the Oath of Office as grand Chief in the presence of the Summit and shall assume Office from that time.

4. Nomination and Endorsement of Candidates

- a. Ending at 4:00 pm on the day that is seven (7) days prior to the election date, nomination papers in proper form shall be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer at the SCO office
- b. Each nomination in proper form shall be endorsed by three (3) eligible electors who shall be the Chiefs of member First Nations of the SCO
- c. No Chief may endorse more than one candidate for the office of Grand Chief
- d. Each nomination shall include the candidate's name, the names and signatures of the three (3) endorsing Chiefs and a biographical sketch of the candidate for distribution to the Chiefs of the member First Nations of SCO

5. Eligibility for the Office of Grand Chief

- a. Every candidate shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age

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- b. Every candidate shall be a recognized member of a First Nations that is a current member of the SCO
- c. Every candidate who is an employee of the SCO shall take a leave of absence or resign their position to be eligible as a candidate
- d. A candidate who is a Chief on the Executive Committee shall resign from the Executive Committee to be eligible as a candidate

6. Conduct of the Election

- a. Pursuant to the constitution, each Chief of a member First Nation shall have one (1) vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot
- b. In the absence of a Chief of a member First Nation, a designated representative duly authorized in writing by the Council of that member First Nations may vote. There shall be no proxies of proxies
- c. As provided for in the Constitution, to be declared a winning candidate, a person must obtain a majority vote of fifty (50) plus one (1) vote of the registered representatives of member First Nations present at the Summit provided that there is a quorum (a quorum un fifty (50%) percent of all SCO member First Nations)
- d. After each ballot, the candidate who has the lowest number of votes shall be automatically eliminated
- e. In the event of a tie vote, another ballot will be conducted until there is a clear majority of fifty (50%) percent plus one (1) in accordance with the Constitution
- f. Any candidate may withdraw from the election at any time

7. All-Candidate Open Forum

- a. Prior to the voting, an All-Candidates Forum shall take place and shall be presided over the by the Chief Electoral Officer.

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SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION INC.

NOMINATIONS NOTICE

Nomination Rules for Candidates for the Office of Grand Chief

1. Nomination of the Candidates running for the Office of Grand Chief will be accepted in the SCO Offices clearly marked and delivered to:

Ms. Noella Eagle
Chief Electoral Officer
SCO Winnipeg Sub-Office
225-530 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0Y4

2. **Deadline** for nominations is **Thursday June 10, 2010 @ 4:00 pm**. The Election date is set for Thursday June 17, 2010.
3. Each nomination in proper form shall be endorsed by three (3) eligible Chiefs and shall include the Candidate's name and signatures of the three nominating Chiefs and name of their First Nation.
4. A Chief may not endorse more than one Candidate for the Office of the Grand Chief.
5. Each person nominated shall provide a brief autobiography for information purposes for the mail out to the SCO Chiefs.

Please contact **Ms. Noella Eagle, Chief Electoral Officer** at cell number **204-851-1578** or email **cedarsage@hotmail.com**, if further information is required.

