

# SHOAL LAKE BAND NO. 40

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**PRESS ADVISORY**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Human Rights Museum Staff to Visit Shoal Lake #40 First Nation, July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Chief Erwin Redsky of Shoal Lake #40 First Nation has confirmed that representatives from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights will be in the Shoal Lake #40 community on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

In a May 27<sup>th</sup> open letter to Antoine Predock, the museum's architect, Chief Redsky had questioned the designer's feature of Shoal Lake water as a symbol of "healing and solace" when the negative impacts of the Greater Winnipeg Water diversion are so well known. The water intake imposed on the reserve continues to prevent Shoal Lake #40 people from safely accessing their homes. In 2011, Amnesty International wrote the Canadian government, informing them that, "The situation at Shoal Lake [40] First Nation amounts to a denial of fundamental human rights, including the right to livelihood, health and culture."

While the architect remains silent, CMHR Director of Communications acknowledged in a CBC radio interview, "We recognize that it is a concern." Senior staff of the Museum subsequently met with members of the First Nation and accepted Chief Redsky's invitation to see the situation first hand.

In reply to the invitation, Clint Curle, Head of Stakeholder relations wrote:

"Our goals in this meeting will be to gain a deeper understanding of the situation at Shoal Lake First Nation #40, contribute to a greater understanding of the Museum's role, and continue to foster trust and goodwill between us."

The honoured guests will be shown the physical impacts of the diversion, including the canal that has cut the community off for 100 years. They will also participate in a traditional feast and sharing circle.

"Like so many injustices in Canada, ours has been ignored," said Chief Redsky. "The offence and the harm is as plain as day but Canadian indifference, Canadian blindness to the damage done to First Nations' is so complete that not even the designers and funders of Canada's shrine to human rights recognized the hypocrisy of using water that literally kills our people. We appreciate the courage of the staff who are prepared to face the facts and begin to understand Canada's hand in human rights violations, even in their own building."

Representatives of the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba who have been working with

Shoal Lake #40 on overcoming the First Nation's man-made 'isolation' will be in attendance as will a representative of Amnesty International.

**NOTE:** Access to Shoal Lake #40 First Nation has its challenges and the visit includes a traditional ceremony. Special arrangements are being made to attempt to accommodate media needs however those wishing to be present please contact Cuyler Cotton for logistical and protocol information as well as accreditation. Thank you.

Please Contact:

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