

# AITSINIKI

July 2025 • Sootaikom



**SIKSIKA  
NATION  
FAIR**

**PACY  
STRANGLING  
WOLF**

**SOAKING  
UP SUMMER**

# CONTENTS



**10-11**

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
PACY STRANGLING WOLF

**4 - 6**

SIKSIKA NEWS

**7**

SIKSIKA MEDIA  
SUMMER STUDENTS

**8-9**

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

**12-13**

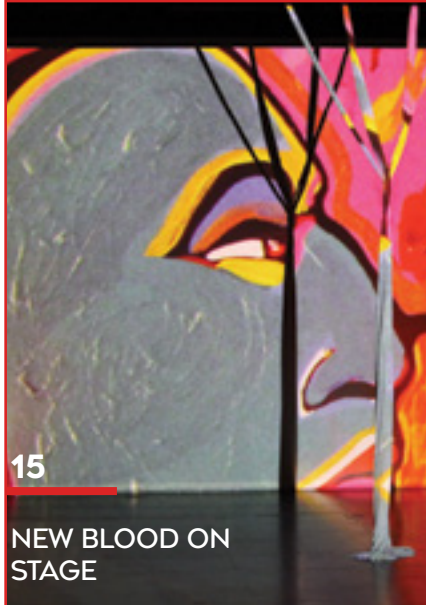
SOULWAY SANCTUARY

**14**

BCHP ON THE ROAD TO  
GLOBALFEST

**16-17**

CATLIN BIG SNAKE  
THROWS DOWN



**15**

NEW BLOOD ON  
STAGE

**19**

SKATERS PARADISE

**20-21**

SIKSIKA SECONDARY GRADS

**22-23**

SAVANNAH WILDCAT &  
BRENDON MANYBEARS

**27**

CLASSIFIEDS

**18**

SIKSIKA NATION FAIR



**24-26**

PEOPLE, PLACES  
AND FACE



# AITSINIKI MAGAZINE

Publisher  
Siksika Nation Tribal  
Administration

Communications Manager  
Lynn Calf Robe

Media Coordinator  
Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Communications Coordinator  
Shilo Clark

Administrative Specialist  
Edna Many Heads

Communications Specialist  
Jasmine Majoros

Media Specialist  
Andrew Breaker

Media Specialist  
Mase Scarlet

Student  
Jarred Many Heads

Student  
Joel Wolfleg

Student  
Lexington Many Heads

Graphic Design  
Elodie Caron

Cover photo by  
Brad Crowfoot

Siksika Media  
PO Box 1490  
Siksika, AB T0J 3W0  
403.734.5339  
TF 1.800.551.5724



FREE  
Volume 34 Issue 07  
July 2025



## WELCOME

Oki and welcome to the July issue of Aitsiniki!

We are proud to bring you another powerful edition of our magazine—a reflection of the voices, stories, and vibrant spirit of the Siksika people. July has been a remarkable month, filled with culture, community, and celebration. This issue captures just a glimpse of the energy and pride that was shared across our Nation.

From the breathtaking regalia and songs of the Siksika Nation Powwow, to the thrilling competitions and community gatherings at the Siksika Nation Fair, we've been on the ground covering the moments that matter. These events not only honor our traditions, but also

showcase the strength, talent, and resilience that continue to define who we are.

Inside this issue, you'll find coverage of these important events, along with stories, interviews, and features that celebrate our people, our youth, our knowledge keepers, and our future.

We're excited to keep telling the stories that matter—and grateful to everyone who shared their time, talents, and words with us this month.

Thank you for picking up Aitsiniki. This is your magazine. Let's keep our stories alive, together

## Siksika Nation Challenges Government of Alberta Coal Decision

By Sinakssin Communications

PRESS RELEASE  
CALGARY, AB

The Siksika Nation filed a legal challenge against the Government of Alberta's decision to end a moratorium on coal development in the Rocky Mountains earlier this year. Chief Ouray Crowfoot (Nioksskai-stamik) explained the reason for the law suit:

"The Rockies are treasured by everyone. They're the source of the water we all rely on, they support abundant fish and wildlife and precious natural areas. For Siksika the Rockies are an important part of our traditional territory and are home to some of the last areas that can be used for Treaty hunting, fishing and

our traditional way of life."

Siksika filed a legal challenge against Alberta's decision to rescind the 1976 Coal Policy in May 2020, which protects about 14,000 sq. km of the Rockies from coal development. That lawsuit was ended in May 2021, when Alberta reinstated the Coal Policy and struck the Coal Policy Committee to engage with the public and consult with First Nations about coal development in the Rocky Mountains.

Siksika and other First Nations made submissions and appeared before the Coal Policy Committee whose recommendations to the Government of Alberta were supposed to

inform any further decisions on coal development. Despite this, Alberta's decision to end the moratorium on coal development earlier this year ignored the Coal Policy Committee's recommendations.

Chief Crowfoot added: "We have tried to engage the Government of Alberta in good faith over the past several years on this issue. They made commitments to consult with First Nations in regional land use plans and other forums but they just don't listen.<sup>†</sup> Litigation was our only option at this point.<sup>†</sup> Once coal mines are approved the damage will be done and it will be too late."

---

## West Regional Wastewater System Study

Siksika Nation's Engineering Services has hired ISL Engineering and Land Services (ISL) to complete a study for a new regional wastewater system on the west side of the Nation, serving areas from the West End to the Townsite.

The project is needed because the current systems have minimal to no remaining capacity and are reaching their end of life. To ensure that the system continues to serve the community's sewage and wastewater collection and disposal needs into the future, a new unified system needs to be planned, designed, and constructed that will ensure the ability for the Nation to develop while holding the health and safety

of the people as well as the natural environment as paramount.

ISL has been working with the Nation's Engineering Services team over the past few years to conduct technical research and analysis to confirm the recommended location for a new sewage lagoon facility.

Now, the Project Team is ready and excited to share the reasons why sewage upgrades are needed and the recommended lagoon location with the community and gather feedback on the recommended site at an upcoming open house and through an online survey. The purpose of the open house and survey will be to hear what residents think

about the recommended lagoon facility location and receive feedback to help the Engineering Services team finalize the location and plan for the new facility.

All interested Nation Members are invited to participate in the following engagement activities:

Community Open House  
Location: Siksika Piiksapik Memorial  
Arbour, AB-901, Gleichen, AB  
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025  
Time: Drop-in between 4 - 7 p.m.

Online Survey  
Open from August 11 - 31, 2025  
[www.siksikanationwestwastewater-system.com](http://www.siksikanationwestwastewater-system.com)

# Siksika Police Commission Member Posting

The Siksika Police Commission (the Commission) is committed to making Siksika a safe and engaged Nation today and in the future. The Commission oversees the police service, ensuring professional and ethical policing to the Nation residents of Siksika. For more information related to the Siksika Police Commission please contact Mariah Little Chief: MariahLC@siksikanation.com

Applicants should be 18+ years of age and have a record of qualifications including one or more of the following: experience and/or education in Information Technology, Communications, Legal or Law Enforcement, understanding of public accountability, relevant lived experience and understanding of diverse and marginalized communities and Nation community issues

and concerns, training in conflict resolution, threat assessment and/or harm reduction.

The term of office for a person appointed to the Commission is two (2) years.

Members can serve a maximum of six (6) consecutive years.

Ad Hoc Committee members can serve two (2) years and four (4) consecutive years to accommodate for new committees to adjust to the current police commission.

Applicants will be asked to do the following in complete confidence:

Apply directly to MariahLC@siksikanation.com.

Submit a cover letter summarizing

the value and contribution that you will provide to the Commission and your interest of why you would like to serve in this role.

Submit a current resume outlining your career, board and volunteer expertise.

Submit three letters of reference that can verify your suitability for the Commission.

Closing Date: August 7, 2025  
Number of Openings (up to): 5  
Department: Siksika Police Commission

More information on the posting and qualifications can be found at <https://siksikanation.com/siksika-police-commission-member-posting/>

YOUR HOME DESERVES A

# SOLID FOUNDATION.



- › FOUNDATION REPAIR
- › BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
- › CRAWL SPACE REPAIR

- › CONCRETE LIFTING
- › RADON MITIGATION

GET A FREE INSPECTION

Groundworks.ca



**Groundworks**  
Foundation Solutions Crafted with Pride.

# Siksika West Regional Wastewater System Planning Study

## A Look at a Similar Wastewater Treatment Facility in Langdon, Alberta

By Siksika Engineering Services

**S**iksika Nation's Engineering Services has hired ISL Engineering and Land Services (ISL) to complete a study for a new regional wastewater system on the west side of the Nation, serving areas from the West End to the Townsite. The project is needed because the current systems have minimal to no remaining capacity and are reaching their end of life. To ensure that the system continues to serve the community's sewage and wastewater collection and disposal needs into the future, a new unified system needs to be planned, designed, and constructed that will ensure the ability for the Nation to develop while holding the health and safety of the people as well as the natural environment as paramount.

The west regional wastewater system lagoon facility proposed for Siksika will employ technology similar to the existing wastewater treatment facility in operation in Langdon, AB. The Langdon facility was upgraded approximately 10 years ago and has been upgraded and expanded since then to accommodate population growth. The Langdon facility includes an aerated lagoon system fitted with technology which provides an innovative, eco-friendly process that will meet

treated effluent requirements for the Bow River.

Aeration has been widely used for over 60 years in North America and relies on natural biological processes to treat wastewater. The oxygen

required for the treatment of sewage is provided mechanically (by aerators)

animals away and prevents unauthorized access, which the Siksika lagoon facility will also have. The difference will be that, the Siksika wastewater treatment facility will also include trees and landscaping around the facility to provide visual screening and will integrate into the wetland environment.

The Siksika West Regional Wastewater System Project Team will be hosting an open house and online survey in August 2025 to share the recommended lagoon location with the community and gather

feedback. All interested Nation Members are invited to participate in the engagement activities. For more information about the project, please visit <https://www.siksikanationwestwastewatersystem.com/> or look for a public notice or community poster with more details about the upcoming open house.



which is an efficient process that provides cleaner water by the end of the process. This type

of treatment system helps reduce odours and releases treated wastewater that is a safe clean water source for wetlands and water bodies. Enhanced technology in the treatment process enhances both the level of treatment while removing ammonia and phosphorous to protect the wetlands or waterbodies that the treated wastewater is discharged into.

The Langdon facility includes security fencing to keep people and



## SIKSIKA MEDIA SUMMER STUDENTS

### JARRED

My name is Jarred Many Heads. I am 17 years old. I am a member of Siksika Media as a Summer Student, and I am looking forward to working with the program and building a connection with the youth, and to showcase more of the aspects of the Indigenous parts of our culture, and showcase our community as First Nation Treaty 7 peoples. I am firmly dedicated to the work that I do, and fully determined with every task I am put through.



.....

### JOEL



My name is Joel Wolfleg. I'm currently working with Siksika Media as part of the Summer Student Program. This experience is something new for me, especially since I've never really seen myself working in media before. I don't even use social media, so this opportunity feels like I'm stepping into unfamiliar territory, but I'm excited to learn and grow from it. I hope this experience will give me a deeper understanding and appreciation for the role media plays in our community. While I may be new to this environment, I do bring some photography experience with me, thanks to what I learned from David Copithorne at Sun College. I'm excited to see how those skills will come into play throughout the program.

# STAMPEDE WARM UP BREAKFAST

## Story and photos by Lexington Many Heads

**W**hat an incredible day hosted by Siksika Family Services in partnership with SFI, SCEIS,

SETS, Walking The Wolf Trail, Siksika Daycare & Siksika Shelter! From 9AM-1PM, the community came together to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast while soaking up the sunshine, laughter, and amazing entertainment.

The day opened with a heartfelt prayer by a Siksika Elder, followed by a grand entry and the Canadian anthem beautifully sung in Blackfoot by Dilayna Blackhorse.

Traditional dancing lit up the park

with jingle, grass, traditional, and chicken dancers, accompanied by the powerful drumming of the Prairie Dogs Drum Group. A round dance led by the Siksika First Nation Princesses brought everyone together in celebration.

The event wrapped up with unforgettable live performances from Double Rider, Armond Duck Chief, Mackinley Wells, and Brinley Back Fat.

A perfect day filled with culture, community, and celebration!



# HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES A CELEBRATION AT THE WILDER INSTITUTE

## Story and photos by Lexington Many Heads



**O**n July 1, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo hosted their first ever Honouring Indigenous Peoples event - a day filled with knowledge, culture, and community connection.

Guided by Elder in Residence Adrian Wolfleg from Siksika Nation, the event featured:

Elder-led knowledge sessions

A vibrant friendship round dance

Local Indigenous vendors

Thousands of zoo passes shared with families and youth

It was a great day celebrating Indigenous Peoples and their teachings.

# NO MORE MOMENTS @ SLED ISLAND

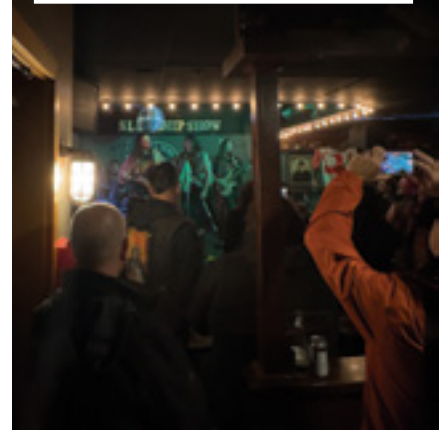
Story and photo by Lexxington Many Heads

**C**arlin Black Rabbit's band, No More Moments, played at the Ship & Anchor during the Sled Island Music Festival on June 21st, in honor of National Indigenous People's Day. We caught up with Carlin Black Rabbit at Sled Island, where he shared how Moments Fest got involved with Sled Island: "We've been working with Sled for the past 3 years and they asked us how they can work together with an indigenous organization, so they allowed us to host a show here at the ship & anchor, book the bands we want, and we made sure that every show here is free and accessible. It's been an ongoing relationship." When asked how he felt playing on a special day like National Indigenous Peoples Day, Carlin shared that with 17 years in punk rock, he's seen

more Indigenous folks showing up and feeling safe—thanks to venues like Ship & Anchor doing the work to work with Indigenous People. "Every time I'm on stage, I want to represent my people - today was extra special."

His advice to youth aspiring to work in music: pick up an instrument, stay creative, and don't give up. "For the young people out there, now's the time to do it. I'd love to see more bands from Siksika," Carlin shares. Keep an eye out—No More Moments, and his second band, Iron Tusk are writing new albums and Iron Tusk will be playing a festival in Ontario! Moments Fest returns this August with 30+ bands from across Canada + the U.S. Free for everyone!

Every time I'm on stage,  
I want to represent my people..  
today was extra special  
-Carlin Black Rabbit



## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE THAT EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES

From planning and design to project delivery, our agile teams bring innovative solutions to every project's unique challenges.

See how we're making an impact—explore our projects at [islengineering.com](http://islengineering.com)

CALGARY | CANMORE | EDMONTON | GRANDE PRAIRIE | LETHBRIDGE |  
BURNABY | EAST KOOTENAY | KAMLOOPS | LANGLEY | NANAIMO | SQUAMISH |  
VANCOUVER ISLAND | WEST KOOTENAY | WHITEHORSE | SASKATOON





# PACY STRANGLING WOLF

Story by Jasmine Majoros

Photos supplied by Calgary Stampede

**T**his year at Calgary Stampede held a special meaning for Elbow River Camp, as 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the First Nations Princess and Pacy Strangling Wolf, 25, has the honour of representing one of the Treaty 7 First Nations to share her culture at hundreds of events through the year by speaking at engagements, school visits, and traditional dance performances. Pacy, a Jingle Dress Dancer from the Kainai Nation but also has family ties to Siksika Nation. Her Blackfoot name, Otsskoiikitstakaii, translates to “Blue Offering Woman.” She dreams of becoming an educator, with plans to teach either the Blackfoot language or drama to future generations.

As a cultural ambassador for Elbow River Camp, presented by Enbridge, the First Nations Princess also honours the historic relationship between the Calgary

Stampede and the families of the Stoney Nakoda, Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, and Tsuut’ina Nations. Pacy will serve her term that begins on January 1, 2025, and continues through December 31, 2025. Throughout the year—including during The Calgary Stampede—they will attend numerous events, promote Western heritage and cultural traditions, and take part in valuable professional and personal development opportunities.

So far, she’s 6 months into her term and it has been nothing short of amazing. Upon accepting her Crown at the pageant she felt more humbled just to have taken the chance at the opportunity had she not been successful. Although public speaking made her a bit nervous, she is very honoured to have been chosen and sees this a very big blessing to be able to inspire others within her community. Even though each Princess has

*...to this day we are becoming stronger, and I just want everyone to be uplifted*

their own sense of their journey with this role Pacy couldn't be prouder to be able to grow into the role model that she strives to be.

"I just wanted people to know that women can empower each other. That we can be the big girls, we can be CEO's, we can be educators, we've come a long way from 100 years when we weren't allowed to vote, we weren't allowed to do basically just anything. We were probably the most dehumanized people in all North America but to this day we are becoming stronger, and I just want everyone to be uplifted" says Strangling Wolf

Vanessa Strong Arm who was also from Kainai and has been a Calgary Stampede Princess from 2016, will forever hold a place in her heart simply because she's one of her biggest role models. Being able to share this experience with someone has been very helpful and empowering to Pacy, whenever she'd have a question about something, or needed advice she always felt comfortable to be able to look up to Strong Arm for just about anything. Having her there every step of the way has helped make Strangling Wolfs journey a fulfilling experience.

Although this role presents a very glamorous opportunity, Strangling Wolf empathizes that this role comes with its challenges and the biggest one being the struggle to keep up with the hustle and exhaustion. Being constantly on the go has been somewhat of a test to her motivation, "I have to look at it as, you know I'm here, I'm trying, I only have 365 days to represent this title, and I want to make every moment count"

One of these memorable moments was getting to meet her committee members and discuss her parade



leathers. This was a very meaningful moment as she got design how she wanted her outfit to look. She got to use it to showcase important aspects of her life through it, one element being the sun and sunflowers to represent the love and connection to her late grandmother. This part of the role was also a defining opportunity for Pacy as she is big on the idea of the concept of "modernizing Indigenous fashion and art". Having taken fashion and art in school, she incorporated this part of herself through her outfits.

With only 5 months left to serve for the remaining year, there's is still plenty of life changing opportunities for growth and aspiration as a Calgary Stampede Princess, Pacy just hopes that this role will continue to inspire others and empowering women within the Blackfoot community. One very important lesson she's come to appreciate is being able to speak and have others listen, which is one of the greatest blessings with this role is having your voice be heard as every Princess has had before and continues to have now.

# Soulway Sanctuary & Rescue

PUTTING THEIR HEARTS INTO  
THEIR MISSION TO SAVE DOGS



## Story and photos by Mase Scarlet

**W**ayne and Donovan Solway's care for the Nation's stray dogs and housed dogs has shone through their work since opening in August 2023 with Soulway Sanctuary & Rescue. They have provided leadership, food and water, and beds.

Their work is truly important and impressive. They have mentioned they took in an injured dog found near the train tracks and took her in to help in any way they can, and she is currently thriving with them.

On July 5th, Soulway's Dog Sanctuary and Rescue celebrated two of their legacy daycare dogs, Cersie and Bosie, who have been with them from the start of their mission—which is to rehouse dogs to loving homes.

It was a warm day outside and inside Nation members' hearts, coming

together to celebrate Soulway's and their first daycare dogs. They provided hospitality not only to the dogs that showed up but their owners as well—with food, music, drinks, and games.

We at Siksika Media & Communications wish you the best, Soulway Dog Sanctuary and Rescue!

Here is our interview:

### What is Soulway's Dog Sanctuary and Rescue?

A privately owned and operated dog daycare, rescue, and adoption organization located in the heart of Siksika Nation. For nearly two years—opening day August 2023—we have proudly served our community by providing a safe haven for dogs in need, whether through daily dog daycare, rescue efforts, or

adoption services.

### What is Soulway's mission for the Nation?

Our mission is to re-home surrendered or unhomed dogs into loving, responsible homes. The fees from our dog daycare services directly support the medical care of our animals, the maintenance of our facility, and the overall operation of our sanctuary. At Soulway's, we are committed to the well-being of every dog that comes through our doors.

### What was the event's purpose on July 5th, 2025?

Our puppy doggy daycare birthday party is our opportunity to say thank you to our community and all our doggy daycare and sanctuary supporters, and our doggy daycare

clients and the pups who have been with us from the beginning—loving and supporting us—and all the new friends we are making and will make in the future. It's our way of saying thank you and giving back. We grew in attendance from last year greatly and plan to add more fun to the festivities in the future—even a BBQ.

### Who are Cersie and Bosie?

Cersie and Bosie are two of our legacy doggy daycares. Cersie is the leader of the daycare pack—she's always first to introduce herself to new pups and let them know the rules and lay of the land. Bosie and Cersie have been with us for three seasons of doggy daycare. Now, we've built an amazing relationship with their families, who have referred family and friends to join our daycare pack. All our daycare pack babies are near and dear to our hearts, but Bosie, Cersie, and Miss Marley have been with us since the start.

### How do you provide all of the food?

Our limited dog food supply comes to us strictly for our limited dog sanctuary spaces. At this time, we work within our means. We are the first privately owned Nation kennel and sanctuary to our knowledge. Our doggy daycare feeds our sanctuary and shelter, and helps with the maintenance and care of our kennel and sanctuary pack.

### Does the adoption fee money go anywhere else?

There is an adoption fee for each sanctuary puppy that goes toward the next pup's initial medical needs and anything they may need to feel the most comfortable with us—i.e., toys, bedding, and blankets, etc. We are always open to dog supply donations and monetary donations,

as well as donations for fencing, kennels, and building supplies.

### Any future plans for Soulway's Sanctuary?

Future plans are currently and always in the works.

We hope to continue to rescue as many dogs as we can within our means and continue to support our community with doggy daycare as needed, as it appears to be a highly needed and greatly accepted service—so far in great demand. We love and care for each and every puppy as if they were our own and provide the owners with update videos throughout their stay with us.

### How many current sanctuary dogs are there, and how many have been re-homed?

We currently have four sanctuary babies in our care, helping them to find loving, wonderful homes. We have currently homed 25 other puppies since we opened, who are all thriving. We are located at the east end of Siksika Nation. For the safety of our doggy daycare clients and to deter random drop-offs and abandonments of dogs—as we have had happen in the past—we do not post our exact location.

### How was volunteering at this year's Task Force Spay and Neuter Program for the first time?

It was an amazing experience and an immensely positive learning



experience and hands-on opportunity for our lead kennel operations manager, Donovan Solway. He looks forward to returning next year.

### Anything else to say or add?

We are thankful to Chief and Council and Land Management for supporting us as we grow to the needs of the community and their willingness to work with us as we grow and expand in the future. Soulway's offers doggy daycare at this time, and four sanctuary spots and two emergency spots in times of need for other organizations—but we're looking to add services as we grow in the future. We are also connected with Pawsitive Match Foundation out of Calgary. They are huge supporters of ours, always willing to help where they can with supplies we may need and visits of love and cuddles to the sanctuary and daycare pups. And our guardian angel—a lady who prefers to be anonymous—has helped us with our development, resources, and contacts, as well as guiding us in introductions with important contacts and supporters, such as RJ and his entire Task Force team, volunteers, and other sanctuary organizations and community members.

# BLACKFOOT CROSSING SHINES ON THE WORLD STAGE AT CALGARY STAMPEDE

Story and photos by Shilo Clark

On Monday, July 7th, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park proudly represented Siksika Nation on the world stage as part of an international cultural showcase at the Calgary Stampede, in partnership with GlobalFest. Sharing the spotlight with performers from China and Croatia, the event brought together vibrant cultures and powerful performances at the BMO Centre's Community Stage.

Representing Siksika with pride and elegance, the featured dancers included Piita Alexander (Jr. Boys Grass Dance), Richard Alexander (Men's Chicken Dance), and Dawn Turning Robe (woman's Traditional), Tayla Sleigh, & Syrianna Running Rabbit (Jingle Dress Dance). Their powerful footwork, regalia, and rhythmic movements captivated the crowd, filling the venue with energy, emotion, and pride.

Speaking with Chante Cyanne, spokesperson for Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, she shared what the moment meant to her and everyone

that attended:

"It's such an honour to showcase our culture on a global stage. Opportunities like this help others learn about the richness, resilience, and



beauty of Blackfoot culture. It's really something special."

The performance marked more than just a cultural moment—it was an unforgettable experience for all in attendance, one that left a lasting impression on both the audience and the performers.

This partnership between Blackfoot Crossing and GlobalFest continues to grow. In 2023, Blackfoot Crossing gifted GlobalFest a traditional tipi. This year, that gift will be formally honoured during a Tipi Transfer Ceremony on July 29 at 11 a.m., hosted at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park.

The cultural celebration doesn't stop there. On August 14, Blackfoot Crossing will host a Tipi Raising Demonstration at Elliston Park during GlobalFest, offering festivalgoers a chance to witness the traditional setup and teachings of the Blackfoot tipi. Then, on Finale Night, August 23, Blackfoot Crossing's dancers will return to the spotlight with a

special performance on GlobalFest's Main Stage.

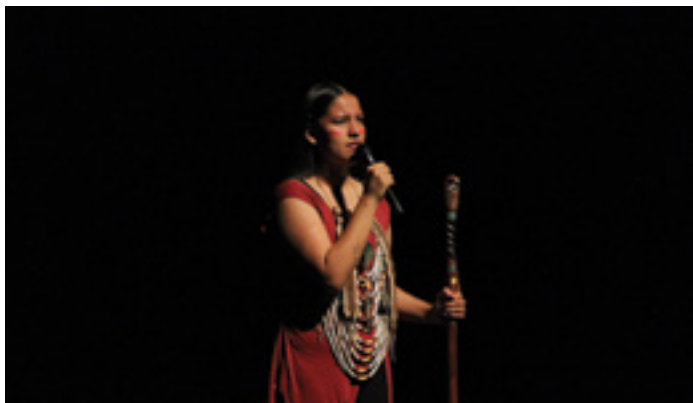
GlobalFest runs from August 14 to 23 – a perfect opportunity to experience diverse cultures, fireworks, food, and most importantly, the living traditions of the Blackfoot people.

Oki!

On June 22, we had the opportunity to view Strathmore High School's New Blood Dance show rehearsal before their big show at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium for 7:30 pm. New Blood Dance Show was accompanied by the Calgary Civic Orchestra and it was such a beautiful experience to be able to see the show with a live orchestra - it was very powerful! New Blood Dance Show is a must-see performance

Be sure to check out their website, <https://newblooddance.net/>, for dates and tickets to their upcoming shows!

A job well done to the SHS New Blood cast and crew, and to the Calgary Civic Orchestra!



# NEW BLOOD

Story and photos  
by Lexington Manyheads

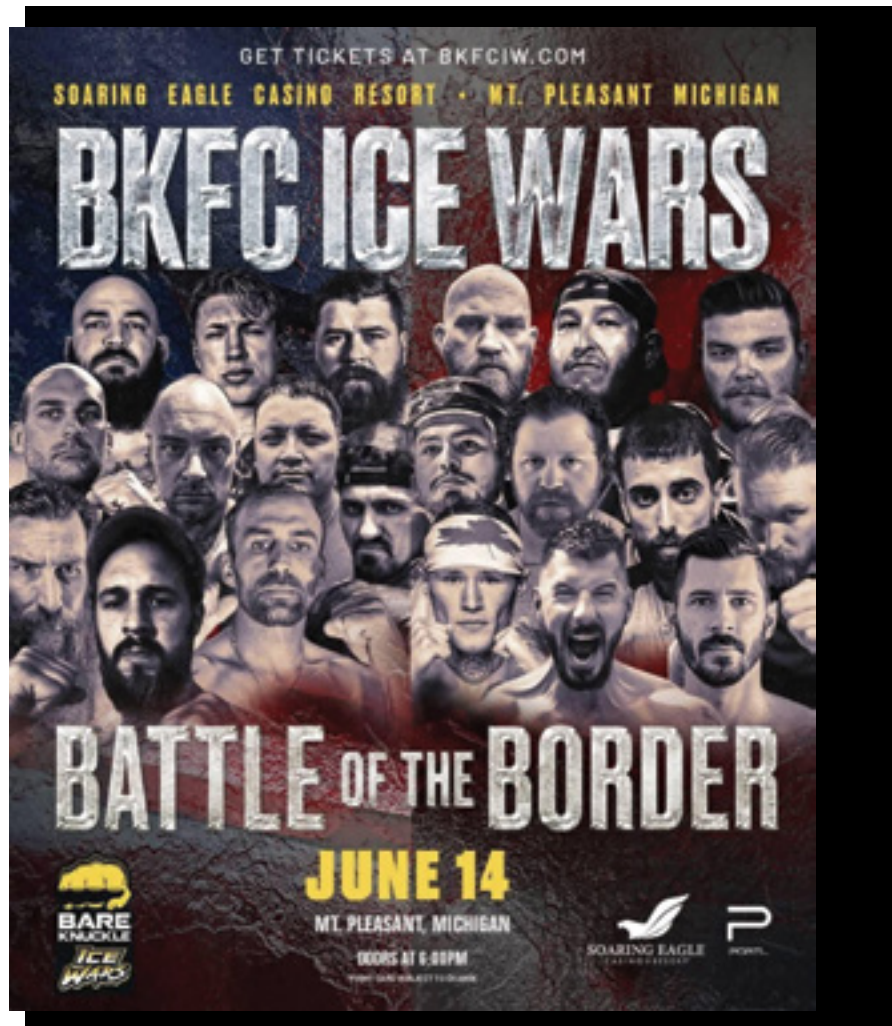
# CATLIN BIG SNAKE

## TAKES THE GLOVES OFF

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Catlin Big Snake, known as “The Chief,” is a proud member of both the Siksika Nation and Ochapowace First Nation. He is also heavily supported by his Family Cote Big Snake, his wife Desiree Big Snake, and sons Houston and Tulo Big Snake. Recently, he stepped into the spotlight in one of the newest and most intense combat sports to hit the media: BKFC Ice Wars I. This high-impact sport combines the toughness of hockey with the grit of MMA. Competitors wear full hockey gear, bare knuckles, and go head-to-head in a full-contact fight—on ice. Catlin brought pride to his Nations and showcased his warrior spirit in the rink at the Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship Ice Wars 1: Battle of the Borders, which was held in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

The inception of this amazing event took place in 2023, where Catlin Big



Snake also competed. Leading up to this year, Charlie Nama, founder of Ice Wars and current CEO of the newly formed BKFC Ice Wars, approached Big Snake with the idea of hosting another event—this time featuring a Canada vs. U.S.A. match-up.

Expressing interest, Big Snake told Nama, “I’ll definitely put thought into it and want to do it again—I just want to consult my family first,” during an interview.

After some time had passed, Big

Snake received an official call from BKFC inviting him to fight in the co-main event. With about sixty days to go before the fight, he made the decision to sign the contract—becoming the first fighter officially signed to BKFC Ice Wars.

The scale of the event didn’t fully hit Big Snake until the official announcement went live on social media. That’s when it all started to feel real. He described the moment as “surreal,” especially realizing he was now featured alongside major names like Brian Kelleher, Charles

Rosa, Yoel Romero, Thiago Santos, Derek Brunson, and Aspen Ladd. The disbelief came from the sheer magnitude of the opportunity—being part of something this big felt crazy and unbelievable.

While at the event, Big Snake had the chance to meet many people, including Fernely Felix Jr., a well-known boxer and sparring partner to legends like Tyson Fury. Felix Jr. has also worked on filming projects for fighters such as Alex Pereira and Canelo Álvarez, and is active in creating fight-related content on social media. Big Snake shared how welcoming Fernely was, even filming him for a documentary on the BKFC Ice Wars event. The crew followed Big Snake around for a full day, capturing his daily life and giving him the opportunity to share where he comes from on camera. Leading up to the fight, Big Snake detailed the intense training and preparation he went through. He mentally and physically prepared days in advance, planning for every possible scenario, including how he would feel out his opponent once in the ring. While he felt some doubt—worried about feeling fatigued or not performing to his best—he stayed focused, knowing this was a massive opportunity he didn't want to let slip.

Then came the news: he was no longer just the co-main event—he was now the main event. That shift pushed Big Snake even harder to give it everything he had and represent with pride.

When Big Snake got ready for the fight on the day of Ice Wars, he felt a rush of adrenaline, doubt, and determination all at once. As he explained in an interview, “I wasn't nervous. I

knew what I had to do—I just didn't want to let anyone down because I'm the main event, and the main event has to perform at a top level.” Although these thoughts were running through his mind, Big Snake followed through with everything, knocking out his opponent in just 59 seconds.

One message Big Snake wanted to share with the community was that he fought for his people. He carried the pride of Siksika on his shoulders and fought for those who are unable to walk, or who may be going

through tough times in life—hoping that others will find motivation in his story, follow their dreams, and achieve their own goals, whatever they may be.

Looking ahead, Big Snake has a few exciting plans. He will be participating in the “Every Child Matters” hockey game in Kamloops on September 6th, 2025. With that, it's clear that Big Snake isn't showing any signs of slowing down in his career. He continues to represent Siksika Nation with pride, strength, and purpose.

ITAI'SAKOPII'A "CHILDREN IN A GOOD HOME"



BECOME

A caregiver today

Call Placement Resources  
today to inquire about  
becoming a caregiver  
**587-323-3211**  
680 Westchester Road, Strathmore, AB



HELP BRING  
OUR CHILDREN HOME



# SIKSIKA NATION FAIR 2025 WRAP UP

By Andrew Breaker

The Siksika Nation Fair has officially wrapped up and is now proudly added to the history books as another remarkable celebration of community, culture, and tradition. This year saw a significant increase in attendance, with nearly 800 dancers registered, one of the highest counts in recent memory.

The powwow was masterfully coordinated by Chris 'Nugget' Bull Bear, whose leadership ensured that everything within the powwow circle ran smoothly and with great success. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with attendees praising both the organization and the powerful sense of cultural pride on display.

This year also marked a new chapter in how the Nation Fair was promoted and experienced, thanks to the involvement of Siksika Media & Communications. From live broadcasting to multimedia content creation, the Communications team played a major role in supporting and elevating the event. CFX 104.7 FM provided live radio coverage of the powwow, especially helpful for attendees who experienced limited cell service at the grounds. In addition, Siksika Media operated a

vibrant photo booth, allowing guests to capture and share memories with family and friends.

The Communications team also developed a dedicated website and provided ongoing social media updates, creating a centralized hub for visitors to access schedules,

From the first match to the final round, the excitement, passion, and good energy never let up. Meanwhile, the baseball tournament took place at the Siksika Deerfoot Sportsplex, where great weather and friendly competition set the tone for an enjoyable weekend. At the same time, local golfers competed in a golf tournament hosted at the Speargrass Golf Course, making the most of the beautiful summer conditions.

Prior to the main weekend, the Siksika Rodeo was held, bringing out rodeo fans and community members to enjoy a traditional and much-loved aspect of the Nation Fair. With deep roots in Siksika culture, the rodeo continues to be an essential part of this annual celebration.

More than just a series of competitions and festivities, the Siksika Nation Fair is

about unity, tradition, and community. It's a time for people to come together, reconnect, and create memories that will last a lifetime, just as our ancestors once did.

As the 2025 Siksika Nation Fair comes to a close, the excitement is already building for next year. Plans are already in motion to make the event even bigger and more enjoyable for everyone who comes to be part of it.



photos, and announcements. Through photo and video coverage,

nearly every major event, particularly the powwow, was documented and shared, extending the reach and impact of the Nation Fair far beyond Siksika.

The Hand Games Tournament was another standout success, drawing teams from across Indian Country.

---

---

## PROFESSIONAL SKATEBOARDING COMES TO SIKSIKA NATION

---

---

Story by Joel Wolfleg

### File photo

On July 16th 2025 at the Siksika Nation Sportsplex. An event was held by Cj Cutter and Stu Young with the collaboration of Toy Machine. Zero skateboarding worked with Cj in the past and motivated him to keep going. Later, Toy machine, a skateboarding company that consists of services/individuals such as skateboards, a skate team, and a lifestyle that embodies creativity, individuality, and pushing the boundaries of skateboarding, had come with the offer of showing a free demo with their top skateboarders, including Cordano Russell Canada Olympic skateboarder. Cj had accepted the offer and quickly got the event organized. This four-day event, held at the Deerfoot Sportsplex, was organized for community youth to showcase the skills of local skateboarders and to have fun. Siksika was the first stop, with plans to visit other reserves across Alberta throughout the event.

Cj Cutter and Stu Young had wanted this event for the community and the youth. It was to bring the community together, and show the youth the skills of a professional skateboarder in person.

CJ expressed how meaningful the event was, noting that many people only experience professional skate-



boarding through videos or online. “I grew up watching skate videos, and so did most of the kids here today,” he said. “This is something special—because how often do you get to see professionals in person? I really wanted to give back to my community.”

Cj Cutter wants this event to bring more skateboarding into Siksika and bring the youth together. Before the skateboarders from Toy machine did the demo, they interacted with the youth, showing the youth how to ride a skateboard and basic techniques. Following the interactions and lessons on skateboarding, each skater did a demo showing incredible skill. .

Cj Cutter had brought some traditional dancers, to showcase the culture of Siksika Nation. In turn, he wanted to showcase who Siksika is. He did this by bringing his tipi for them to set up and take down, as well as showing them each dance of the powwow. As well, Spike Eagle

Speaker Jr. also made an honour song just for the participants and gifting it to them.

With plans to visit other reserves across Treaty territory, including several that are part of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Toy Machine is traveling to different communities to share their skateboarding skills and culture. There’s hope that the team will also be enriched by the Blackfoot culture. In turn, Cj is demonstrating his deep love for the community by offering all of these services at no cost, personally taking on the work himself and partnering with Toy Machine to do the same—strictly for the benefit of the community. His dedication makes him a powerful role model for youth. Cj would also like to thank everyone involved who helped set up the ramps, those who helped bring the day together, the band Quarter Ounce for donating a free live show, and anyone else who contributed to making the event a success.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES FROM SIKSIKA

## BASSANO HIGH SCHOOL



Karson  
Maguire



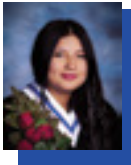
Donovan  
Crowchild



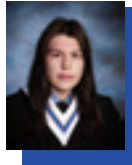
Ciara  
Cayenne



Emmitt  
Many Heads



Lanaya Leather



Dreyton Running  
Rabbit - Eyman



Hayven  
Many Heads - Fox

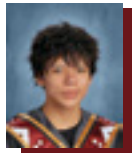
## SIKSIKA NATION HIGH SCHOOL



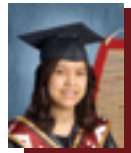
Jayden  
Black



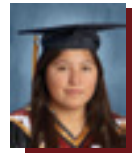
Ayesha  
Good Eagle



Masen  
Big Sorrel  
Horse



Brianna  
Calf-Groves



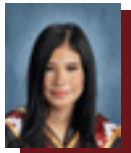
Amber  
Brass-Many  
Guns



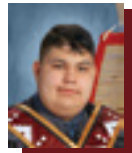
Sophia  
Healy



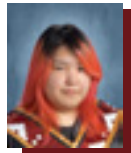
William  
Duck Chief



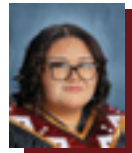
Teysen  
Crow Chief



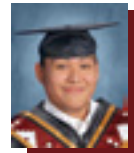
Tad  
Big Snake



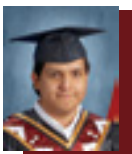
Kathan  
Healy



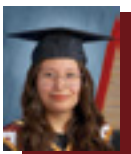
Harmony  
Calf



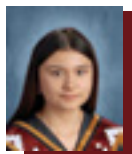
Braxton  
Calf Robe



Denver  
Young



Angelina  
Old Woman



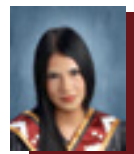
Carly  
Laderoute



Carmen  
Water Chief



Colby  
Wolfleg

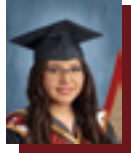


Patricia  
Little Light

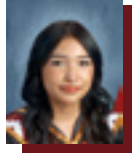
# SIKSIKA NATION HIGH SCHOOL



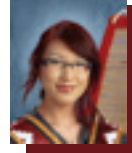
Angelica  
Wells



Dawnella  
Old Woman



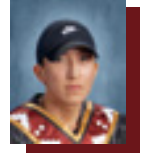
Sadie  
Powderface



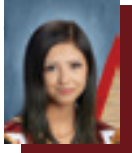
Malaysha  
Many Guns



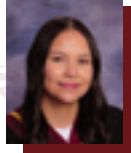
Artina  
McMaster



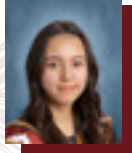
Ainnihki  
Little Light



Aquila  
Blackface-Fox



Angela  
Duck Chief



Tori  
Pantherbone



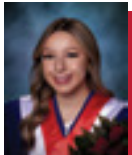
Lee B

LORD BEAVERBROOK  
HIGH SCHOOL

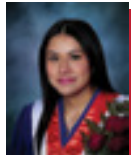


Ariel  
Ayoungman

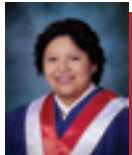
# STRATHMORE HIGH SCHOOL



Emma  
Breaker



Faith  
Breaker



Lynelle  
Running Rabbit



Rayvon  
White Elk



Tearon  
Little Light



Trinity  
Pretty Young  
Man

# SIKSIKA MEDIA

WEBSITE:  
AITSINIKI.COM  
ON THE RADIO:  
CFXX 104.7 FM  
YOUTUBE:  
@SIKSIKAMEDIA146

INSTAGRAM:  
@SIKSIKA\_MEDIA  
FACEBOOK:  
SIKSIKA MEDIA

---

# BLACKFOOT ARTISTS EXPLORING INDIGENOUS FUTURISM

---

Story and photos by Mase Scarlet

**S**avannah Wildcat, also known by her Blackfoot name Mihkisis Sqwew, meaning “Beading Old Lady,” is a 23-year-old artist with a



ton of talent and even more space to grow in her artistic passions. She has done clay-making, such as a Jack Skellington ring holder and a clay gnome ashtray holder. Standout pieces of canvas art she’s made include a vivid purple forest with a spaceship floating above it and a Hello Kitty with a baseball bat. Savannah also has a passion for beading, and she takes custom orders every now and then. She has already created purple Native design earrings, some Betty Boop earrings, as well as porcupine earrings.



“Being creative is what I really enjoy,” Savannah said while explaining how, growing up, there would always be art supplies in her home. That environment led her toward art, teaching herself through YouTube tutorials.

In her art, she has been versatile, and that has helped her stand out. “I like to do a bunch, but when I actually wanted to create a lifestyle with art, it had to be around 2018 with my beading, and canvas in 2020. I started using clay a couple years ago,” Savannah said.

Nation members can find and support Savannah through her Instagram page “@astrosavvarts\_” Her page will always be open for orders and custom pieces.

“Intertwining my name with space seemed like a good idea and a unique way to grow my small business,” Savannah said when explaining her business name.

“I think I’ve grown a lot with my art mentally, physically, and spiritually. It has helped me see the beauty in everything—how to be patient and creative. I’m only getting better, and that makes me want to go even further,” Savannah said.

Another artist who grew up on the Nation and currently has art displayed in a gallery located at Art Commons in Calgary is Brendon

Manybears. What he’s able to do there is create as much art as he wants while being provided with supplies. Currently on display are skateboard artwork, tipis, and digital art.

“I create a lot of my artwork based on blackfoot culture and the stuff I learned growing up,” Brendon said. Having a gallery has given him the chance to work with different art forms, as he primarily works with digital artwork. He’s currently thinking up some ideas for murals in the gallery.

“I grew up watching cartoons like Transformers, and that’s what kind of got me into drawing—whether it be cartoons or video games,” Brendon said.

From there, he took part in archaeology and the 3D scanning of Old Sun, and through that, he got into contact with BCHP to do an exhibit for Chief Crawford in 2020. After that, he started gaining recognition to do more artwork for other organizations—for example, Telus Spark. Some of his personal favorite artwork includes the first skateboard design and a trailer design he made for Cousins Skateboard Community. The gallery occupied by Brendon is open to the public. His art will be displayed until mid-October of this year. He will be working on more art and events to host at the gallery. “If you’re passing by, you’re more than welcome to stop by and check out what I’m working on—or even to say hello. That’d be really nice,” Brendon said.



These two brilliant artists from Siksika Nation are among the many on Siksika pursuing artistic passions. Savannah with a style rooted in funk and space, and Brendon rooted in digital art and Blackfoot culture—but both completely open to all different art forms.

It's important to support artists from Siksika because artists keep making the nation and Calgary a beautiful place to be in. Make sure to check out both of their art whenever you can!

We wish you the best, Brendon and Savannah!

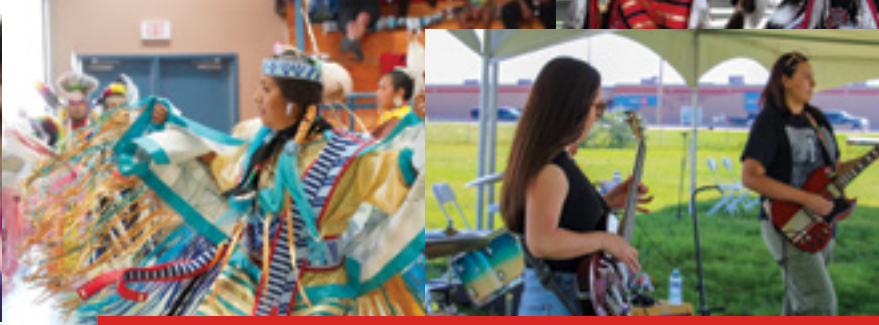


## Proud to be here, for those who came before.

As a member of the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business, Ricoh is proud to support the quest for Truth and Reconciliation with the indigenous Communities of Canada.

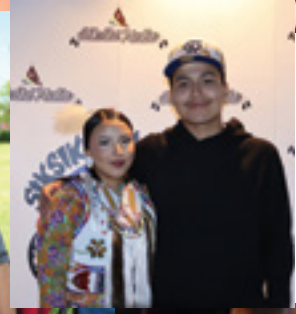
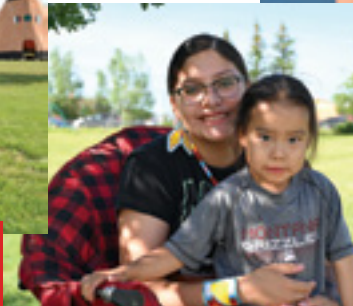
## Nous sommes fiers d'être là pour ceux qui sont venus avant nous.

En tant que membre du Conseil canadien pour l'entreprise autochtone, Ricoh soutient la quête à l'égard de la vérité et de la réconciliation avec les communautés autochtones du Canada.



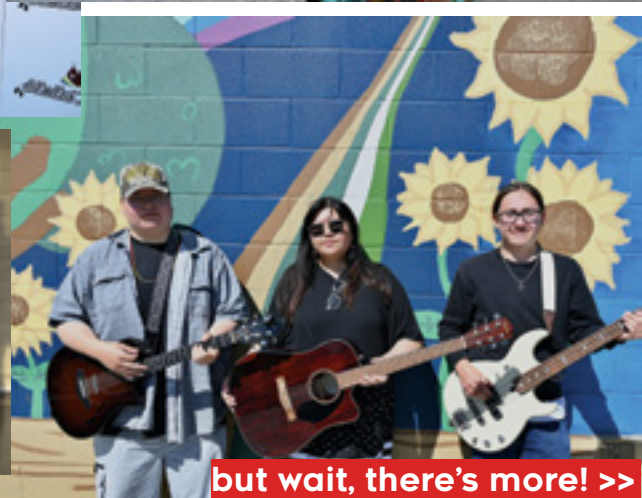
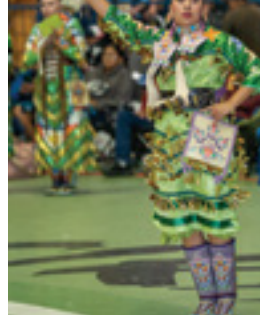
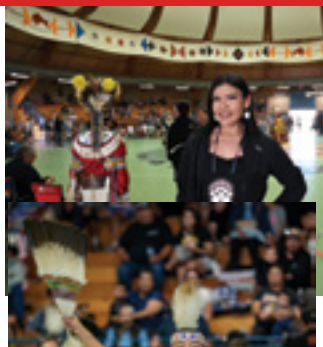
# people, place





photos by Siksika Media

# es and faces



but wait, there's more! >>



# people, places and faces



# CLASSIFIEDS

Fresh Routes market  
Every Tuesday 12.00 - 2.00 PM  
Fresh, healthy and affordable fruits and vegetables and other grocery items  
For more information: [freshroutes.ca](http://freshroutes.ca)

Employment Opportunity  
Communications Officer  
Siksika Resource Center  
Contract  
Develop communication and marketing strategy, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer  
For information: [hrm@siksikafamilyservices.com](mailto:hrm@siksikafamilyservices.com)

Anxiety Management Support Group  
Every Tuesday 5.00 PM - 6.00 PM  
Health & Wellness Service Area  
Deerfoot Sportsplex  
A welcoming space for anyone wanting to learn practical skills for handling anxiety. Come join us in a supportive environment where you can learn, share, and grow together. No registration required - just drop in! Everyone welcome.

Siksika Addictions Program  
NA Meeting  
Thursdays from 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM  
Siksika Health & Wellness Centre  
Contact: 403.734.5687



Employment Opportunity  
Administrative Support Work  
Siksika Children's Services  
Permanent full-time  
Responsible for the development of new files and maintaining efficient, safe and controlled filing system while abiding by Provincial standards. This role is an integral part of the Administration Support Team and works closely with Intervention Generalists.  
For information: [hrm@siksikafamilyservices.com](mailto:hrm@siksikafamilyservices.com)

Employment Opportunity  
Placement Resources Officer  
Siksika Children's Services  
Permanent full-time  
Responsible for monitoring and supporting Caregivers. Responsible for implementation and delivery of the SCSP in accordance to Siksika culture and traditions incorporated by the agency.  
For information: [hrm@siksikafamilyservices.com](mailto:hrm@siksikafamilyservices.com)

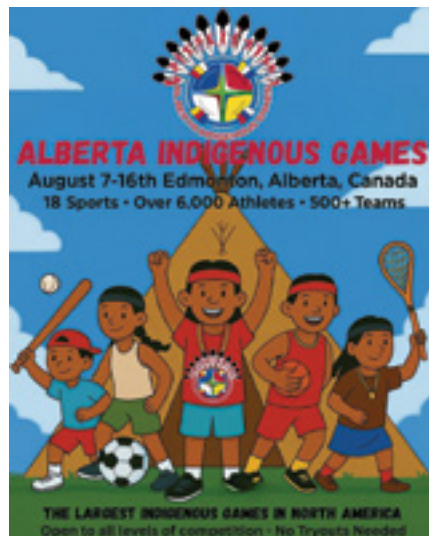
Fatherhood is Sacred  
Thursdays 5.00 PM - 6.00 PM  
Siksika Health Wellness Center  
Contact Siksika Mental Health for info: 403.734.5660

Siksika Addictions Program  
AA Meeting  
Thursdays from 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM  
Siksika Health & Wellness Centre  
Contact: 403.734.5687

Motherhood is Sacred  
Thursdays 5.00 PM - 6.00 PM  
Siksika Health Wellness Center  
Contact Siksika Mental Health for info: 403.734.5660

HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?  
JOB POSTING YOU'D LIKE TO ADVERTISE?  
SEND IT TO US  
[MEDIA@SIKSIKANATION.COM](mailto:media@siksikanation.com)

Employment Opportunity  
Home Maker  
Siksika Home Care  
Responsible for home support to Home Care clients. The Home Maker will develop an individualized plan for each client based on their needs.  
Qualifications: Formal Homemaker or Housekeeper training.  
Current First Aid/CPR training  
For more information: [siksikahealth.com](http://siksikahealth.com)



# SUMMER DRIVE EVENT

2025  
Trax

0.99%  
FINANCING FOR  
UP TO

60  
Months



DAC. Conditions apply. View offer details.

 CHEVROLET

 **STRATHMORE**  
MOTOR PRODUCTS






FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1976

[www.StrathmoreMotors.com](http://www.StrathmoreMotors.com)

OUR LOCATION IS NOW AT THE  
SIKSIKA HEALTH CENTRE

SIKSIKA DENTAL 

FOR HAPPY SMILES  
and all your dental needs



Hours of operation  
9am-4pm  
Monday to Friday

We do digital dentures

**CALL 403-734-3488**