

AITSINIKI

September 2025 • Mo'kaato'si



**CELEBRATING
INDIGENOUS
ARTS**

**HEALTH
& WELLNESS**

**SIKSIKA
NEWS**

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WELCOME

Welcome to the September issue of Aitsiniki. As the leaves begin to change and a new season approaches, we take this moment to reflect on a month filled with growth, pride, and powerful achievements across Siksika Nation.

This past September has been nothing short of inspiring. We've seen individuals from all corners of the community stepping into their strengths – whether through education, culture, sports, leadership, or community service.

These moments of success remind us of the resilience and excellence that lives within our Nation.

As we step into a new school year, this issue of Aitsiniki celebrates those accomplishments while also looking ahead – to learning, to leadership, and to continued growth for all ages. Whether you're returning to the classroom, supporting loved ones in their journey, or continuing your own path of knowledge, we hope these stories uplift and encourage you.

SIKSIKA NATION NEWS

Siksika General Election Notice

The Siksika General Election is scheduled for November 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM at the Siksika Sportsplex Gymnasium. Nominations will take place on November 5, 2025, from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Sportsplex Gymnasium. For more information or questions, please contact Electoral Officer Marvin Yellow Horn at (403) 370-0272.

For those members interested in running in this election, clearance letters from a recognized police service can be obtained starting September 1st until November 5th, 2025.

The local RCMP detachment is

requiring a letter, along with a photo ID, from the Nation that indicates why record checks are being required. These letters can be picked up at the Membership Office. Your clearance letters must be dated from between September 1st to November 5th, 2025, and these letters must be submitted on Nomination Day, along with the required fee, which is \$600 for Chief and \$300 for Council. The RCMP in Gleichen have a cutoff date of October 15th, 2025 for the Records. For individuals who receive a letter stating that they may have a criminal record, they will be required to get an addition fingerprint search - this can now be done online at cps-picunit@

calgarypolice.ca or by calling 403.428.2052. This can also be obtained by going directly to the Calgary Police Service Security Clearance Unit to get an additional clearance letter.

The address is: Security Clearance Unit, 5111 47 St. NE Calgary and the phone number is 403.266.1234.

The Advanced Polling date is set for November 19th, 2025, for anyone who may not be able to make it on the scheduled Election Day. The poll will be open from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. We will also be offering a mail-in ballot service for those members that will not be available to vote on Election Day.

Community Engagement Sessions Upcoming

Siksika Nation Comprehensive Community Plan

The CCP Team is currently planning dates for open house Community Engagement. Dates and locations to be announced, check siksikanation.com for postings.

All Nation members are encouraged to attend and give input on future planning for Siksika. There will be food and refreshments provided, and the chance to win door prizes.

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David Bexte, MP
Bow River

Public Notice: Grass Cutting Service Opportunity

Oki, Siksika Public Works is seeking Nation members who have grass cutting equipment (such as tractors with ditch mowers, brush cutters, etc.) and are interested in assisting with roadside ditch maintenance throughout the community. To support road maintenance, Public Works will be hiring Nation members on a service agreement basis. Agreements will outline the work, equipment requirements, and pay rates. This program is similar to the existing snow removal agreements

but focused on seasonal grass cutting.

How to Apply

If you are a Nation member with the proper equipment and wish to be considered for grass cutting services, please contact:

Jason Solway

Jasons@siksikanation.com Roads Coordinator 403-499-9191

Stacey Strikes with a Gun

Staceyswag@siksikanation.com

Administrative Specialist, Roads and Solid Waste 587-727-0934

Public Works will provide the service agreement and further details. Together, we can keep our roads and ditches safe and well maintained for all Siksika Nation members.

NOW ONLINE

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Siksika Nation News

A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the advertisement.

Lexington ManyHeads

Lexington ManyHeads is a proud member of Siksika Nation and a student at SAIT, currently enrolled in the Business Administration Diploma program with plans to major in Marketing and eventually pursue a degree in Communications.

Lexington has long held a strong interest in photography, videography, and storytelling. She gained early hands-on experience through creative projects with her band, but it was during a recent summer role with Siksika Media & Com-

munications that her passion for media truly deepened. Working on a variety of projects, attending community events, and helping to share meaningful stories gave her both the confidence and clarity to pursue media as a career path.

Outside of her academic and professional pursuits, Lexington is a singer/songwriter and performs in a band called Ekkohs, alongside her brother and her cousin, who is their newest member. Since their debut in May 2024, the group has released original music and per-

formed in cities including Calgary, Lethbridge, and Siksika. In her downtime, Lexington enjoys beading, reading, and spending time with her family.

Lexington is very excited to be starting this new position as a communications specialist and is looking forward to continuing to work with the Media & Communications teams.

Siksika Media's Newest Team Members

Marcus Smith

My name is Marcus Smith, and I am a proud member of the Siksika Nation. I first joined Siksika Media in April 2025 through the Meaningful Futures program at Siksika Employment and Training. During that time, I gained hands-on experience and built a strong foundation in sound engineering and media production. Now stepping into my new role as

a Media Specialist, I'm excited to take on greater responsibilities in supporting community storytelling through radio, audio production, and digital media.

Beyond media, I've been actively involved in the local sports community, volunteering as a DJ at hockey games and tournaments since 2017. This experience has allowed me to

connect with fans and players alike, while also serving as Equipment Manager for the Siksika Buffaloes Senior AA Hockey Club.

I'm passionate about using media as a platform to uplift Indigenous voices and connect with our people through sound and story.

SIKSIKA PUBLIC SAFETY

WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP WITH OPEN HOUSE

Story and photos by Siksika Media

Siksika Public Safety and Justice recently welcomed community members to an open house event designed to inform, engage, and celebrate a new chapter in local justice leadership. The event brought together various departments, elders, youth, and families in a powerful show of community connection and collaboration.

In celebration of this milestone, the open house featured department booths representing the Peace Officers, Security and Dispatchers, Aiskapimohkiiks, Animal Services, Probation, Legal Aid and Siksika Justice and their initiatives within Public Safety and Justice. These interactive displays provided valuable information about programs, supports, and partnerships aimed at building a safer, more resilient Siksika Nation.

One of the event's most meaningful moments came through a presentation led by Siksika Elders and Young Elders, who shared a powerful history of Public Safety in the community. The panel was comprised of Darlene Munro, Eileen Black, Kathleen McHugh and Alvine Eagle Speaker. Their stories not only honored the foundations of the justice system in Siksika but also reminded attendees of the strength and resilience rooted in cultural knowledge and leadership.

The event also introduced the work of the Specialized Victim Support Navigator team led by Waylon Black. This unit is a relatively new initiative created under the leader-

ship of Tracy Manyheads. This team supports victims of crime through every stage of the justice system, providing emotional support, system navigation, and a trauma-informed approach to care. The current team working under Waylon Black includes:

Eileen Black - Senior Victim Support Worker

Delray Yellow Old Woman - Youth Navigator (Young Adult Males)

Hope Manyheads Fox - Youth Navigator (Young Adult Females)

In addition to direct victim support, the team is active across multiple justice programs, including youth camps, community outreach, and cultural initiatives—often serving as

a “jack-of-all-trades” crew within the division.

The open house served as a meaningful opportunity to reconnect, learn, and move forward together. Most importantly, it was a celebration of growth and leadership—honoring the past, engaging the present, and looking ahead to a stronger future under the guidance of Public Safety and Justice Manager Kyley Melting Tallow.

Siksika Public Safety extends its gratitude to all who attended and contributed to making the event a success.





Walking With the Buffalo Within

HEALING THE COMMUNITY

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Siksika and its members are very strong and proud people. Culture has been deeply rooted in the Blackfoot way of life through stories, connecting, visiting, tradition, and ceremonies. The Walking With the Buffalo Within (WWBW) program reflects these values, assisting individuals from Siksika to heal and focus on the positive aspects of their lives, rather than the trauma they may have experienced. This program is facilitated and created by Pam Sitting Eagle, who holds two degrees, BCC/BEEd. A Nation member who is using the WWBW to plant a seed, replacing intergenerational trauma with healing.

From September 8-10, 2025, Pam hosted the meaningful program at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, bringing in a group of 12 elders. Throughout the course of the

three days, the elders participated in several presentations, cultural activities, and teachings. They were introduced to a number of traditional practices, which included cultural stories, roles of societies in Siksika, and efforts to revive the cultural tradition of visiting in Siksika.

One highlight of the program's activities was hands-on crafting. Here, each participant crafted a small buffalo from leather - not only representing the buffalo's sacredness in Siksika culture but also representing the name and the motivation of the program. The buffalo traditionally always move forward and don't stray from the path they are leading. In turn, they don't avoid their path no matter what is in it. Even if there is a storm, the buffalo will always go into it, which is why the program is called Walking With the Buffalo

Within.

To conclude the WWBW program, each elder was given a certificate and gifts, and afterwards shared how much this impacted them, by taking them on a self-journey of reflection and forgiveness. With each shared story, one topic arose, which was the love for family and that this program is needed for Siksika's younger generation.

In turn, this was an amazing program put together by Pam Sitting Eagle. The goal of the program was to guide participants on a personal journey, encouraging them to share their stories and use Blackfoot culture as a tool to support healing of the mind, body, and spirit. This is very important for Siksika, as it helps bring healing to the community.

LEARNING THE ART OF BEADING

Story by Lexington ManyHeads photo by Mase Scarlet

Indigenous Rising Treaty 7 hosted a beautiful Beading Workshop on August 28th at the Community Wide Resource Centre in Calgary!

Led by the incredible Laura Asham, the evening was filled with creativity, connection, and culture alongside amazing participants like Disa Crowchief, Kaylei Crosschild, and Jordynn Wadworth-Smith.

A huge thank you to Tyra and Jacie for bringing this gathering together—it wouldn't have been possible without you.

Laura Asham Shared : "I've been beading since I was seven years old. I started doing tack down what I'm showing the ladies, I was taught by my mom the late Donna Calf, and I've been beading ever since, and I've been showing a lot of youth throughout the years and I really enjoyed showing my skill and what I've been taught and my gift, because I think that's a gift. Thank you."

Tyra Crosschild Shared : "what I liked about today is that this is our first hangout of the of the summer. IRT7 is back and running, so I'm really excited to have a beading hang out as our first one. I'm excited for



regular programming to start. We are hoping to have one professional development day and one hangout a month so if anyone's interested, you can contact me."

Belated Thank you

Oh, I wanted to reach out and apologize for the delayed thank you, life got incredibly busy, but I genuinely want to share the following:

A year ago it was a life time experience to qualify for the IWR 2024 (Indian National Finals Rodeo) in Las Vegas, Nevada. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to everyone. First to our creator "Apitotoki" for the many blessings he has given me, to my family and friends for their prayers, and for their monetary assistance.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some people for their extended help, to my sons Hailey and Kenneth and their families, to my sisters Jackie and Dyan for their support and the awesome job they did to ensure I got to Las Vegas, to my friends Rupert Arcand, Jack Royal, Keith Three Sams, Leroy Wolf Collar & Family, Dr. Deb Crowfoot, Marvin Galing, and brother-in-law Romeo Crow Chief, and to everyone that contributed to the fund-raising projects, to my major sponsors Siksa Agriculture Society and Siksa Treasury department, and finally to my team-roping partner, Jesse Starlight from Tsuu T'ina Nation for his excellent job at the finals.

Each year it's every cowboy's dream to qualify for the world IWR final. The year 2024 was my very first time qualifying. I would like to also mention, during the parade of Nations Flags, it was a great honor to carry the Siksa Nation Flag. Although we didn't win a gold buckle but the experience was worth it, I will never forget this experience.

This year the IWR is scheduled for October 14 to 18, 2025 in Las Vegas. I didn't rodeo this year, however, to all the Canadian Indian Rodeo Contestants who qualified, good luck and all the best at the IWR.

Thank you again to all of you for being a part of this experience. I am so grateful beyond words, no one achieves success without the help of others. Once again, please accept my wholehearted gratitude and appreciation. May God bless you all.

Yours in Rodeo,
Ron Many Heads,
"Yonah Siksika" (Happy Rider)

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Studying in Calgary? Find Support at the Natoysoyoyiis and Writing Symbols Lodges

Story and photos by Jayson Black Kettle

As summer concludes, students of all ages return to school, including adults and recent graduates pursuing post-secondary education. For Indigenous students coming to study in Calgary, returning to school often means identifying safe spaces that support their academic and cultural needs.

At the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, the Natoysoyoyiis Lodge provides a safe space for Indigenous students to study and connect. At the University of Calgary, students gather at the Writing Symbols Lodge, where they find a supportive place to study together. Both lodges offer more than study space—many events, including prayers and teachings by elders, take place throughout the semester. Elly YellowHorse serves as the Indigenous wellness support coordinator at SAIT. She provides holistic support—everything from food access to laptops—for students who need it. She recalled helping a student secure a refurbished laptop. “It helped him so much,” she said. “He ended up passing his third year.”

Natoysoyoyiis also offers free tutoring in subjects such as math and science—areas YellowHorse says students frequently need extra help in.

YellowHorse described the unique challenges Indigenous students face, particularly those transitioning from reserve communities.

She recounted the experience of a

student from the Northwest Territories who came to Calgary for an eight-week apprenticeship. Feeling isolated and disconnected from her family, the student approached YellowHorse, expressing a need for support: “I just, like, need some support right now.”

Similarly, at the University of Calgary, Indigenous students find community and support through the Writing Symbols Lodge.

Shalise Olivier, a Siksika stu-



Olivier grew up in Calgary, but she said she—and cohorts who came from reserves and attended ISAP together—found comfort in shared cultural ties.

She bonded with peers who shared similar cultural backgrounds, which boosted her confidence as she navigated the university campus.

dent pursuing a combined degree in commerce and science, formerly attended the Indigenous Student Access Program (ISAP).

She frequently studied at the Writing Symbols Lodge, where she found comfort in shared cultural practices. Before exams or to begin a new day, she would smudge there: “There’s a place to smudge and start fresh.”

“I felt a little disconnected from my culture,” she added. Meeting others in the lodge helped open up her eyes to her own culture, becoming more interested as she noted the similarities in her peers’ traditions. YellowHorse encourages Indigenous students arriving in Calgary to connect with support early. “We’re a holistic approach, just walk in for anything, from academics to mental.”

CELEBRATING LYNDEN TURNING ROBE

INDIGENOUS INTERNSHIP WITH THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Submitted by Blackfoot
Crossing Historical Park



It is with great pride and heartfelt support that we share exciting news!! one of our own, Lynden Turning Robe, has been selected for a 9-month Indigenous Internship Program with the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, where he will serve as a Museum Curator Intern.

Lynden's journey with us began as a summer student, where his dedication, curiosity, and passion for culture quickly set him apart. He grew into a trusted guide and an outstanding intern, excelling in every role he embraced. As a youth interpreter, his energy and deep respect left a lasting impact, resonating with Siksika Elders and visitors from across the world.

While his presence will be greatly missed, we are filled with pride as he takes this important step forward. Creating opportunities for our youth

to learn, lead, and carry our culture forward is a cornerstone of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park's mission, and Lynden's story is a shining reflection of that vision in action.

We, like eagles, watch his flight with pride and strength, and we will be here, wings open, when it is time for his return.

We wish Lynden every success on this exciting new journey.

Shannon Bear Chief

SAKO'YI PO 'OTAKI

Chief Executive Officer

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

SKATE NIGHT WITH COUSINS SKATEBOARDING

Story and photos by Lexington ManyHeads

Cousins Skateboarding hosted a skateboarding event open to all ages and skill levels on Tuesday, September 16th. Held at the outdoor rink near the Deerfoot Sportsplex, the event provided a fun and supportive environment for both new and experienced skateboarders.

Free skateboarding lessons were available throughout the session, led by experienced instructors.

All necessary equipment – including boards, helmets,

and safety pads – was provided at no cost. Open skate sessions allowed participants to practice, connect, and build confidence on their boards.

The event aimed to make skateboarding more accessible, promote physical activity, and bring the local skate community together. A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it a success! Stay connected with Cousins Skateboarding for updates on upcoming events, programs, and community initiatives.





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EMPOWERING A NEW GENERATION OF BLACKFOOT LEADERS



The Siksika Men's Warrior Program is making a powerful impact within the community, becoming a transformative space for Siksika men to reconnect with their culture, embrace healthy lifestyles, and take on roles as protectors and leaders. What began as a small pilot project with just two participants has now grown into one of the most popular and respected programs for Blackfoot men in Siksika Nation.

This year marked a significant milestone for the program. Over 50 participants attended the first session—an impressive leap from its humble beginnings. With such growth and ongoing demand, the program has now become an annual event, drawing more and more men who are eager to learn, connect, and grow.

Led and coordinated by Frank Sitting Eagle Sr., the program has flourished under his tireless dedication. Frank works relentlessly to ensure that each participant receives the full benefit of what the Men's Warrior Program has to offer—culturally, mentally, and physically. The first session of the year was held in the park across from the Siksika Nation Tribal Administration Building (Band Office). Participants were welcomed with an overview of the program's structure and objectives, emphasizing that the program is designed to help and empower them—but that it also requires commitment and respect for its rules. To build camaraderie, participants

Story and photos by
Tyrone Sitting Eagle

engaged in a variety of icebreaker activities. One particularly memorable game involved a version of “telephone”—except instead of words, participants passed along three physical actions to the person in front of them. The challenge was for the last person in the line to replicate the original actions, often with hilarious and bonding results.

Held every Wednesday and Thursday, the program includes a wide range of activities such as fitness sessions, keynote speakers, cultural teachings, field trips, and more. A key sign of the program’s success is the number of returning participants—men who have graduated from previous years but choose to return to continue their journey and support others.

These returning participants form a strong brotherhood, fostering one of Frank Sitting Eagle Sr.’s primary goals: unity. Through this bond, many men have found a renewed sense of identity and belonging, rooted in Siksikaitsitapi values. Over the past several years, the Siksika Men’s Warrior Program has proven to be a remarkable success. It’s not just about physical health—it’s about spiritual healing, cultural revitalization, and empowering Siksika men to reclaim and embrace their roles as Blackfoot warriors in the modern world.



Leading the Class

A New Generation of Teachers

By Mase Scarlet

Tannis Broad Scalplock is a first-time teacher at Chief Old Sun School for the 2025–2026 year. She is a mother of three and has two grandchildren. She first left the Nation in August 2018 with her son and husband to attend the University of Lethbridge. The three of them lived in a tiny shoebox apartment right up until COVID hit. With the lingering fears of the pandemic and a new baby, the family decided to return home to Siksika, where they continued classes online. After 18 months, university classes returned to in-person format, so in August 2021 they moved back to Lethbridge, where she and her family remained until she and her husband graduated on May 30, 2025.

“Being a first-time teacher is nerve-wracking, yet very rewarding,” Tannis expressed, “but I have a good support system of coworkers that support and guide me, especially Melodie Hunt. She’s kind of been my mentor, you know, through this, and I really appreciate everything that she’s doing for me and helping me figure things out as I go,” Tannis said.

Before deciding to become a teacher, she had a history of working in the schools as an Educational Assistant (EA), first at Chief Old Sun, then at Siksika Nation High School as a receptionist, and back to an EA at Siksika Outreach, where she worked for seven years, which led her to want to help her community in any way she could. For a brief moment, ideas swirled around about career options, with addictions counselling

and social work at the top, but then she thought about how important it is to be there at the early stages of someone’s life.

“You want to be there at the beginning, you know, when your child is still developing and growing, so that you can take, I guess, preventative measures and really help them to know that there’s more to life than the boundaries of the reserve. To help them understand that the world is literally in their palms and that they have the power to do anything they want, if they have the right support,” Tannis said.

She’s currently teaching Grades 5 and 6 Language Arts, Health, and Art. Originally, she planned to teach at Outreach, but she is very happy about being placed at Chief Old Sun. “We’re a week in, and the kids here are amazing. The staff here are awesome, and it’s like a little family environment—a good team. I can see that everybody is devoted to the kids of our community,” Tannis said.

One of Tannis’s strengths as a teacher is building strong relationships with students to help with student retention. “They want to come in, and they want to see you, and they want to tell you their whole life story—you know, like what they did this weekend, or if they got a new puppy, something like that. Having that relationship with each of the students individually is really, really one of my strengths,” Tannis said.

Chief Old Sun School and Tan-

nis Broad Scalplock have a clear devotion to raising the children of our community, keeping them safe, and letting them know there are no limits to what they can achieve. Thank you!



SIKSIKA'S STORY OF STRENGTH & SURVIVAL AND THE LEGACY OF TREATY 7

By Shilo Clark

When people talk about Treaty 7, they often focus on the date, September 22, 1877, and the place, Blackfoot Crossing. But for Siksika, it's much more than a page in the history books. It's a story carried in our families, our language, and of course our land. It's a reminder of what was promised, what was taken, and how we've held on through it all. When our ancestors signed Treaty 7, they weren't giving away the land. They were thinking about the survival of the people at a time when the buffalo were gone, and change was closing in fast. They signed with the understanding that this was a sacred agreement, and a way to share and move forward together. But instead of partnership, we faced broken promises. The Indian Act limited our freedoms, residential schools tore at our families, and much of our territory was taken away. Still, through all of that, Siksika people have continued to carry out our ways, our songs, and our identity. Even in the hardest times, our elders protected what makes us who we are. They passed down language, ceremonies, and teachings, at times, when it wasn't even safe to do so. That resilience is why today, our youth can sit in language classes, join cultural camps, and proudly say, "I am Siksikaitsitapi!" We've also fought to reclaim what was lost. Over a century ago in

1910, Canada illegally took 115,000 acres of lands provided to Siksika. In 2022, our Nation reached a \$1.3 billion land settlement, the largest in Alberta's history. While no amount can replace the land or undo the past, it was a recognition of the strength of our people and the persistence of our leadership. The legacy of Treaty 7 is part of our everyday lives, but it doesn't define us only by struggle. It also shows our ability to rise again and again. Today, Siksika is building support facilities, protecting our language, and raising strong leaders for the future. At Blackfoot Crossing, where the treaty was signed, you can feel both



the weight of history and the pride of survival. The story of Treaty 7 reminds us all from Siksika, that we are still here, we are still strong, and we are still Siksikaitsitapi.





LIFE IN ART

CREATING AND UNMAKING

By Mase Scarlet

Raven Manyguns, a 35-year-old tattoo artist from Siksika, has been employed at Dark Dimensions Tattoo Shop in Calgary. Her parents are Aaron and Dale Manyguns. She has been tattooing professionally for five years, but she has been doing stick-and-poke tattoos since the age of 16. Her first tattoo on someone was a tiny heart using a stick-and-poke kit bought at a tattoo convention she attended. Raven also expressed that going to tattoo conventions is a great way to find the best tattoo artists out there that you can respect and for sourcing the best tattoo artist for anyone interested in getting a tattoo.

Working at Dark Dimensions Tattoos, Raven had this to say about the work environment: “Everybody there is really wholesome and humble. They’re very kind, and it is a non-abrasive environment. It’s very safe; it’s a safe place. So, I enjoy that aspect of working at Dimensions, and the owner is very driven and

motivated to always do better in his own art and with the shop,” Raven said.

Art has held a special place in her life from an early age. Two distinctive memories that stand out are drawing outside her yard in Little Chicago and visiting AUArts with her dad. She remembers walking around the school, amazed by everyone’s work—especially the glass-blowing shop.

Raven’s three favorite things about being a tattoo artist are: seeing how happy people get when receiving a tattoo and how it makes them more comfortable in their own skin; the fact that there’s no limit to how far one can go artistically in tattooing; and finally, that there is always room for growth. Looking back at where she started professionally five years ago excites her to see where she’ll be in the next five years.

“I know when I get a tattoo, it makes me happy in my skin. Another favorite part about tattooing is there’s no ceiling to how far you can go artistically, because it just keeps evolving. The art in tattooing keeps going—there’s no end to it. There are so many different artists in the world, but specifically in tattooing, it’s fun to know that I have so much more potential to reach. I feel like I just started when I began professionally five years ago,” Raven said.

One of her past art projects involved taking a window from the nuns’ convent at Crowfoot Residential School and transforming it into a glass bowl. “I was kind of taking every bad thought that those nuns had towards the kids and towards the people of the Nation. I burned them out and let them free—those thoughts into the universe to be changed into something positive,” Raven said.

Another successful conceptual

“IT’S FUN TO KNOW THAT I HAVE SO MUCH MORE POTENTIAL TO REACH”



sculpture she created involved taking discarded books from around the city, ripping them apart, blending them into pulp, and turning them into sheets. The sheets grew wider as they were suspended upward, with light shining from the top to pay homage to the ancient trees that existed before colonialism. This piece was featured at the Bass Coast Music Festival in B.C. “It’s called Ghost Stories, and it was giving those books a life and a chance to touch people, because that tree died for those books, and those books would never, ever reach anybody again. So it was like giving those trees a last influence on humanity—and then I burned it,” Raven said.

A memorable tattoo for Raven was a portrait of Edward Scissorhands, which gave her the confidence to fully believe in herself and her tattoo journey. “If you want to do something and you actually have the talent to do it—even if you’re scared and don’t think you can—you just have to live by the motto fake it till you make it. That’s basically what I did, and I got to where I am now,” Raven said. Thank you!



From Siksika to the Runway: Tayla Sleigh's Journey in Indigenous Fashion

By Andrew Breaker

Tayla Sleigh, 20 years old and from Siksika Nation, is making her mark in the world of Indigenous fashion. She currently works at Siksika Head-Start and hopes to one day become a teacher for early learners. Tayla is the daughter of Gina and Ken Healy, her biological father is the late Justin McMaster, and her grandparents are Flora Sleigh and Louis Auger.

Alongside her career goals, Tayla has stepped into the spotlight as a model for Indigenous fashion shows, proudly showcasing the designs of talented Indigenous designers.

“The way these events are handled are through in person attendance, but for those who cannot attend you can access them through live streams, social media, post-event recordings or photos,”
Tayla on accessibility at Indigenous fashion events

Tayla first began modeling this year. Her debut show was on June 21, 2025, for Authenticity Indigenous at REZ IN THE CITY. After filling out an application, she was selected to participate – and it opened the door to something she has always loved.

“It was such a wonderful experience walking for the designers Prettywindydesigns, Tracy Toulouse, and Tishna Marlowe. Modelling with everyone and gaining experience, learning about all the Indigenous Fashion. Growing up I liked to express myself creatively through Fashion and Dancing, I started dancing about eight years ago and



comes from her family. “What inspires me is my family, they have supported me endlessly, and I’ll forever be grateful for them. My late brother and late dad will always hold a special place in my heart, and what keeps me going is knowing that they are always watching



enjoyed it, also travelling to powwows. I always loved fashion and now being able to model for Indigenous designers has been such an amazing opportunity”
Tayla on her first steps into modeling

Indigenous fashion shows are growing in popularity worldwide. Tayla’s most recent show took place in Lethbridge on September 12, 2025, where she modeled for Native Diva Creations and Rita Atkinson.

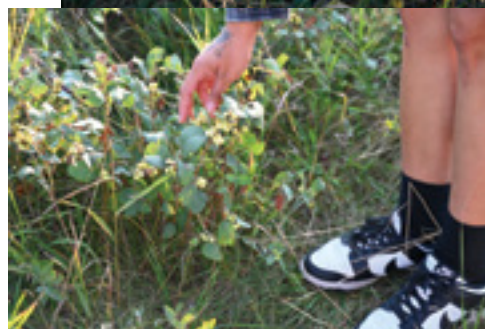
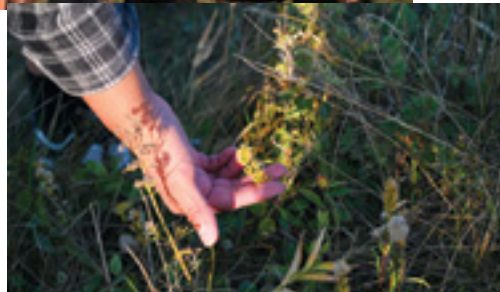
She was especially moved by the beauty of their designs, which tell powerful stories of Indigenous culture and creativity. Looking ahead, Tayla is preparing to model at the upcoming Indigenous Fashion Show at the Galt Museum on September 28, 2025. She says she’s excited to meet all the designers and models who will be part of the event.

For Tayla, her biggest inspiration

me and my family. My advice for the youth and others is to always go after what you love, to work hard, and when you face obstacles in life, never give up, and most importantly, always stay true to yourself!”
Tayla on her motivation and message to youth.

Congratulations to Tayla Sleigh on her accomplishments so far. Siksika is proud of you and the path you are walking – keep it up and never give up on your dreams!

Getting Sacred Exploring Native Plants of Treaty 7



Story by Lexxington ManyHeads

photos by Mase Scarlet

Indigenous Rising Treaty 7 hosted a beautiful plant walk with Tessa Wolfleg on September 11 at Nose Hill Park! From 5-7 pm, we shared food, stories, and Tessa's amazing knowledge in such a welcoming environment.

A big thank you to Tyra Crosschild and Jacie Alook for putting this together!

Keep an eye on IRT7 socials for more team-building hangouts – open to youth ages 16-30 and always a good time!

Tessa Wolfleg Shared: "I really enjoyed yesterday and I'm really thankful for those who came out to learn about the knowledge that I did share. I hope that people learned from what I shared. And you know, this is something that I'm still learning and perfecting it. I don't hold all the knowledge on these things, but I'm grateful to share this knowledge with the com-

munity when I'm able to and it's such a great honor to do and to also do this for like my community and stuff. I think we're at a time where knowledge like this should be shared amongst our people and passed down whatever way that it can be. And yeah, I'm so grateful for the opportunity. I am grateful for everyone that came out and you know, I really hope that everyone learned something from this walk, even if it was just to find a new place to walk but yeah, um, overall thankful for this opportunity."

Winter-Rose Asham Shared: "I really enjoyed the walk we did and what we learned from Tessa. I think it's important that we have group hangouts like this to reconnect with nature and to learn more about our traditional uses for plants and medicines. I learned a lot from Tessa's knowledge and I am very grateful that I was able to experience it."

Thank You

Oh, on September 13, 2025, at the Siksika Pilseepi Pow-Wow Arbo, the Many Bears family honored our late grandfather, Lynden Many Bears and our descendants. We are very blessed and are truly thankful for this opportunity to honor our loved ones.

The Many Bears Family would like to express our appreciation to our sponsors, family, and friends who donated and who volunteered their time to help make our pow-wow a huge success.

Our pow-wow had 120 dancers, 13 vendors, 5 drum groups, and a lot of great competition dancing. A big thank you to our Master of Ceremonies, Eldon Wasel Chief.

We would like to acknowledge the sponsors for our pow-wow, and we are very appreciative and very thankful for their generous sponsorship and donation:

- Siksika Band Ensigns, Truly White Fly
- Siksika Chief and Council
- Siksika Traditional Medicine, Siksika Health Services
- Siksika Justice Department
- Roman Cross Chief
- Jack Royal
- Custom Woodstock-Running Rabbit
- Robin Big Trees
- Lisa Cecilia ManyHeads-Children (Lana, Ron, Eben, Arlene, Jackie)
- Lisa Many Bears-Dotul & Family
- Sharon Little Leaf
- Tyler & Krista White

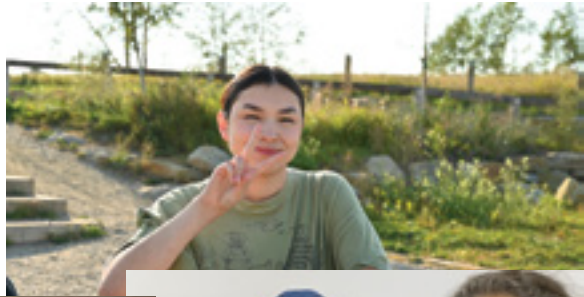
HONORING OUR ANCESTORS
LYNDEN MANY BEARS' DESCENDANTS MEMORIAL COMPETITION POW-WOW
SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
1:00pm - 8:00pm
1000 West 10th Street, Calgary, Alberta

REGISTRATION:
 • \$10.00 for Adults (18+)
 • \$5.00 for Youth (13-17)
 • \$2.00 for Children (5-12)
 • \$1.00 for Seniors (65+)

ADMISSION:
 • \$5.00 for Adults (18+)
 • \$2.50 for Youth (13-17)
 • \$1.00 for Children (5-12)
 • \$0.50 for Seniors (65+)

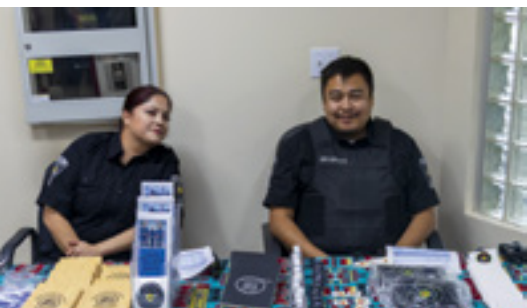
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
 • All proceeds go to the Lynden Many Bears Family.
 • All donations are appreciated.
 • All proceeds go to the Lynden Many Bears Family.
 • All donations are appreciated.

LYNDEN MANY BEARS
"SINOPOTOKAN"
DESCENDANTS MEMORIAL COMPETITION POW-WOW
HONORING OUR ANCESTORS



photos by Siksika Media

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

Employment Opportunity
 Siksika Family Services Corporation
 Accounts Payable Clerk
 Permanent - Full Time
 Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to: familyserviceshrm@siksikafamilyservices.com



FEAR-LESS ANXIETY MANAGEMENT Support Group

This support group is open to everyone! No need for registration.

Our goal is to help individuals learn about anxiety, and how to incorporate stress reducing techniques to help learn anxiety management skills.

Every TUESDAY until Dec 16th from 5 - 6 pm

Mental Health & Wellness Service Area
 Hosted by Registered Psychologist Adrienne Stinson and Registered Professional Counsellor, Heidi Ford-Cook

FOR TRANSPORTATION OR INFORMATION
 Please Call: 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**



POST SECONDARY GRAD POWWOW
 October 4, 2025 Gordon Yellowfly Memorial Arbor

12:00PM GRAND ENTRY TRADITIONAL POWWOW

INFORMATION

- Places 1-4 in each category paid
- Drummers invite only

ARENA DIRECTOR
 Eddie Wolf Child

EMCEE
 Dorian Wood Child

CATEGORIES

- Men's
- Women's
- Youth
- Children

Employment Opportunity
 Siksika Prevention - Aikaayi'saapi Prevention Support Worker
 Permanent - Full Time
 Post-secondary education with acceptable specialization relevant to work
 Knowledge of Siksika culture and traditions
 Minimum 2 years recent relevant experience
 Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to: familyserviceshrm@siksikafamilyservices.com



Aitsi'poyiiksi Blackfoot Language Symposium 2025

THEME: Aasopowatsistotoohsao'p (Preparing Ourselves)

October 14, 15, & 16 2025
 9AM - Registration

**Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge,
 320 Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge, AB**

Registration Fee: General Public—\$50.00, Seniors (65+)—No charge, First 250 Registered Accepted, Hotel Rooms At Own Expense

Hosted by: Aitsi'poyiiksi Committee, Sponsors: Blood Tribe Chief & Council, Blood Tribe Social Development

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED DAILY

Registration contact: Wilkie Creighton (307) 320-4892 or Lealey BTRN (403) 737-8660



Siksika Nation Fair 2026 CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We're looking for passionate volunteers to take the lead in organizing the Siksika Nation Fair 2026. The following areas need dedicated volunteers:

- Parade & Vendor
- Princess Pageant
- Round Games

Role Overview:
 4 hours will be responsible for planning and coordinating these signature events. Strong organizational skills, budgeting experience, and the ability to manage large-scale activities are important for success in this role.

How to Apply:
 If you're ready to be part of this exciting opportunity, please send a letter of interest to volunteers@siksikanation.com. More details can be found at siksikanationfair.com. Deadline to apply September 30th, 2025.

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

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

Employment Opportunity
 Old Sun Community College
 Siksika Knowledge Coordinator
 2 year term
 Assigned to serve as administrator, student advisor, course instructor and staff supervisor for the Siksika Knowledge program.
 Completion of an accredited Master of Education (or relevant degree)
 Extensive experience in curriculum and resource development
 Proposal and grant writing capabilities
 Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to rhonday.healy@oldsuncollege.ca

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

2025 TRAILBLAZER

0.99% FOR UP TO 60
FINANCING MONTHS

+



ELIGIBLE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVE A
\$1,200 BONUS*
ON ELIGIBLE MODELS
\$1,000 BONUS* FOR NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

OAC. Conditions apply. View offer details.



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