

# AITSI NI KI

October 2025 • Iitamiksitsiko



**SIKSIKA  
NATION  
YOUTH**

**ARTS &  
CULTURE**

**SIKSIKA  
NEWS**



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# AIT SINIKI MAGAZINE

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## WELCOME

Welcome to the October Issue of Aitsiniki Magazine!

As the autumn leaves fall and the air grows crisp, we're excited to share our October edition with you! This month, our team had an incredible time capturing the spirit of the Halloween season across Siksika – from community events to creative costumes and festive fun, there was no shortage of spooky excitement.

As we turn the page into November, we also prepare to honor and remember those who have served and sacrificed

for our freedom. With Remembrance Day approaching, we encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect and give thanks.

We hope you enjoy this month's stories, photos, and highlights – and as always, thank you for reading Aitsiniki Magazine.

*Editor's note:*

*The cover of the September issue featured Tessa Wolfleg, photographed by Mase Scarlet. We apologize for omitting the credit.*

# SIKSIKA NATION NEWS

## Siksika Nation Membership Department December Distribution Notice

Distribution will take place  
December 3rd, 2025: Piiksapi  
Memorial Arbour  
Siksika, AB  
9.00 am - 6.00 pm

December 4th, 2025: Best Western  
Premier 1316 33rd Street NE  
Calgary, AB  
9.00 am - 6.00 pm

Forms will be available on the  
Siksika Membership webpage.  
You can email or apply in person  
at any of the direct deposit intake  
locations. Each adult member will  
receive \$1,320.00 and minors will

receive \$660.00

Direct deposit info:  
All parents are required to complete  
Parent Receipt forms during  
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Banking information must be  
current to avoid any delays in  
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com

DOWNLOAD FORMS AND FIND MORE  
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PROCESS AT THE LINK



## Ma'tapiiks Trust Survey Re-Launch

The First Nation Addition to Reserve (ATR) process in Canada is a way for First Nations to add land to their existing reserves. This process helps First Nations expand their land base for housing, economic development, and cultural purposes.

Siksika Nation is seeking community input for other land acquisitions. Siksika Nation members are invited to complete the surveys below - all members are welcome to complete each of the surveys listed; questions are specific to various demographics, but relate to us all. And please visit <https://siksikanation.com/siksika-trust/> for more information about Addition to Reserve, Land Acquisition following a Land Claim Settlement, and the distinction between the two.

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# Nathan Leather's Family Releases Statement

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

In the early hours of December 25th, 2022, at the Husky Truck Stop in Strathmore, Alberta, RCMP responded to an altercation involving Siksika Nation member Nathan Leather, who was shot several times by two members of the RCMP, resulting in his death.

On October 10th, 2025, the family of Nathan gave a statement in front of the Tribal Administration building in Siksika, on the investigation and decision conducted by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) who have been investigating this incident since 2022.

In the family's statement, it outlined what occurred during the incident and that "there were reasonable grounds to believe that an offense was committed by the subject officers." However, under Alberta's Police Act, ASIRT can only investigate such matters and was recommended to forward its findings to the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service. The Crown ultimately decided not to lay charges against any of the RCMP officers involved in the incident.

In their statement, the family of Nathan expressed deep disappointment in the decision, as well as concern about the circumstances surrounding his death. They emphasized "that he was not just another individual involved in an incident," and stated that the ASIRT report made Nathan look like a troubled individual – when in reality, Nathan had a full life, a loving family, and many friends who cared deeply for him. They wanted to make it clear that he was a father, a husband, a relative, and a community member – not just a statistic in a police report. The family also spoke about their unwavering love for Nathan, and

how devastated they were to learn that there would not be any charges laid.

"On October 8th, almost 3 years later, ASIRT finally released their 55-page

report including the brutal death of Nathan Leather, on December 25th, 2022. This report goes into detail on how the incident unfolded, but it did not indicate how many times he was shot," said Melissa Leather Dixon, spokesperson for the family, who spoke to the media on October 10th, 2025.

Melissa further pointed out how the number of shots was not revealed in the official report, saying, "The details only came out when a witness across the highway posted a video on social media."

The family also expressed how much Nathan cared for his children – how he always went above and beyond, taking them on big trips to places like Disneyland, buying them gifts, teaching them, and loving them unconditionally. His daughter, Lanaya Leather, also gave a statement, expressing her grief over the circumstances, and remembering her father's kindness and presence in their lives.

She stated, "My dad was so kind hearted, he was always there for me and my siblings, he taught me how



to ride horses, he taught me how to skate and raised me to be respectful. He was always there for us... up until December 25th, 2022. When they took him away from us."

Nathan and his wife also raised Jayden, Chase, and Chance Leather as their own sons – loving and caring for them no differently. His children were the center of his world. Leather was also widely known in the community for his athleticism and his dedication to youth. He excelled in baseball, golf, and hockey, and played with the Siksika Buffaloes Senior A hockey team. He also gave back as a coach and mentor, including leading a Siksika minor hockey bantam team to the Alberta Native Provincial Championship.

Although he struggled with addiction, his family says, "he never stopped working toward recovery". He turned to faith and prayer, including participating in a cursillo spiritual retreat in Tsuu'tina, and continuously sought peace and healing in his life. He will be remembered for his contributions to the community and will be deeply missed by family and friends.

# NO TRESPASSING

## CHARGE MOVES THROUGH SIKSIKA COURTS

**THIS CASE MARKS A HISTORIC FIRST FOR SIKSIKA NATION THE FIRST TIME THE NATION HAS PROSECUTED AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER ITS OWN BYLAWS, INDEPENDENT OF PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION**

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

**O**n March 16, 2025, Canadian blogger and Senior Alberta Columnist Cory Morgan posted a 19-minute video on YouTube titled “A Critical Tour of a Canadian Prairie Indigenous Reserve.” The video quickly circulated on social media and drew concern from Siksika Nation members who viewed it.

In a statement released by Siksika Nation on March 21, the Nation confirmed that Morgan had not obtained the proper authorization to film within Siksika territory. As a result, Siksika Nation Protective Services issued Morgan two \$1,000 trespassing tickets on April 9, 2025.

A court appearance was later held on October 16, 2025, at Siksika Nation Court to set a plea hearing date. Morgan was not personally present; however, his legal counsel appeared virtually on his behalf. The plea hearing is scheduled for November 20, 2025.

This case marks a historic first for Siksika Nation – the first time the Nation has prosecuted an individual under its own bylaws, independent of provincial jurisdiction. Because the incident occurred on Siksika’s private lands, the matter is being handled entirely by Siksika’s own prosecution team, not by provincial prosecutors.

The ability for Siksika Nation to

create and enforce its own bylaws stems from its inherent and Treaty rights, affirmed under Treaty 7 (1877) and recognized within the Indian Act of 1876. Together, these instruments provide Siksika the legal authority to govern and regulate matters within its lands.

On November 22, 2021, Siksika Chief and Council, in coordina-



tion with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, passed a Band Council Resolution reaffirming the Nation’s bylaw authority and right to self-government. The resolution explicitly states:

“WHEREAS the Siksika Nation has and continues to exercise an inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Right of Self-government that is recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982 c.11, and is protected by Treaty No. 7, 1877.”

The bylaws further define the Nation’s enforcement powers. Section 10 – Method of Giving Notice states: “10.01A notice under this By-law may be given: (a) verbally; (b) in writing; or (c) by means of signs posted so that a sign is clearly visible under normal weather conditions from the approach to each ordinary point of access to the Premises or the area of the Reserve to which it applies.”

Section 13 clarifies that notice is not always required:

“13.01 For certainty, a Person may be found guilty of an offence under this By-law regardless of whether notice not to Trespass or not to engage in a specified activity was given or received.”

Siksika Nation Councillor Sam Crowfoot emphasized the significance of this moment. While the current hearing is procedural, it represents a historic milestone in the Nation’s assertion of its legal authority.

“Siksika has had bylaws on its books since the 1950s,” Crowfoot said in an interview with Siksika Media. “This is the first time ever that our bylaws have been heard in court. Even a hearing as small as this, just to reschedule, has never happened under Siksika Laws.”

# SAFEGUARDING SIKSIKA'S WATERS

## THE WORK OF THE SIKSIKA WATER ADVISORY PANEL

### Submitted by Siksika Land Management

**W**ater is more than a resource to the Siksika Nation, it is sacred, life-giving, and deeply tied to our Treaty rights, culture, and future. The Siksika Water Advisory Panel (SWAP) was re-established to ensure that water-related decisions reflect the voices of Elders, youth, and community members, and to protect the integrity of our water systems both on and off reserve.

#### **A History Rooted in Advocacy**

SWAP was originally formed in 2008 in response to a proposed wastewater pipeline from Strathmore that would have discharged upstream of Siksika. This sparked a movement to assert Siksika's rights and responsibilities over water stewardship. Since then, SWAP has evolved into a cross-functional advisory body that collaborates across departments, engages the community, and provides recommendations to Chief and Council on water quality, allocation, and emergency preparedness.

#### **Mandate and Structure**

Reaffirmed by Band Council Resolution #2024-76, SWAP is composed of representatives from key departments including Public Works, Housing, Health Services, Land Management, and Education, as well as Elder, Youth, and Community-at-large members. The panel meets monthly and is chaired by Land Management, which also provides technical and policy support. SWAP's mandate includes:

Water Protection and Stewardship Consultation and Engagement Collaboration and Advisory Role Emergency Planning and Response Capacity Building and Education

#### **2025 Workplan: Guiding Principles and Goals**

At the Annual Planning Workshop held in September 2025, SWAP reaffirmed its commitment to five guiding principles:

#### **Information Sharing & Knowledge Management**

SWAP is developing a community-accessible water library, integrating traditional knowledge, and improving interdepartmental communication.

#### **Community Education & Engagement**

Through youth art contests, facility tours, and storytelling, SWAP is fostering water stewardship and mental wellness.

#### **Capacity Building & Technical Development**

Training programs for water technicians and operators are being expanded, with a focus on youth involvement and certification support.

#### **Assessment, Planning & Emergency Preparedness**

SWAP is helping departments use census and occupancy data to plan for water needs and develop disaster response strategies.

#### **Collaboration & Governance**

The panel coordinates with leadership, with plans to attend Bow River Basin Council meetings (ensuring this does not constitute consultation from the Nation), and is exploring partnerships with institutions like the University of Calgary for Indigenous water research.

#### **Looking Ahead**

SWAP is not a decision-making body, but a trusted advisory group that ensures water-related issues are addressed with cultural sensitivity, technical insight, and community input. As Land Management continues to chair SWAP until March 2026 under FN Adapt funding, the panel is working to secure long-term sustainability and deepen its role in shaping water policy and advocacy.

From the Creator, through our Treaty, to our members, water is life, and SWAP is a vital part of Siksika's journey to safeguard water for current and future generations.

For more information, please email us at [landsreception@siksikanation.com](mailto:landsreception@siksikanation.com)

# Chief Old Sun School Youth Chief & Council Sworn In

Story and photos by Mase Scarlet



**A** big congratulations to the 2025-2026 Natosapi Chief & Council at Chief Old Sun School! On October 3rd, students, parents, and teachers came together to cheer on some incredible young leaders as they proudly took their oath. This year brought even more council members – double the role models to inspire and lead the way for their peers!

· Krush Ayoungman · Chad Right Hand · Teagan Little Chief · Danielle Hunter · Zayn Red Crow · Jason Crow Chief · Novah Left Hand · Heavenly Bouma · Ava Whiteman · Namika Medicine Shield · Arianna Wright · Kamryn Daniels · Aurora Many Shots

Siksika Media was honoured to be invited to capture this proud and inspiring moment for our future leaders!

Zace Calf Robe shared: “I want to have less bullying because last year there was a lot of cyberbullying on Snapchat and TikTok, and I would like to have more field trips, so I want to fundraise more so teachers aren’t doing it alone. I want to be a good role model. To me, it means to listen to your teachers and to show respect in front of the little guys, so they can grow up and know what they are expected of when they get older, and to help your teachers whenever they need help.”

Violet Duck Chief shared: “I want no more bullying, and I want more bake sales to make money for the school and more field trips. It’s important to be role models because we have to show the little kids what we can and cannot do, and if we do something bad and the little kids see it.”

Chief: Zace Calf Robe  
Vice Chief: Violet Duck Chief  
Council Members:

Ava Shouting · Dario Medicine Shield · Anneka McMartin · Anatasia McMaster · Everson Calf Robe





# SIKSIKA NATION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Story and photo by Mase Scarlet

**O**n October 15th, students proudly cast their votes in the Student Chief & Council elections, and on October 16th, the newly elected student leaders officially took their oath of office.

Councillors Carlin Blackrabbit and Hector Winnipeg joined the ceremony to guide them through their oaths and signatures, alongside Principal Lisa Calfrobe, who shared her encouragement and support. 2025-2026 Student Chief & Council

Chief: Jada Woods

Council: Riess Jerry, Aaliyah Olds, Adrianna McMaster, Koda Poor Eagle, Melody Calf, and Kain Reinfort  
This amazing group of students is ready to lead their peers with pride, responsibility, and heart – representing the voice of Siksika Nation High School with excellence. Jada Woods shared: “I’m chief of the high school. I’m also a captain of the girls volleyball team. I didn’t do it for the title, I did it because I wanted to show my younger peers that it’s okay to go for higher positions. I wanted to advocate. student choice, to show them that their concerns matter just as much as the adults concerns. I wanted to help them find their voice and that confidence to get their opinions out to act as

like a megaphone, pretty much, to their thoughts.”

Riess Jerry shared: “The reason I’d like to be part of this amazing council is simply because I wanna help in any way I can. I have many ideas and suggestions I’d love to share with the school and community here. I mainly focus on mental health because as a young child I didn’t have any real help or support from my family and acquaintances. I don’t want anyone else to go through their life thinking they’re alone or not cared about. I’m very thoughtful and caring to the people I love and care about, so it’s not hard to be thoughtful and understanding about things both related to mental health and school

activities. I may not always be in the best mood at times, but I still try my best to show up, even if I’m having the toughest times at home. It’s my job to help whoever I can and if it takes time, just know I’m a very persistent and patient person, not to mention I love hugs.”

## FALL IMMUNIZATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

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**By Lexington ManyHeads**

**W**hen Tia Wolfleg was crowned Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Princess (BCHP) on April 17, 2024, she stepped into a role that offered countless opportunities, recognized her hard work, and inspired many others. Today, her sash and crown sit proudly in Heritage Park’s Prairie Royalty

exhibit—a testament to her journey as a cultural ambassador, youth role model, and advocate for inclusion.

Recently, Tia reflected on this special and heartfelt experience, starting with the night of the pageant. “I was a bit nervous,” Tia recalls. “It was my second time running. I had

been the princess for Strathmore High School before, so I just prayed and tried to calm myself down.”

Knowing that a calm and positive mindset would carry her further than nerves ever could, Tia focused her energy on representing herself and her culture with strength. Her

# Tia Wolfleg

## 2024 BCHP Princess Featured in Heritage Park's Prairie Royalty Exhibit

pageant presentation included a speech, a talent demonstration of her beadwork, and a traditional jingle dance. "When they crowned me, I was really honored," she says. "All my hard work paid off. I couldn't wait for all the opportunities to come." And opportunities came in abundance.

During her time as BCHP Princess, Tia became a visible and inspiring presence in her community and beyond. She performed dance demonstrations, spoke to audiences about Truth and Reconciliation, advocated for people with disabilities, and shared knowledge of Blackfoot traditions and history. "I work with children with disabilities. They're absolute angels, so I spoke highly of that," she says. "I got to perform at the Calgary Stampede, show off my dress at GlobalFest, and speak to people about Blackfoot culture. I shared knowledge about what happened in the past and what they can do to improve—to learn more about our past so we can grow together."

One of the moments that touched her most deeply was being the first royalty to attend the Disability Christmas Dinner at Siksika Group of Companies (SGC) for her cousin and nephew. "My nephew Brennen inspires me to be strong because he's strong every day," she says. As her time as princess came to an end, Tia passed her crown on to the next BCHP Princess for the 2025 year. "I knew she would do well. I said a prayer to myself for her—to grant her all the same opportunities and more." But Tia's journey didn't end there.

Before the new pageant began, a BCHP staff member approached her with an exciting request: Would she be willing to donate her sash and crown to a new exhibit at Heritage Park? The request came as a surprise for Tia, who felt extremely honored to be recognized. "It was honestly such a shock," she says. "As a little girl, I wanted to make a change, and seeing that I am—it made the little girl in me really happy. I was super

grateful. I gladly said yes!"

Tia's crown, sash, and dress were installed from May 26 to June 5, with the official exhibit opening held on June 7. They will remain on display until October 30, after which they will be returned to her. Seeing her name and story featured in a major museum was surreal. "I never imagined myself getting to that point," she says. "But I always wanted to make a difference, and seeing that I am—and having it on display—I feel really honored."

Her display is more than a collection of sentimental items; it stands as a testament to resilience, the power of representation, and what's possible when hard work, self-belief, and determination come together. It opens the door to countless opportunities.

A huge congratulations to Tia, and best wishes as she begins her next chapter!



# THE LEGACY OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY: EVERY CHILD MATTERS

By Shilo Clark

**E**ach year on September 30, people across Canada wear orange to honor the survivors of residential schools, remember the children who never made it home, and acknowledge the lasting impacts those institutions had on Indigenous families and communities. It's a day of reflection, healing, and truth, a reminder that Every Child Matters.

Orange Shirt Day began with the story of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc woman from Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. In 1973, when Phyllis was just six years old, she attended the St. Joseph Mission Residential School in British Columbia. Her grandmother had bought her a brand-new orange shirt for her first day, something special and full of love. But when she arrived, the shirt was taken away, and she never saw it again.

That orange shirt became a powerful symbol, representing the loss of identity, of culture, and that innocence of childhood that so many Indigenous children experienced in residential schools. In 2013, Orange Shirt Day was officially launched as a way to share these stories, to ensure that what happened is never forgotten, and to remind everyone that every child deserves to feel

loved, valued, and safe.

Orange Shirt Day, is now recognized nationally as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and it is more than just a day of remembrance. It's about acknowledging the truth of Canada's dark history, listening to our survivors, and committing to meaningful action that carries a real impact. It's also a chance to educate new generations about the realities of residential schools and their ongoing effects on Indigenous peoples.

Across the country, schools, workplaces, and communities come together to learn, reflect, and show solidarity. Wearing orange isn't just a gesture. It's a statement that we are listening, learning, and standing with those still healing from the trauma of these institutions.

Here on Siksika Nation, the history of residential schools is deeply personal. All Siksika families were impacted by these "Schools", including those who attended Crowfoot Indian Residential School, also referred to as St. Joseph's and Old Sun Residential School, it opened in the late 1800s and continued operating for nearly a century.

For generations, Siksika children

were taken from their homes, separated from their families, and punished for speaking our language or practicing our culture. The effects of that system, the loss of language, cultural disconnection, and inter-generational trauma are still felt today. But so too is the resilience. Siksika Nation has turned a place of pain into one of strength and reclamation: Old Sun College, now housed in the former residential school building, stands as a powerful symbol of survival, education, and self-determination.

The message of Every Child Matters is one of hope and healing. It calls on all Canadians to walk together in truth and reconciliation, not just on September 30, but every day. For Siksika and all Nations, it's about honoring the children, supporting our survivors, and ensuring future generations grow up proud of who they are, always.

When you wear orange, you're doing more than recognizing the past, you're helping build a future rooted in respect, understanding, and love. Because every child, in every community, truly does matter.

# SIKSIKA ANNOUNCED AS 2026 HOST AT BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CONFERENCE

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

The Blackfoot Confederacy Conference took place September 15th to 18th, 2025 in Lethbridge, Alberta. Hosted each year by a different Nation within the Blackfoot Confederacy, this year's host was Piikani. The theme of the conference was "Ahkannaitoomistoo Siksikatitsitapi", which translates to "Blackfoot People Will Come Together."

This marked the 24th Annual Siksikaititsitapi Blackfoot Confederacy Conference, a gathering that unites all four Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy – Kainai, Siksika, Piikani, and Amsskapipiikani Blackfoot Nations – to collaborate on Nation building, empowerment, and addressing shared challenges in pursuit of common goals.

At the conclusion of this year's conference, it was officially announced that Siksika will be the host Nation for next year's event. The transfer ceremony included the acceptance by Chief Ouray Crowfoot, along with Chief and Council Representatives Candice Backfat and Ike Solway. As part of the ceremony, Chief Ouray was gifted a buffalo robe, symbolizing the official passing of responsibilities and recognizing Siksika as the host of the 25th Annual Siksikaititsitapi Blackfoot Confederacy Conference.

To close the event, Chief Ouray Crowfoot delivered a powerful speech, emphasizing the unity of the Blackfoot people. He proclaimed that it is a good thing the Blackfoot Confederacy continues to come together – stating that "we are not just four Nations, but one Nation of a powerful people."

This year's conference was exceptionally well organized by Piikani, offering a variety of interactive activities, presentations on Blackfoot stories, the history of the Piikani, and guest speakers. The overall event was a strong reflection of cultural pride and collective strength. Piikani did an outstanding job hosting the

24th Annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference, and Siksika is honoured to be the next host in 2026.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF A REPATRIATION APPLICATION Blackfoot First Nations Sacred Ceremonial Objects Repatriation Regulation

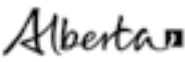
ALBERTA CULTURE

Pursuant to the First Nations Sacred Ceremonial Objects Repatriation Act and the Blackfoot First Nations Sacred Ceremonial Objects Repatriation Regulation made under that Act, the Province of Alberta as represented by the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women has received a repatriation application from the Kana' Katsii Sinn Siksika Nation Repatriation Association. The application is for the repatriation of:

1. Dag Knife attributed to Chief Crowfoot's regalia (A5881A) which came into the possession of Glenbow in 2013.
2. Beaded Dag Knife Sheath attributed to Chief Crowfoot's regalia (A5881B) which came into the possession of Glenbow in 2013.

The complete notice may be viewed at <https://royalalbertamuseum.ca/collections/cultural-studies/indigenous-engagement>

Any person with interest in these objects, who either wishes to make representations to the Minister relating to this application or to submit an application of their own, must do so within 30 days after the application's publication in the October 31, 2025 edition of *The Alberta Gazette*. Representations or applications can be submitted to the Director of Engagement and Education at the Royal Alberta Museum, 9810 103a Ave NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 0G2. Phone (825) 468 6228 or by email [Katherine.Wells@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Katherine.Wells@gov.ab.ca).



# SIKSIKA BUFFALOES GOLF TOURNAMENT RECAP



By Marcus Smith

The 2025 Siksika Buffaloes Golf Tournament Fundraiser was a great success! Held on September 26, this annual event brought together players, community members, and supporters to raise funds for the upcoming 2025-26 hockey season.

The Siksika Buffaloes are proud to represent our Nation as a Senior AA hockey club competing in the Ranchland Hockey League. Events like this tournament are vital in helping the team cover travel, equipment, and operational costs throughout the season.

Thank you to all the golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and organizers who helped make this fundraiser possible. Your continued support helps keep the Buffaloes strong on the ice and in the community.



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# SELENA MAGUIRE'S RISE WITH THE RED DEER QUEENS

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By Andrew Breaker

**S**elena Maguire, hailing from Siksika Nation, has started her season strong as a forward for the Red Deer Queens basketball team. Standing 6'1" and wearing number 12, Selena made an immediate impact in the 2025-26 season.

In her debut game, Selena earned Player of the Game honours – a fitting start for someone who carries her Nation's pride onto the hardwood. Although the full season stats are still building, Selena's promising start has already set the tone for what's to come.

Before joining the Queens, Selena honed her skills at Old Sun Community College and at Bassano School, showing leadership and talent that earned her the jump to collegiate competition. Throughout every game and practice, Selena represents Siksika – not just in jersey and performance – but in spirit, proving that the journey from home to the court is one of hard work, community, and inspiration.

As the season progresses, Selena's points, rebounds, and leadership will only add to her story. Siksika Nation watches proudly, knowing that Selena Maguire is more than an athlete – she's a role model showing what's possible.





## Blackfoot Cultural Preservation in Action

By Marcus Smith

In a meaningful step toward preserving and revitalizing Blackfoot culture, Elder Herman Yellow Old Woman and cultural advocate Leon Crane Bear collaborated on a significant cultural initiative hosted at Old Sun Community College. On September 25th, the two came together to record a series of teachings and traditional stories that reflect the depth and richness of Blackfoot heritage.

The filming session captured Elder Yellow Old Woman sharing knowledge in both Blackfoot and English, ensuring accessibility for current and future generations of learners. Central to the teachings were stories about the evolution of the Blackfoot language and insights into the many clans that make up Blackfoot territory. By documenting

these teachings in both languages, the initiative not only supports cultural education but also strengthens language preservation efforts. This project is part of a larger vision to support students and community members in reconnecting with their roots, understanding their identity, and carrying forward the teachings of the ancestors. The recordings will serve as a lasting educational resource at Old Sun Community College and beyond, enriching curriculum and deepening cultural understanding.

In a time when Indigenous languages and traditions face the threat of erosion, initiatives like this are vital. Thanks to the dedication of Elders and knowledge keepers like Herman Yellow Old Woman and the support of cultural advocates such as Leon

Crane Bear, Blackfoot culture continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

The project was made possible through a collaborative production team, with Leon Crane Bear serving as Executive Producer and Co-Director, and David Copithorne taking on multiple roles as Producer, Co-Director, Director of Photography, and Editor under DCFOTOFILM. Supporting the production were Sam Tartsah as Production Assistant and Alayah Wolf Child as Admin Assistant. Their combined efforts ensured that these important teachings were documented with care, respect, and professional quality, preserving them for educational and cultural use for generations to come.



# Chief Ouray Praises Old Sun Graduates As Siksika Continues to Invest in its Future

By Jayson Black Kettle

**O**ld Sun Community College celebrated its graduates on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Piiksapi Memorial Arbour.

The event featured a powwow with traditional and grass dance styles, along with a round dance where graduates joined dancers to mark their achievements.

Old Sun staff said more applications are being accepted for the coming year. Amie Sitting Eagle noted the college had 416 students last year and added that the number “could go up.”

Chief Ouray Crowfoot, who attended the powwow, praised the graduates as Siksika’s future leaders and spoke about the importance of supporting education. “When we decided to accept everyone in 2021, we didn’t look at it as an expense – it was an investment,” he said.

This year, 12 students earned master’s degrees and one received a doctorate – milestones that reflect Siksika’s growing commitment to higher education.

Certificate

- Douglas Barclay
- Sharon Brass
- Alisha Breaker
- Corrine Duck Chief
- Emily Duck Chief

- Twyla Fitzpatrick
- Sabrina Gollan
- Amber Many Shots
- Taylor Tomusiak-Bosse
- Alaysha Wolfleg
- Cohen Wolfleg

Diploma

- Deanna Bear Hat
- Theoren Duck Chief
- Jazmin Johnson
- Melvina Many Heads
- Selena Medicine Shield
- Keenan Poor Eagle
- Brendin Running Rabbit
- Dantin Winnipeg

Bachelors

- Angela Bear Chief
- Erwin Bear Chief
- Jayson Black Kettle
- Del Broad Scalplock
- Tannis Broad Scalplock
- Brooke Chapman
- Veronica Hanson
- Kobe Holloway
- Makel Holloway
- Aliyah Kipp
- Jarod McLeay
- Janine Owl
- Child Lynsey Own
- Chief Andrea Rabbit
- Carrier Cecilia Raweater
- Sage Running

- Rabbit Montana Schultz
- Breanna Sprecker
- Stacey Stevens
- Shannon Strangling Wolf
- Tessa Wolfleg

Masters

- Angela Bear Chief
- David Mayfield
- Charmaine Fox
- Maria Medicine Shield
- Janine Olivier
- Jill Old Woman
- Emma Perez
- Tyrone Sitting Eagle
- Tara Spring Chief
- Candi Turning Robe
- Hannah Wright-Ayoungman
- Vivian Yellow Old Woman

Ph.D

- Lenora Rabbit Carrier

# ÆKKOHS AT THE KING EDDY




Story and photos by Mase Scarlet

**W**hat a night! Siksika's own Ekkohs hit the stage at King Eddy's Pub in Calgary alongside The Miarlequins and Education Party – and they did not disappoint. From 7:30 to 9 p.m., Lexington Manyheads, Huddson Manyheads, Riley Melting Tallow, and Norm Running Rabbit performed an outstanding set and showcased the incredible talent within our Nation.

A huge thank you to the Nation members who came out to cheer them on – your support made the night even more electric.

Lexington Manyheads shared: "On behalf of the band, we had a super fun night with Education Party and the Miarlequins! We're so thankful that Melyssa Lee from Education Party asked us to join them last night and put the whole thing together with King Eddy! We loved both bands' performances – it was beautiful!"





# SIKSIKAKOWAN THE BLACKFOOT MAN

Story by Jayson Black Kettle

**T**revor Solway's *Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man* offers a grounded, authentic look at Blackfoot identity and masculinity – a perspective that earned the film a spot in both the Alberta Spotlight and Canadian Documentary Competition at the Calgary International Film Festival. It screened at Scotiabank Theatres on Wednesday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 28.

Solway's identity as a Blackfoot man gives him a distinctive vantage point. His background allows him to document and tell an Indigenous story through grounded and lived experiences.

The film frames the conversation by asking: What does masculinity mean? Maybe it's catching frogs in a river and learning to perform frog CPR. Maybe it's shaped by how children are raised, or by the romanticized futures imagined for young men. Solway shows how people attach meaning to irrational expectations – like a father buying and unboxing a crib six months before the baby is born.

Solway pushes boundaries instead

of confining viewers to convention. He reveals what people expect, then introduces moments of surprise – like dropping the camera to help his nephew. These scenes add urgency and intimacy to his subjects. He includes himself among them, using the film as a personal exploration through the perspectives of others. During the Q&A, Solway emphasized this shift:

"I think we're now in a relatively exciting time where we're the ones with the camera now, where there's no longer cameras pointed at us, and we're like just in the background of Western films, we're being shot off a horse."

He cites RaMell Ross's *Hale County This Morning, This Evening* as a source of inspiration. Ross's style helped him reimagine how film can present Indigenous people.

Solway strives for authenticity in his filmmaking. He avoids staged moments and refuses to impose a forced narrative. Instead, he gathers multiple perspectives – including voices from outside the Blackfoot community, such as Sarah Good

Medicine, a non-Blackfoot rapper who found support from Siksika rapper Dwight Good Eagle Farahat.

Solway challenges enduring film stereotypes – the "noble Indian," the "drunk Indian," the "warrior Indian," the "savage Indian" – not by showing them directly, but by offering contrasting representations. He asks what the real Indian looks like, confronting and rejecting these reductive portrayals.

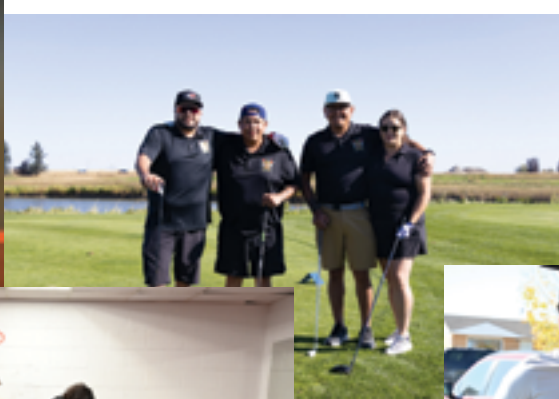
Historical depictions shaped how Solway viewed himself and other Blackfoot men—and diminished their humanity. His film pushes back by restoring complexity and dignity. "Through making this film—it's like going to therapy and stuff—you learn to give yourself permission to feel; to feel anger, to feel sadness, to feel joy, to feel grief. And there's room for all of it. Like you can be, you still can be a fierce warrior, but you can also be nurturing and caring."

"We are the Children of the Plains," he said.



photos by Siksika Media

# people, places and faces





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#### MONDAY – FRIDAY

8AM – 12PM: TYRONE SITTING EAGLE

12PM – 3PM: SHILO CLARK (MON-WED, FRI)  
MASE SCARLET (TUE-THU)

3PM – 6PM: JASMINE MAJOROS (MON, WED, FRI)  
LEXXINGTON MANY HEADS (TUE-THU)

6PM – 9PM: ANDREW BREAKER (TUE-THU)

#### FRIDAY – SATURDAY

9PM – 12AM: MARCUS SMITH

#### SATURDAY – SUNDAY

3PM – 6PM: JAYSON BLACK KETTLE



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

Employment Opportunity  
Siksika Health Services  
Community Health Registered Nurse  
Education and experience:  
Current registration with the CRNA  
Minimum three years of community health experience preferred.  
Current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Basic Rescuer level and First Aid Certificate.  
email: [recruitment@siksikahealth.com](mailto:recruitment@siksikahealth.com)  
Call: 403.361.1358

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

Employment Opportunity  
Siksika Nation Tribal Administration  
Associate Tribal Manager  
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TMATM-02-10-22-25  
Education and experience:  
Bachelor's Degree in Management, Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field.  
Minimum 7 years of progressively responsible administrative or management experience, preferably in a First Nations government or organization setting.  
Experience working with governance structures, budgets, and senior management teams.  
email: [recruitment@siksikanation.com](mailto:recruitment@siksikanation.com)  
Call: 403.734.5567 or 403.734.5579



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



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