

AITSINIKI

November 2025 • listato'si



**HONOURING
THE PAST &
FUTURE**

**ARTS &
CULTURE**

**SIKSIKA
NEWS**

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AITSINIKI MAGAZINE

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FREE
Volume 34 Issue 11
November 2025



WELCOME

Oki, and welcome to the November issue of Aitsiniki Magazine.

As we move into the final weeks of the year, we are reminded that Christmas is just around the corner. This season brings a sense of warmth, togetherness, and reflection across our Nation. November is a time when we begin preparing for winter gatherings, checking in on one another, and embracing the spirit of generosity that our people have carried since time immemorial.

In this month's issue, we highlight the stories, achievements,

and community moments that continue to uplift Siksika Nation.

As we head into the holiday season, we encourage everyone to take care, travel safely, and spend time with loved ones whenever possible.

From all of us at Aitsiniki Magazine, we wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyful Christmas season ahead.

Thank you for reading, and enjoy this month's issue.

SIKSIKA NATION NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICE: Siksika Land Management Shelterbelt Monitoring West Gleichen Trail Camera Installation

Siksika Land Management would like to inform residents of the West Gleichen community that a trail camera will be installed as part of the Siksika Shelterbelt Monitoring Program.

Installation Details:

Date: Monday, November 24, 2025

Location: West and/or Northern area of the West Gleichen community

Purpose: As part of Siksika Nation's Shelterbelt Project, Stephen Kaiswatum, Indigenous & Land Rewilding Specialist with Project Forest and member of the Piapot First Nation, is installing the first trail camera in the West Gleichen Community. This camera will help monitor wildlife activity, track tree and understory growth, and support future stewardship planning. The project supports ongoing collaboration with Siksika Nation and helps promote the long-term growth and sustainability of the shelterbelts.

Duration: The camera may remain in place for an extended monitoring period as required by the program.

Privacy & Safety: The camera will not be used for surveillance of individuals or private property. Footage collected will be used solely for ecological monitoring and project reporting.

Equipment will be clearly marked and secured to avoid safety hazards.

If there are any questions or concerns please call Siksika Land Management at 403- 734-5282 or email us at landsreception@siksikanation.com



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**David Bexte, MP
Bow River**

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



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OUR CHILDREN HOME



Emergency Management Program Update

Submitted by Siksika Public Safety

We are pleased to share an important update regarding the proactive safety measures protecting our Nation

Siksika Emergency Management Program

The Siksika Emergency Management program, overseen by Siksika Nation Public Safety, serves as the operational backbone for that strategic planning. Our program moves beyond simply reacting to a crisis; it is an organized, comprehensive, and continuous cycle designed to reduce our vulnerability, enhance our response capabilities, and ensure rapid, stable recovery across the entire Nation. The Siksika EM Program is not just a department—it is a system committed to achieving a resilient future by prioritizing leadership training, public awareness, and effective recovery. We invite every Nation member to view the EM Program as a partnership, where your personal preparedness is the foundation of our collective safety.

The intent of Emergency Management, simply put, is to protect life, property, and the environment by coordinating all resources and activities necessary to deal with a major event or disaster. It's a structured approach that moves beyond just responding to a crisis. It is a continuous, year-round cycle designed to reduce our vulnerability to hazards and to ensure we can recover quickly and holistically when an event occurs. Emergency Management includes four pillars: Prevention & Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

Prevention & Mitigation includes efforts to prevent a disaster from occurring. However, we know some emergencies are beyond

our control, and mitigation allows for minimizing the impact of these emergencies to reduce the damage. Preparedness includes awareness and ensuring we have the resources to effectively respond to emergencies immediately and effectively. Response is the collaborative efforts to work through the emergency to end it quickly and with minimal impact on the Nation. Finally, Recovery involves the efforts to build back better, and to return to a sense of normality experienced before the crisis.

The Nation's goals are to prepare our EM team for managing disaster, provide leadership & staff training, raise public awareness of preparedness, and ensure effective recovery strategies, and finally to plan today for tomorrow's rebuilding. The Nation's goals align directly with the four pillars that guide all our planning and activities. We continue to build on the Nation's Emergency Response Plan and are conducting training drills for staff and raising public awareness so all can respond safely and calmly. We are continuing to build up our Emergency Coordination Centre for the effective and safe coordination of emergency services response, planning for the recovery, and providing oversight to be used to improve the process of emergency management for the future.

Community Preparedness Empowers Our EM

While your Emergency Management team is busy training and planning, you, the Siksika Nation members, are the true first responders. Your preparedness doesn't just protect your own family; it profoundly empowers the entire Nation's EM system. When individ-

ual households are prepared, it has a positive ripple effect across the Nation.

Your Next Step: Be Prepared!

Be an active partner in the Nation's EM goals by taking these steps:

- Download the Alberta Emergency Alert App to get immediate critical information.
- Build or replenish your 72-Hour Kit with food, water, medicine, and warm clothing suitable for any situation. If you have a 72-hour emergency kit and a family plan, our dedicated responders can focus immediately on the most critical, life-threatening emergencies, rather than addressing basic needs.
- Know Your Contacts: Save the number for the Siksika Public Safety Dispatch Centre (403-734-3815) for after-hours, non-911 emergencies.
- Check on your loved ones and neighbours. When you check on an Elder or neighbour, you are practicing the traditional way to help and assist our community. This immediate, local support is invaluable and strengthens the human side of our emergency management.

Emergency Management is about all of us working together, upholding the Siksika way of life by protecting our people and our land.

SIKSIKA ANIMAL SERVICES BREAKS GROUND ON NEW FACILITY

By Jayson Black Kettle

On Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new facility that will include a kennel capable of housing up to 10 dogs.

“We’ll have a kennel that will hold 10 dogs. We can bring problematic dogs or dogs that need to be rehomed or stuff like that. Because at this point right now, we don’t have anywhere to hold dogs,” said Leslie Right Hand, team lead at Siksika Animal Services, which operates as part of Siksika Nation Public Safety. Right Hand said dogs roam in many areas within the Nation, often getting into trouble with members. “Unfortunately, they don’t have anybody taking care of them,” said Right Hand.

The team began planning the project eight months ago, but Right Hand said the idea has been floating for about five years. Limited support and resources delayed progress, but new management and leadership changed that.

“They really stepped up and [saw] that we had a problem. And they looked at it, and then they knew they had to help,” Right Hand explained.

“This is going to be good for the Nation,” said Right Hand.

The new building will sit on 10 acres behind the Siksika Peace Officers Building.



PUBLIC WORKS PRIDE: TWO TEAM MEMBERS EARN TOP RECOGNITION

By Shilo Clark

Siksika Nation's Public Works team works hard every day to keep the community clean, safe and running smoothly. Two team members recently earned recognition for their dedication and reliability: Mataya Many Heads and Grant Bear Chief.

Mataya, a five-year veteran of Public Works, works as a labourer handling everything from garbage and large-item pickups to assisting with community events. Her strong work ethic and consistency earned her Employee of the Month honours.

"It felt good to be acknowledged," she said. "Sometimes it feels like people don't see how much we do."

Grant operates at the Siksika Transfer Station and received the same recognition for his dependable service and never-miss attitude. A former security guard, he brought years of discipline and commitment into his role as a truck and equipment operator.

"I just think I got it because I'm always here and never late," he said humbly. "I just do what needs to be done."

Both Mataya and Grant understand the challenges of working in a field that doesn't always get public appreciation.

"It's a thankless job sometimes," Mataya reflected.

Grant agreed, noting the many work orders they handle daily to



with the introduction of the new tote system and automated trucks.

"Ever since the blue bins were removed, things have been way cleaner," Mataya said.

Grant added, "We used to hand-load everything, but now it's much safer and more efficient."



For both, the motivation comes down to family and community pride.

"My kids are the reason I get up and go every day," said Mataya. Grant, meanwhile, focuses on doing his part to keep things running smoothly. "I'm not here for the award," he said.



From early mornings to long days in all kinds of weather, Mataya Many Heads and Grant Bear Chief embody the spirit of service that keeps Siksika strong.

Their dedication reminds us that the quietest workers often make the biggest impact, one act of care at a time.

keep operations running smoothly. Despite these challenges, both employees have seen real improvements in recent years – especially

"I just want people to understand why what we do matters," said Grant.

Siksika Outreach School Student Chief & Council Inauguration 2025

Story and photos by Mase Scarlet

On November 14th 2025, Siksika Media had the honour of being invited to witness an incredible group of students step confidently into their leadership roles. From the grand entry to the swearing-in ceremony, every moment reflected pride, culture, and the strength of our future leaders.

A huge thank you to all dignitaries, speakers, drummers, and organizers who helped make this inauguration meaningful – and an extra huge thank you to Lori Redcrow for her continued guidance and support. We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the councillors who attended and supported the students on this special day. Your presence means so much to the youth stepping into these roles.

Congratulations to the newly inaugurated Student Chief & Council:

Chief Jaylen Bear Robe
Councillor Emmitt Many Heads
Councillor Sam Owl Child
Councillor Ayana Running Rabbit
Councillor Hayden Three Suns
Secretary Serenity Calf Robe
Executive Assistant Dally Crane

Your dedication, courage, and commitment to your school and community shines brightly. We can't



wait to see the positive change you bring.

Jaylen Bear Robe Shared: "I decided to run for chief because I know a lot of students here are shy, and I just wanted to be the voice for everyone here, because I started off as a shy student as well."

Sam Owlchild Shared: "I was running for council to make more people open about themselves and outgoing and for more ideas to be spread."





CFXX 104.7 FM

SIKSIKA RADIO STATION

NEW SCHEDULE HOURS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

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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SIKSIKA PASKANII PROGRAM INSPIRES THE FIRST INTERAGENCY POWWOW

Story and photos by Tyrone Sitting Eagle

From November 14-16, 2025, the first-ever Interagency Powwow took place—an important milestone that came from Powwow that happened earlier this year in January. At the Powwow organizer and coordinator at White Buffalo, Frank Sitting Eagle, hired Elijah Provost as an arena director. Frank and Elijah later spent time developing the idea of a collaborative powwow at the Aissk Siniistotowa Powwow, held January 3-4, 2025, where they discussed bringing their departments together to host a full-scale event.

After those discussions, Frank and Elijah sought and secured approval and funding. Once approved, Frank Sitting Eagle and Curtis Running Rabbit co-chaired, planned, and organized the powwow, which

received support from Siksika White Buffalo, Piikani, and Children Services.

Planning moved quickly and the team chose Exhibition Park in Lethbridge, Alberta as the venue. The powwow surpassed expectations: it featured 15 registered drums plus their host drum and welcomed over 500 registered dancers, with competitors traveling from as far as Arizona to take part in a variety of specials and dance categories.

A major highlight was the employment of 15 Siksika Nation members—including Sheldon Scalplock Jr., Kent Ayoungman, members of the Men's Warrior Program, and the Women's Support Group—who worked as event staff and helpers. To ensure accessibility for Elders,

transportation was provided on Saturday and Sunday for those who wanted to attend.

In conclusion, the Interagency Powwow was an outstanding success. It created a meaningful opportunity to welcome dancers from across North America into the Blackfoot Confederacy to experience champion-level singing and dancing. Overall, it was a well-organized, memorable event with a bright future ahead.





By Lynn Calf Robe

On October 6, 2025, the Calgary Stampede unveiled its official 2026 Stampede Poster—an image that brings together powwow, tradition, and Siksika pride in one striking frame.

The poster features Champion Junior Men's Grass Dancer Tyrone Sitting Eagle Jr. of Siksika Nation, photographed during the 2024 Stampede Powwow. The painting, *When the Grass Dances*, was created by emerging artist Dayna Loepps, whose acrylic work won the Calgary Stampede Youth Poster Competition.

What began as a single photograph Loepps captured at the Elbow River Camp Powwow at the Saddledome is now the visual identity of the 2026 Stampede. For Tyrone and his family—tipi owners at Elbow River Camp for more than 40 years—the honour carries deep meaning. "I hope the

2026 poster will encourage people to visit Elbow River Camp during Stampede and learn more about the people of Treaty 7 and the different tribes within the Blackfoot Confederacy," he says.

The Stampede emphasizes that the poster reflects more than a competition win—it represents an ongoing relationship. "Elbow River Camp has been an integral part of the Calgary Stampede since 1912," says Stuart O'Connor, President & Chair of the Board. "The 2026 Poster's tribute to First Nations artistry at the Stampede Powwow is a powerful reflection of this enduring relationship and a reminder that language, culture and tradition remain at the core of the Stampede." The unveiling also marked the opening of ticket sales for the 2026 Rodeo and Evening Show, which runs July 3-12.

For Tyrone, the entire experience was

unexpected. "At the time, I thought they just wanted to do a painting," he says. "I heard it could be for the Stampede, but I wasn't sure until we kept meeting. The artist asked me a lot of questions, and later she told me she was submitting it to the contest." It wasn't until the unveiling that he realized the painting—capturing him mid-dance—would become one of the Stampede's most recognized images.

The response from the powwow community has been strong and supportive. "It feels really awesome," Tyrone says. "A lot of my powwow friends shared it and tagged me. People were excited to see a grass dancer being featured." He admits he was nervous about how it would be received. "I'm not the type to be boastful. But the comments were positive, and people were genuinely happy for me—especially other grass dancers."

When the Grass Dances

TYRONE SITTING EAGLE JR. AND THE STORY BEHIND THE 2026 CALGARY STAMPEDE POSTER

That support builds on an already meaningful memory: winning the Junior Men's Grass Dance category at the 2024 Stampede Powwow. "I had no idea it was going to end up like that," he recalls. "I tied at first, and when we went back out to break the tie, I won. The other dancer is amazing—we're good friends now. It was exhilarating." Knowing that moment now lives on through the Stampede poster makes it even more significant. "I heard membership has my poster up too. I'm going to think about that for a long time."

Powwow has always been part of Tyrone's life. His grandfather and father were champion dancers, and he grew up learning from them. All three share the same beadwork pattern designed for his grandfather, Gerald Sitting Eagle—a design carried forward through generations.

Over the years, Tyrone has danced at powwows across North America, gaining experiences that are rooted more in emotion than description.

"My favourite thing is... it's hard to explain," he says. "At a powwow in Regina I made top ten. It wasn't about the money. It was hearing everybody cheer. It was exhilarating. It's just a lot of fun for me to dance." As a father, Tyrone hopes his children take something from seeing him perform or appear on the Stam-

pede poster. "I hope they use that as an example of striving toward what they want to do," he says. "My son likes hockey. My daughter likes to draw. I want them to know they can succeed at whatever they pursue." Outside powwow, Tyrone divides his time between work (he's a Siksika Media staff and a familiar voice on 104.7 FM), family, and his other creative passion—music production. He releases tracks under his producer

fan base for my music," he says. "And I want to become a champion grass dancer, or dance for a long time."

The original *When the Grass Dances* painting will be on display during Stampede 2026 at the Western Oasis Art Show in the BMO Centre, July 3-12. Viewing is free with park admission, and poster copies will be available for purchase at Lammle's next year.

IT FEELS REALLY AWESOME...A LOT OF MY POWWOW FRIENDS SHARED IT AND TAGGED ME. PEOPLE WERE EXCITED TO SEE A GRASS DANCER BEING FEATURED

name Eleeus and hopes to continue growing his audience. He will be back on the powwow trail soon, with stops in Lethbridge and at the First Nations University Powwow. His favourite drum groups—Young Spirit, Bullhorn, and Northern Cree—continue to influence and motivate him.

Looking ahead, Tyrone plans to keep challenging himself as a dancer, artist, father, and community member. "I hope to one day have a big enough



Story and photos by
Andrew Breaker

DILAYNA BLACKHORSE PERFORMS THE BLACKFOOT NATIONAL ANTHEM AT CALGARY WRANGLERS INDIGENOUS NIGHT

On November 1st, 2025, Dilayna Blackhorse from Siksika Nation had the honour of singing the Blackfoot National Anthem at the Calgary Wranglers Indigenous Night hockey game.

Dilayna's parents are Grant and Deatrice Blackhorse. Her late grandparents are Hubert and Ramonda Lowhorn, as well as Phyllis Blackhorse and Thomas Yellow Sun.

Dilayna has a long history with her passion for singing. At the age of 7, she first began performing for her family and older sisters just for fun. By age 9, she took a leap by entering the Run as One talent show, and

by age 11, she had the honour of singing for the Governor General of Canada.

ALWAYS SPEAK AND ACT FROM THE HEART, NEVER FORGET YOUR ROOTS, AND APPROACH EVERYTHING WITH LOVE AND KINDNESS. THE WORLD COULD ALWAYS USE MORE OF THAT

From ages 12 to 16, she continued to sing occasionally – mainly at funerals, in church, and for her family. When she turned 17, an exciting opportunity arose when Richard Running Rabbit and Tyler White

invited her to sing the Blackfoot National Anthem for the Calgary Hitmen hockey team. She continued singing for the Hitmen for about two years.

At 19, she was privileged to sing the Blackfoot National Anthem for the Calgary Flames during their first annual Indigenous Celebration Night. More recently, she has been invited to sing at various events, including performances for the Calgary Stampeders and the Calgary Wranglers for their Indigenous Nights.

Dilayna credits the Blackfoot National Anthem to Herman Yellow Old Woman, and she first learned

the anthem in Blackfoot at Crowfoot Elementary in kindergarten back in 2009 under the guidance of Lucy Wright.

“If singing is your passion and you’re thinking about following in my footsteps, my best advice is quite simple: never give up. Success doesn’t happen overnight; it comes from hard work and sincere prayers to creator for guidance. Always speak and act from the heart, never forget your roots, and approach everything with love and kindness. The world could always use more of that. Remember, with dedication and a genuine spirit, success is achievable in all aspects of your life.” - Dilayna Blackhorse on if someone is inspired by her singing journey.





‘It’s our right to hunt buffalo’: Siksika Nation hunters embrace challenge of bison hunt

Story and photo by Jayson Black Kettle

On Thursday, Nov. 15, members of the Siksika Nation set out on a hunt near the Banff boundary in Clearwater County. Their goal was to successfully track and hunt a bison. “All we saw was one eagle,” said Joe Crowfoot, who spent five days trekking through the mountains searching for bison.

The hunt began in 2024 after discussions within the Blackfoot Confederacy’s Guardianship of the Eastern Slopes. Guardians is a project that supports Indigenous rights within ecosystems and ensures they are maintained and respected. Buffalo were reintroduced to the area about eight years ago. Since then, the herd has grown, giving Indigenous communities opportunities to practice sacred traditions. “We found out about it, and Sam, the councillor, really saw its importance and he got administration to give us funds this year,” said Joe.

“Because last year we came up, kind of just out of our own pockets, just chanced it.”

To Blackfoot hunters, the opportunity to hunt a bison was worth the risk. Sam, the councillor who helped secure funding for the program this year, said Blackfoot treaty rights are meaningful when they are put into

practice. The hunters did not manage to find a bison this year, but the commitment remains strong.

“Even if we don’t find anything, it doesn’t matter. It’s our right to hunt buffalo!” said Sam.

“This is our ancestral home; our ancestors walked through this valley,” he added, noting teepee circle outlines he saw throughout the area, faint but still visible.

Joe remarked, “Even though we didn’t see anything, we got to see a lot of beautiful land that they shut down and we got to enjoy just us.” “It was a pretty awesome experience,” he said. “One of these days, we’re going to see a buffalo.”

Siksika hunters did not find a buffalo, but they are excited for next year’s hunt, knowing the animals are out there. They noted that the Piikani Nation successfully hunted one last year.

Siksika’s communications and media team walked with hunter Blade Robinson five kilometres into the valley where the hunt takes place. Upon returning, Wendell Calf Robe explained the group’s process over the last five days.

“Where you walked to, that’s our hub,” he said. “All the guys go through there and pass through it and then they go in excess of another 7k in either direction.”

“Then they walk back.”

Calf Robe was chosen as the co-ordinator for this hunt due to his exceptional leadership skills. He is a former United States Marine.

“It’s not about A team or B team getting the buffalo. It’s about collectively getting a buffalo,” Calf Robe said, stressing the buffalo was for the nation and not any individual hunters. “We have one priority on mind and that’s to feed Siksika.”

Calf Robe had a particularly scary moment during the hunt as he stayed behind to monitor their base camp and haul extra supplies if needed. He noted that he had to hike to the hub alone, and upon meeting up with the hunters, they quickly saw cougar tracks trailing behind him.

“There was a cougar following me,” he said.

“Creator was definitely watching over us.”

Susie Strangling Wolf Miss Chief Crowfoot Princess 2025 - 2026

Submitted by Susie Strangling Wolf



Oki, nik' tsoo' koo' walks
Niistoo niitaaniikoo (Ikstaakii)
Na' nii siis anisstaa (Trayton Light-
ning)
Na'ah niksists, anisstaa (Anitakii)
Na'ah siks anisstaa (Ni'tsita papoii) &
(Na to apoo takii)
Na'ah kaah sinaas anisstaa (Kai oo
tann) & (Ikstaakii)
Nii too to pin naan Siksika, Na sit
tapii.

Hello everyone, I am the newly
crowned Miss Chief Crowfoot
School Princess 2025-2026.
I was crowned on October 8, 2025.
My Blackfoot name is Ikstaakii,
which means Skinny Girl. This name
was passed down to me at the
Sundance, and it was the Blackfoot
name of my Great Grandmother,
the late Susan Strangling Wolf. My
English name is Susie Strangling
Wolf. I have an older brother named
Trayton Lightning.

My mother is Shannan Strangling
Wolf, and she has raised me on
her own. She teaches me respect,
kindness, and our traditional ways
that were passed down to her. She
inspires me to finish my education
like she did, and to always try my
very best in everything I do. She is
my #1 supporter and #1 in my life.
I come from a very traditional and
strong family background.

My Maternal Grandparents are

Colleen Strangling Wolf and the late
Chris (Jr) Strangling Wolf.
My Paternal Grandparents are the
late Cheryl Munro & Melvin Nee-
poose.

My Great Grandparents are the late
Chris (Sr) & Susan Strangling Wolf,
and Jim & Joan Munro.

I am 9 years old and currently in
Grade 4. I enjoy Math, Science, and
Reading.

I love being part of my school and
my Siksika community. I enjoy
Fancy Shawl dancing and traveling
to different pow-wows with my
mom and my family. When I dance,
I dance for those who can't, and I
pray with and to my ancestors.

My talents are acrobatics, gymnas-
tics, basketball, and cross-country
running. I always try to be kind,
helpful, and open to learning new
things. I hope to represent my
school Chief Crowfoot and the
Siksika community with pride, and
show how important it is to help one
another.

What inspired me to become Prin-
cess is - When I was 6 years old, I
saw young girls wearing beautiful
beaded crowns at different pow-
wows I had attended. I asked my
mom who they were and why they
had those crowns. She told me they

were Indigenous Princesses who
represent who they are, where they
come from, and their people. From
then on, I dreamed that one day, I
would become a Princess too.

My aspirations as Princess is that - I
am proud of myself that I believed
in myself and ran for Princess. That
I did it, and made one of my dreams
come true. I want to continue
learning, growing, and represent-
ing Siksika in a good way. I want to
inspire other youth to believe in
themselves and be proud of who
they are. I want to thank my family,
my teachers, and my friends for
supporting me and encouraging me
along this journey.

To the outgoing Chief Crowfoot
School Princess 2024-2025, Casey
Wadsworth

Oki, I want to thank you for the
beautiful way you carried this role.
You represented our school with
honour, confidence, and kindness,
and you have set a strong path for
me to follow. I am grateful for the
footsteps you leave behind, and for
the example you showed us all. As
I carry the crown now as the newly
crowned Miss Chief Crowfoot
School 2025-2026, I will do my
best to continue the good work you
started. Especially for everything
you did for our school and commu-
nity.

A “QUARTER OUNCE” OF MEDICINE— — — — —

By Lexxington Many Heads

Hailing from Siksika Nation, Quarter Ounce is a rising punk-rock, four-piece band formed by Quarthon Bear Chief on vocals, and Oscar Black on guitar with Will Big Crow on bass and Tim Low Horn on the drums. Unapologetically, this group has quickly forged a way for themselves in the punk-rock scene, carrying the spirit of Siksika and Tsuu T’inna with them every step of the way.

Before forming the band, Quarthon and Oscar were members of No More Moments, another punk group from Siksika Nation. After the band members went their separate ways, the two found themselves drawn back together. “We liked what we were doing,” Quarthon says. “We liked the punk-rock scene because it was area where we could be whacky but at the same time, be political and express ourselves as First Nations... That’s where we found comfortability in ourselves.” Quarthon and Oscar fell in love with the aspect of it and knew that they wanted to keep making punk rock music and to stay in the alley they were in. Interestingly, their band name has a unique origin, dating back to when both Quarthon and Oscar were kids. When they were younger, Quarthon was often referred to as ‘Quarter’ and Oscar, was called ‘Oz’ aka the abbreviation for ounce. While brainstorming for a band name, they came to the realization that when you put both their nicknames together, it creates ‘quarter oz’. Naturally, the name

came together for the group, and they officially became Quarter Ounce. Created by Brenden Many Bears, Quarter Ounce’s distinctive logo features a medicine bag with a quarter ounce design on it. “We were like, ‘let’s just make it a medicine bag and act like we’re giving a quarter ounce of medicine to everyone,’” Quarthon laughs. “We were just getting these ideas and seeing how far we can go with it, and the name just came along very naturally.” The band name, however, wasn’t the only childhood influences had on this band.

When it comes to music, one of their greatest influences is their dad’s, specially Quarthon and Oscar. Quarthon shares that, “We grew up as metalheads at first and that’s how we started. We would listen to metal but then we started listening to artists like Metallica and Ozzy Osbourne.” Craig Bear Chief, Quarthon’s dad, plays guitar and Quarthon remembers seeing him play it when he was younger. When he was about six years old, Quarthon started learning guitar and with the help of his dad, who started buying him guitars, would teach him to read tabulators and from there, he kept practicing. Along with his dad’s talent showcased in his house growing up, Quarthon’s mom sang quite a bit too. “My passion for music started at a very young age—it was my parents who really influenced me on musicianship.” Everything that Quarthon learned from his parents, he took with him and went even further

with it. Like Quarthon, Oscar grew up surrounded by music, watching his dad play in a band with Oscar’s uncles, in Manitoba. Coming from a family of musicians, Oscar started playing guitar at a young age, even joining in on his dad and uncle’s band. Quarthon praises Oscar greatly for his superior guitar playing, “Oscar is one of the best guitarists and I will die on that hill!” Both Quarthon and Oscar fell in love with music, thanks to growing up with parents who were musicians. With the teachings they had, it catapulted into what they have today and being able to tour in different places across Canada.

When Oscar and Quarthon were with No More Moments, they played a gig in Iqaluit, Nunavut. “For me that was the coolest place I played because it was so different... The culture and everything like that, how they live and how they think. It was such an honor to get to play out there.” Quarthon recalls that when they played there, it was during the season where the sun doesn’t set. “You can imagine how crazy it was to come out of this place at like 2:30 in the morning and the sun is still out! It was crazy—like we were in twilight zone or something!” Quarthon laughs. However, the most unforgettable part was the community’s connection to and appreciation for the music. There was a moment where Quarthon was worried about how much the audience would enjoy their music. “I was like ‘I don’t know how you guys



will take our music. We're a really angry band,' and I remember one of the women out there was like, 'well, good! We're all angry—our entire community!' and I was like, 'wow, okay, this is awesome!' The band ended up being the first band to have a stage diver out in the crowd. The community of Iqaluit were very appreciative of the music and for them taking the time to go out to their community to put a show on for them. Quarthon recalls that it was a great experience, very welcoming, and a nice reminder that, as Indigenous people, we are all one in the same and yet so different at the same time. "It opened my mind and heart to the fact that not everyone has to be the same, but we need to accept that we're all fighting the same battles."

Anytime that Quarter Ounce can engage with their communities, that is what they are all for. "We want to be proud that were from Siksika and Sarcee—where Will is from. This is our home. We're proud of our people, we're proud of who we are, and this is why we do it. We want to put Siksika on the map—Blackfoot peo-

ple on the map. We want people to know that we, as indigenous people, are just as creative and have just as much to offer the world as anyone else and we want to showcase that as best we can. Even though it's just through music, it's only a matter of time before another Blackfoot is inspired to join another field whether it be the sciences, the arts, or any other different form—we just want to be part of that movement."

Quarthon offers words of encouragement for aspiring Siksika youth: "We all believe that people are or aren't meant for things. That Some opportunities are meant for people and some don't work out for people. What I've come to realize is that everyone gets a chance at what they want to do. It's not a matter of who you are and what you can bring, it's a matter of how long you stick to it. I believe it was Travis Barker who said: 'Everyone's time comes, it's just a matter of waiting 'till it happens.' A lot of bands don't make it big because they give up too early or they disband, but everyone has their time. Don't worry about being the best, just worry about being

undeniable. As long as no-one can deny your skill and what you bring, then you're going to be fine—don't worry about anyone else. Believe in your own craft, believe in what you believe is good. Trust me, I guarantee there's a lot of people out there who believe in it too. Open your mind, get to know new people, and expand your horizon. Don't let the rez swallow you up, but at the same time, be proud of where you come from."

Quarter Ounce has just wrapped up their five-song EP, with an upcoming EP release show currently in the works. Fans can also catch them at Rockin' for Dollars on November 27th at the BLOX Arts Centre in Calgary, Alberta. Follow Quarter Ounce online to stay connected, hear new music, and support one of the most exciting Indigenous punk bands emerging today.

Facebook: @Quarter Ounce
 Instagram: @quarterounceband
 Apple Music and Spotify: @Quarter Ounce



photos by Siksika Media

people, places and faces





STEPS TOWARD HEALING: WALKING TOGETHER ON THE RED ROAD

By Marcus Smith

On a cold November morning, community members, families, leaders, and supporters gathered once again for the Steps Towards Healing: Still Here Together walk—an annual event centred on remembrance, solidarity, and collective healing. Organized through Red Road Reclamation and guided by Dustin Dick, the walk has become a meaningful tradition for many within Siksika Nation and beyond.

The event is rooted in Dustin's personal journey. His own path toward recovery taught him that healing can feel isolating, especially for those who face it alone. The walk grew from his recognition that no one should have to navigate that journey without support. His intention is to Honor those who continue to struggle with addiction, as well as the loved ones the community has lost along the way. For Dustin, this walk represents both a memorial and a commitment to stand with others who are still fighting.

A defining feature of the walk is the cultural presence—drummers, dancers, performers, and horseback riders who join in solidarity. For Dustin, their involvement reflects the heart of the event: unity without judgment. He believes strongly that recovery does not follow one single path and that every individual heals in their own way. The walk reinforces the idea that people should be

accepted, encouraged, and supported regardless of how their journey looks. The cultural components help ground the event in identity and community, reminding participants that they are part of something larger than themselves.



Many who attend come carrying stories of loss, struggle, or resilience. Dustin hopes the walk creates a space where people feel seen and supported, no matter what stage of healing they are in. He emphasizes the importance of meeting people exactly where they are—whether they are newly sober, many years into recovery, or grieving someone who could not overcome addiction. The event encourages people to connect, talk, laugh, cry, and share openly, recognizing that community interaction is essential to healing.

The reality of addiction continues to weigh heavily on Indigenous

communities. Dustin's message to those dealing with addiction or loss is centered on courage and connection. He encourages individuals to step out of isolation and into spaces where support is available. His own experiences showed him the power of accepting help from others and

allowing guidance to come from unexpected places. The walk reflects this belief by creating a safe, compassionate environment where people can lean on each other.

Looking ahead, Dustin envisions Steps Towards Healing growing into a movement that reaches all members of the community—not only those on the reserve, but also those off reserve, and to those living in urban areas or away from home. He sees the walk as something deeply tied to

Siksika Nation, yet wide enough to include anyone who needs support. Because addiction affects people without discrimination, the event aims to extend that same sense of inclusiveness and care.

As the walk continues each year, its purpose remains steady: to bring people together in remembrance and unity, to honor those who have struggled, and to move forward as a community—stronger, connected, and walking the Red Road side by side.

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment Opportunity
Siksika Health Services
Advanced Care Paramedic/Primary Care Paramedics
Siksika Nation Emergency Services is seeking dedicated and compassionate Advanced Care Paramedics and Primary Care Paramedics for casual positions. Join a community-focused emergency services team committed to delivering high-quality pre-hospital care and culturally grounded support to the Siksika Community.
For more information:
siksikahealth.com
recruitment@siksikahealth.com

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

Siksika Craft Market
Saturday, December 6
Siksika Arbour
11.00 AM - 6.00 PM

Employment Opportunity
Siksika Health Services
Registered Nurse/Project Lead
Responsible for implementing and managing programs and projects focused on primary preventative care. This role involves a collaborative approach to improving the health and well-being of individuals within the Siksika Nation.
For more information:
siksikahealth.com
recruitment@siksikahealth.com




Employment Opportunity
Siksika Health Services
Vehicle Fleet Coordinator
Responsible for the acquisition, negotiating, purchasing, inventory control and effective management, scheduling and maintenance of Siksika Health Services' vehicle fleet.
For more information:
siksikahealth.com
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Siksika Addictions Program
NA Meeting
Thursdays from 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM
Siksika Health & Wellness Centre
Contact: 403.734.5687




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