



# Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Siksika Nation, Omahksikoki (Town of Strathmore) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Strathmore Detachment come together to sign a Letter of Understanding**

Siksika Nation, Alberta (October 26, 2020) – Siksika Nation, Omahksikoki (Town of Strathmore) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Strathmore Detachment will come together to sign a Letter of Understanding on October 28, 2020 in Strathmore, Alberta. Another historic milestone reached between neighboring communities Siksika Nation and the Town of Strathmore.

The purpose of this Agreement is to set a strong foundation for the parties to establish and maintain a co-operative relationship in the spirit of trust and reconciliation, to establish POMIKAPI (*peace and harmony*) by bringing together leaders comprised of Blackfoot Elders, political leaders and the RCMP to foster healthy conversation and cultural awareness in their communities; and to have a platform for meaningful, effective and transparent communication and information by the sharing of these values on all issues of mutual interest.

Siksika Nation leadership recognizes the need to address issues of systemic racism faced by its membership and remain hopeful that this is another positive step forward to help address these concerns and improve the relationship between the two communities and the RCMP, “We are optimistic that this Letter of Understanding between Siksika Nation, Omahksikoki (Strathmore) and the RCMP will be a stepping stone towards equitable treatment, mutual understanding and better working relationships. We want to build bridges instead of walls.” States Siksika Nation Chief Ouray Crowfoot.

The Mayor of Strathmore Pat Fule and his council have been instrumental in leading the Town of Strathmore into improving this relationship with Siksika Nation and also sees this as an important step forward for everyone involved, “This Letter of Understanding is an important step, and I have faith that we’ll take the next steps together. Almost a year ago Siksika Nation and the Town of Strathmore signed a letter of understanding that established a relationship between our communities, and our new tripartite agreement continues to build this relationship. I’m truly grateful for the leadership of Siksika Nation and the Strathmore RCMP that’s led to this historic event.” Shared Pat Fule, Mayor, Town of Strathmore

The RCMP Strathmore detachment who is also part of this historic signing is committed to working with Siksika Nation and the Town of Strathmore on building stronger relationships and meeting the needs of the community, “This Letter of Understanding provides an important framework, a framework by which RCMP members can build stronger relationships with the people of Siksika Nation. It is through these relationships that we build trust and confidence and



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gain a better understanding of how we can best serve the people of Siksika. We remain committed to being responsive to meeting the needs of our communities and being agile enough to do so in a timely manner. I would like to thank Chief Crowfoot, Councillor Breaker, Mayor Fule, Councillor Sobol and their leadership teams for making this a reality.” Stated Chief Superintendent Trevor Daroux, District Commander Southern Alberta District.

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