



# Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Safety Plan for the Siksika Nation Section of Alberta Provincial Highways**

February 1, 2021 – Siksika Nation Chief and Council is calling on the Alberta Government and Transportation to enact a safety plan on highway 901 after losing another Nation member on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on the highway that runs through Siksika Nation. The safety plan calls to lower the speedlimit from 100 km to 80 km through the residential areas, the addition of lights, signage and additional turn lanes through high traffic areas that run through the residential communities along the highway.

In a letter addressed to Honourable Ric McIver the Minister of Transportation, Siksika Nation Chief and Council expressed the urgency of enacting this Safety Plan for a section of provincial highway that runs through the Nation including five residential communities.

“It is from a position of sorrow and extreme concern that we write this letter. Recently, on January 5, 2021, a Nation member was struck and killed by a semi-trailer while walking a portion of Highway no. 901 that runs through Siksika Nation. Sadly, this heavily travelled 23 km stretch of highway has seen many collisions and claimed many lives over the years, this most recent victim is the first of 2021. The 901 is a major artery through our lands and many of our communities are within a stone’s throw from the highway’s edge. As such, our people walk along its shoulders on a daily basis – often in poor conditions with traffic traveling in excess of 100 km/hour. Currently, Chief and Council are in the beginning stages of developing a safety plan for this stretch of highway, one that will include increased signage and data collection in an attempt to make our portion of the highway less lethal.”

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported 608 Reported Motor Vehicle Collisions and Traffic Related Offences on 901 from 2004 to 2020 including 6 Fatal Motor Vehicle Collision Occurances.

Blackfoot Confederacy does have an existing Protocol Agreement with the Province of Alberta, so we are optimistic we can reach a mutually beneficial agreement.