

## History

Our nation once had order among our people. Everything we did had a reason behind it whether it was good or bad. Our laws solely depended upon the strength of our nation's opinions that were handed down by word of mouth preserved by our elders through stories and legends. Our elders undertook the task of teaching community values and warned wrong doings and doers on behalf of the community. They also took the responsibility to settle disputes by talking to members to reconcile with each other.

## Goals

- > To reduce hostility among the Siksika nation members
- > To give the Siksika members a sense of accomplishments for this project
- > To reduce family cases such as welfare matters
- > To keep our old ways alive such as language and beliefs
- > To establish authority to make our own decisions
- > To reduce criminal cases
- > To reduce civil court cases
- > To employ Siksika members

## Dyan Breaker

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## AISKAPIMOHKIKS LOGO

"Your work involves talking to people to assist in resolving problems for our reserve members. Not only do they have you workers, but many other friends, relatives, organizations or groups are represented in this logo as rocks. The seven (7) eagle feathers represent the "Elders" that assist you in your work. The work will be here for a long time that is why the rocks and seven (7) eagle feathers go together in a circle. An Elder and two (2) children represent your work and they are placed in the center."

(Artwork & story by late Mark Wolfleg Jr.)



## Aipohtsinimsta

*"Working together, helping each other"*

## Aiskapimohkiiks

*"To advise and to have discipline and balance; to follow the right path to justice"*

## Siksika Justice Department

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## Traditional Dispute Resolution

This program applies to matters in the following areas:

- › Referrals for mediation by the Provincial Court of Alberta Family Division, Criminal Division, Youth Division, and Small Claims Court Division.
- › Disputes arising from personal, family, community relationships; the use or occupation of lands, housing, traditional land holdings.
- › Disputes arising from animal trespass, mischief regarding children, damage to private property, disturbances, theft, and nuisances.
- › Contracts entered into, where at least one of the parties are members of the Siksika Nation or Siksika Nation entities.
- › Siksika Nation Codes or By-Laws

## Alternative Dispute Resolution

Attempts to resolve disagreements by stepping outside the traditional litigation process.



### Mediation Model Aiipohtsiniimsta

*Where two parties involved in a dispute are willing to come to the table to work out their issue(s) through the help of a Mediator and an Elder in an Aiipohtsiniimsta session.*

### Arbitration Model Aiskapimohkiiks

*If Aiipohtsiniimsta does not work, The Aiskapimohkiiks Appeal Tribunal, which consists of a trained community member & an Elder can decide. A waiver signed by both parties gives consent to the Tribunal to make a decision that is final & binding.*



## Information on Aiipohtsiniimsta

In the Aiipohtsiniimsta session you will be making all the decisions. The Aiipohtsiniimsta facilitator has no decision-making power. The facilitator can make decisions if both parties consent and agree to what is being decided. Aiipohtsiniimsta is absolutely free and the amount of time the session will be is dependent on how agreeable the participants are.

Aiipohtsiniimsta's goal is to support your well-formed decision making. We will also make certain that the agreements are thorough and that each party is aware of the issues you may want to consider.

During the Aiipohtsiniimsta session, the facilitator and the elder will encourage both parties to work together to resolve problems and conflicts in a non-threatening environment.

Aiipohtsiniimsta would like both parties to experience their own abilities to resolve issues that they haven't been able to come to terms with.