



# Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

October 26, 2020

## Siksika Nation Chief & Council Update: October 2020

### General Business

- Met with the Superintendent of Parks Canada for Banff on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to discuss items related to our Castle Mountain Settlement and how we can get more visible Siksika presence in Banff to educate visitors of the true, historical history of the area and the involvement of Siksika Nation.
- Released a Statement of Solidarity with Mi'kmaq Nation on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Councillor Wade Healy attended the "All Eyes On Mi'kma'ki" rally and read the statement on behalf of Siksika Nation. The march took place October 24<sup>th</sup> in Calgary, AB. Councillor Carlin Black Rabbit was also part of organizing this event.
- A Letter of Understanding is signed by Siksika Nation Chief and Council, Omahksikoki (Town of Strathmore) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Strathmore Detachment on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Strathmore Alberta. The purpose of this Agreement is to set a strong foundation for everyone involved to establish and maintain a co-operative relationship in the spirit of trust and reconciliation and to establish POMIKAPI (*peace and harmony*) by bringing the communities together to address systemic racism.

### Siksika Resource Development Ltd.

Chairperson: Tracy McHugh

Council Representative: Wade Healy

SRDL is open for business and working hard to continue to serve our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our front-line workers who have continued to come to work and provide essential services for our community members. We would also like to thank all of our members who continue to support Siksika-owned businesses. Every little bit helps to keep the doors open and the lights on.

SRDL has been accessing all available pandemic-related government business supports in order to do our best to keep costs down for our customers. The Plaza, Subway, Petro-Canada and the Siksika Trail Market are open for business as usual with COVID-19 safety protocols in effect. Two new leases have been signed in the last month and those businesses should be open soon. Plans are in place for two more. And the fifth bay should also be open with a new business in 2021.

Siksika Farms had their best year ever. Crop yields for wheat and canola were high and irrigated alfalfa hay is available for sale to Nation members at the sale price of \$85 per round and \$35 per square (older hay), delivered. Call Curtis at 403-325-0104 to place your order before they are all gone.



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Finally, we would like to thank Stan Wigmore for his 3 years of service as the Manager of the Siksika Trail Market. Stan's last day is Friday, October 30, so please stop by to wish him well. Mandi Running Rabbit will be taking over from Stan as the new Manager and we welcome her to her new position. Have a safe and happy Halloween! Sincerely, SRDL Management & Staff

## **Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park**

Council Representatives: Kent Ayoungman, Leon Crane Bear, Armond Duck Chief, Kendall Panther Bone, Ike Solway, Tracy McHugh and Jenny Goodin

Blackfoot Crossing currently remains closed to the public as we work on new displays and ongoing construction however Siksika Nation members are welcome to come in for a last chance to see the current displays as they will all be changed for the next tourist season. Please contact the front desk at (403) 734 5171 to prearrange your visit.

Blackfoot Crossing has been closed since the pandemic began however, in spite of our closure we continue to spread awareness of Blackfoot culture and history through our social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and [www.blackfootcrossing.ca](http://www.blackfootcrossing.ca). We post historical photos and cultural articles. This week our focus has been on Chief Crowfoot's trip to Eastern Canada in 1886.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Virtual Hand Drum competition which was live streamed for our audience. Category winners are:

### Youth Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tziyon Simon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Quaide Mountain Horse
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Phoenix Wadsworth

### Teen Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Derrick Valencia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Layne Crowchief
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Dayton Memnook

### Senior Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Randy Riding at the Doore
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Radford Black Rider
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Arnold Moosomin

### Adult Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Shonan Awasis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – William Arcand
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Cole Healy



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Owl Dance Group Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Hunya Hill

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Opie Day, Joel Wood, John Bearstail

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Iron Star

Blackfoot Crossing has many new and exciting plans for 2021, including the reopening of the museum. Stay tuned to our social media for further updates. You can find Blackfoot Crossing online at:

[Facebook.com/blackfootcrossing](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootcrossing)

[Twitter.com/blckftcrossing](https://twitter.com/blckftcrossing)

[Youtube.com/user/BlackfootCrossing](https://www.youtube.com/user/BlackfootCrossing)

[Instagram.com/blackfootcrossing](https://www.instagram.com/blackfootcrossing)

[www.blackfootcrossing.ca](http://www.blackfootcrossing.ca)

## **Old Sun Community College Board of Directors Update**

Chairperson: Susan Solway

Council Representative: Armond Duck Chief

On September 30<sup>th</sup> Old Sun Community College Board of Governors (OSCC BOG's) welcomed the OSCC Corporate Members (Chief and Council), and Public to attend the 2020-21 Annual General Meeting. Due to the COVID public health restrictions, the public were able to listen in through a live stream presentation. The AGM allowed for the Corporate Members and Public to receive annual operational and financial updates.

Orange Shirt Day was also recognized on this day. The staff and students of the College, invited the OSCC BOG's and Corporate Members participated in an honour walk to acknowledge the adversity of the Indian Residential School survivors. This significant event welcomed Elder Ruth Scalplock to share her personal story with the group.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> Siksika Health and the Communicable Disease Control (CDC team) determined one positive Covid-19 case in an OSCC staff member. Under the guidance of the two areas, all persons considered to be a direct contact to the individual were immediately placed on a 14-day isolation period, while undergoing the recommended follow up Covid-19 testing throughout this time. As a result of the confirmed case, the College was closed to students from October 5- 19<sup>th</sup>. Due to the quick and efficient response to the situation by Siksika Health, CDC, and OSCC Management staff, we are happy to share that no additional positive cases were found.

Along with Chief Crowfoot, the Board of Governors were invited to participate in the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AoTC) meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>, virtually. The Treaty Chiefs engaged in discussion on the Treaty Right to Education. The Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs presented the 'Declaration Siksikaitsitapi Issksinimat'tstohksinn' which was ratified and affirmed in May 2020.



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As well, the Treaty 7 First Nations' Chiefs' Association presented a letter addressed to Ministers Miller and Bennett regarding Post-Secondary Education, dated October 6th, 2020, whereas Kainai Chief Roy Fox read the letter aloud during the AoTC meeting with Minister Marc Miller and Carolyn Bennett in attendance via Zoom video. Action items regarding Resolutions and directives specifically pertaining to Treaty 7 and Siksika will be carried out accordingly.

During the monthly OSCC Board of Governors meeting, set for October 27th and 28th the members will address amendments to the existing OSCC By-Law No. 1, and to the Old Sun Community College Act; as well as receive and discuss reports by the Chairperson, OSCC President, and the Financial updates.

## **Communications**

SiksikaNation.com is currently under maintenance. Launch date of a new website will be announced soon. Your patience is appreciated. Please follow Siksika Nation Administration Facebook Page and Twitter for regular updates.

## **Interview Request with Siksika Nation Chief and Council**

Siksika Nation members can schedule an interview with Siksika Nation Chief and Council by appointment. Please contact Executive Assistant Mariah Little Chief at [littlechiefmariah@siksikanation.com](mailto:littlechiefmariah@siksikanation.com) or Sharon Brass at [BrassSharon@siksikanation.com](mailto:BrassSharon@siksikanation.com) to book an interview.

Thank you,  
Siksika Nation Chief & Council