



Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

September 28th, 2020

Siksika Nation Chief & Council Update: September 2020

Siksika Nation Chief and Council is working on the following initiatives; 1910/Negotiations, Consultations/Culture, Community Outreach/Charities/Communications, Funding Agreement, Public Safety/Policing/Security/Legal, Land Use Committee, Agreements, Siksika Health Services, Siksika Board of Education, Siksika Resource Development Ltd, Old Sun Community College, Siksika Family Services, Treasury Board, and Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park. Additional events and initiatives fall under general business.

Highlights:

- Development of the Siksika Nation Chief and Council Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022 in process.
- The Siksika Nation Administration was re-opened to the public on September 7th, 2020 after closing in mid-March due to COVID-19. Siksika Nation Leadership and Siksika Health Services continue to work with Alberta Health Services on providing adequate services to address COVID-19 for Siksika Nation members in Siksika including a mobile testing unit for on reserve and off reserve community.
- Siksika Chief and Council along with the Tribal Manager and Housing department, are developing strategies to create more home ownership on the Nation, while dealing with the boarded-up housing units on the Nation. For more information about this program, please contact the Tribal Manager or the Housing Senior Manager.
- The 2020 Blackfoot Confederacy Conference has been postponed due to COVID-19 and with the recent rise in cases amongst Amskapi Pikanni. The planning committee will keep monitoring the situation and determine an alternate date or if the conditions don't improve, may cancel the conference this year.

Lethbridge Reconciliation Week

- Siksika Chief, Ouray Crowfoot & Councillor, Kent Ayoungman, took part in the flag raising ceremony held on September 21, at Lethbridge City Hall. Kainai elders Peter Weasel Moccasin & Calvin Williams provided a prayer & speeches. Also, on the agenda were Mayor Chris Spearman, MLA Shannon Phillips, Metis President, Adam Browning & Co-chair Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee, Treena Tallow. Councillor Kent Ayoungman sang the flag song as the Reconciliation flag was raised at city hall. The flag will fly for a month, but our goal is the have a permanent Blackfoot flag flying at city hall.



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1910/Negotiations

- Chief and Council appointments to taskforce; Chief Ouray Crowfoot and Council Representatives Samuel Crowfoot, Tracy McHugh, Kent Ayoungman and Susan Solway.
- The 1910 Negotiation team have been meeting with Canada and have continued with our negotiations with Canada on a settlement agreement. We are working towards receiving a financial mandate when parliament begins meeting again.
- Federal Justice Campbell has been on the 1910 file for over 30 years and Justice Campbell recently announced his retirement. Although Justice Campbell has retired, he was asked to remain close to the file and will remain available and provide assistance to his predecessor. Justice Campbell was replaced by Justice Favel. Justice Favel is a member of Poundmaker First Nation.
- Siksika Nation has obtained the law firm of Mandell Pinder LLP Barristers & Solicitors to manage the case. The law firm is developing strategies for both a negotiation as well as a litigation standpoint.

Consultations/Culture

- Chief and Council appointments to taskforce; Kent Ayoungman, Leon Crane Bear, Armond Duck Chief, Kendall Panther Bone and Ike Solway
- Repatriation of sacred items from the Frank Holt estate sale were acquired by Siksika Nation in July 2020.
- Ms. Fletcher, the great granddaughter of Archdeacon John William Tims who worked at the Old Sun Residential School and lived with the Blackfoot from 1883 to 1895 contacted Siksika Nation after hearing that some of Frank Holt's collection was returned to Siksika. She repatriated items belonging to Siksika in August 2020.
- Plans to mark sacred and historically significant areas within Siksika borders. A recent non-invasive scan was performed of the final resting places for Chiefs Old Sun & Yellow Horse.

Community Outreach/Charities/Communications – Community Relations

- Chief and Council appointments to taskforce; Chair Wade Healy, Carlin Black Rabbit, Jenny Goodin, Ruben Breaker and Susan Solway.
- Taskforce Terms of Reference were established and approved.
- Kids Upfront Partnership was made in February 2020. Tickets to Calgary Flames games were provided to the Siksika Outreach School.
- Participated in a Bear Clan Patrol in Calgary March 4, 2020
- Hosted the Siksika Woman's Day luncheon on March 8, 2020
- A public notice on littering was distributed through the community to help keep communities including river banks clean on August 2020.
- A Request for Proposal process was done in July 2020. Hired Communications Consultant Lynn Calf Robe in September 2020.
- Siksika Nation declares September 10th Siksika Suicide Prevention Day.



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- A Siksika Nation Chief and Council Student Bursary was created for ten Siksika Nation post-secondary students which will be announced in October 2020. Chief Crowfoot will award two additional bursaries.
- Siksika Nation Chief and Council meeting with County of Wheatland in September 2020
- Orange Shirt Day with Old Sun Community College on September 30, 2020.

Funding Agreement

- Chief and Council appointments to taskforce; Chief Ouray Crowfoot, Council Representatives Tracy McHugh, Wade Healy, Leon Crane Bear, Jenny Goodin and Susan Solway.

Public Safety/Policing/Security/Legal

- Chief and Council appointments to taskforce; Samuel Crowfoot, Ruben Breaker, Carlin Black Rabbit, Kendall Panther Bone, Armond Duck Chief, Kent Ayoungman
- Attended Guns and Gangs Conference in Vancouver February 14, 2020
- Met with Government of Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to discuss Siksika Nation Public Safety Initiatives in July 2020
- Curfew implemented July 3, 2020 in Siksika Nation in response to COVID-19. Increased security presence in Siksika Nation was moved to 24/7.
- Public Safety Bylaw Planning Session in July 2020. Inventory of bylaws reviewed and prioritized. One identified as the Siksika Nation Livestock Control By-law No. 2020-01.
- Community consultation online presentation and discussion on Crime Prevention solutions on the Siksika Administration Facebook Page September 2, 2020
- Call for letters of Support for Community Crime Prevention Funding in September 2020
- Peace Officer training was approved for Siksika Nation members and will commence October 2020. Four peace officers will be certified by December 2020.

Land Use Committee

- Council appointments to taskforce; Ike Solway and Kendall Panther Bone

Agreements

- Chief and Council appointments to taskforce; Chief Ouray Crowfoot, Kendall Panther Bone, Samuel Crowfoot, Carlin Black Rabbit, Tracy McHugh, Susan Solway, Wade Healy
- Review of Nation agreements/settlements; looking for any outstanding issues that need to be resolved.
- Bassano dam-applied for water license; Request for Proposal process for legal opinion in process. We are developing strategies to take advantage of the water rights (35,000 ft/acre) negotiated as part of the Bassano Dam agreement. Some of the strategies include exploring economic opportunities, irrigation expansion, agricultural opportunities, et cetera.
- Currently reviewing Castle Mountain – Siksika looking into options for acquiring lands in additions to reserve land. We are also working with parks Canada on ways to have more



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of a visible Blackfoot presence in our Blackfoot Territory. Some examples include signage and other official markers to educate visitors our of Blackfoot ways of Life within our Territory.

Siksika Health Services

- February Council Representatives appointed to Siksika Health Services Board of Directors; Chair Jenny Goodin and Council Representative Susan Solway
- Motion was made to approve additional Council Representatives to Siksika Health Services Board of Directors; Chair Jenny Goodin and Council Representatives Susan Solway, Wade Healy, Samuel Crowfoot, Carlin Black Rabbit until community members are formally appointed.
- Anson McMaster and Winnipeg Ice were invited to Siksika Nation in a special recognition dinner honoring Anson for his achievements. The team practiced at the Deerfoot Sportsplex on February 26, 2020.
- February 2020 attended the Hitmen Game Every Child Matters event in partnership with Siksika Health and Family Services.
- Supported event to honor Anson McMaster from Winnipeg Ice at the Sportsplex
- March 10-12 attended Blackfoot Confederacy Health Symposium.
- COVID-19 Response: Once the State of Local Emergency was declared on March 16th by Chief and Council, SHS focused on the COVID-19 response, and released weekly and daily COVID-19 Situational Reports to Chief and Council. Isolation Centres were prepared by Emergency Management, and maintained Isolation Units. Food distribution was provided for impacted and affected families. A letter of support was received from Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Alberta, to SHS.
- Board volunteer to the community Drive-by Breakfast in July
- Supported application for Alberta Prevention of Family Violence Program (Three Eagles Family Violence) Funding. Appointed new Siksika Representative to sit on the Board.
- A motion made to approve the re-opening recreational Facilities and Services
- Call for Community Board Members planning meeting held. To be complete by December 2020.

Siksika Board of Education

- January Council Representatives appointment to Siksika Board of Education, Chair Leon Crane Bear and Council Representative Ike Solway. In August, Kent Ayoungman joined the team.
- In February, Siksika Board of Education met with Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) to discuss Regional Education Agreement (unfortunately, the pandemic hit and further progress was postponed till September).
- August 2020, Siksika Board of Education Safety measures Handbook regarding back to school and Covid-19 was completed and approved at the Board level.
- Renewed Superintendent of Siksika Board of Education contract.
- September 8· 2020 back to School for the Nation.



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Siksika Resource Development Ltd.

- Council Representatives appointed Chair Tracy McHugh and Wade Healy
- Motion was made to approve additional Council Representatives to the SRDL Board of Directors until community members are formally appointed.
- SRDL Business Group Announce the appointment of Mr. Dean Janvier as the new President and Chief Executive Officer on August 24, 2020.

Old Sun Community College

OSCC Board of Governors strives for commitment and definitive action in holding all levels of government accountable for their respective post-secondary education responsibilities to Siksika Nation. Since the appointment of the new Board of Governors in October 2019, the following items have been addressed, or are in the process of achieving:

- OSCC Board of Governors Strategic Plan 2020-2025 approved August 28, 2020
- OSCC Board of Governors Operations Plans 2020-2021 approved August 28, 2020
- Review of OSCC By-Law No.1, as outlined in the OSCC Board's Operations Plans
- Development and launching of an interactive and informative OSCC website;
www.oldsuncollege.ca
- Initiated the development of potential partnerships with three Alberta post-secondary institutions
- Hosting the OSCC Annual General Meeting on September 30, 2020
- Lift/Elevator at OSCC building to be complete by October 1, 2020
- OSCC Resumption and Relaunch Plan approved by the OSCC Board of Governors on August 28, 2020
- Appointed OSCC Board of Governors members onto the Post – Secondary Partnership Program in August 2020
- Financial donation from Alvin Reinhold Fritz Architect Inc. towards the proposed OSCC Campus Expansion and Redevelopment Project

Siksika Family Services

- Council Representatives appointed to Siksika Family Services; Chair Samuel Crowfoot and Carlin Black Rabbit

Treasury Board

- Council Representatives appointed to Treasury Board; Chair Kendall Panther Bone, Ruben Breaker, and Tracy McHugh
- Developed a criterion for Siksika Nation Entrepreneur Relief. For more information regarding Entrepreneur Relief, as a result of COVID-19, please contact the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Treasury Administration.



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Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

- Council Representatives appointed to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park; Kent Ayoungman, Leon Crane Bear, Armond Duck Chief, Kendall Panther Bone, Ike Solway, Tracy McHugh and Jenny Goodin
- Blackfoot Crossing is developing strategies on how to better service the People, even during times of pandemic.
- Blackfoot Crossing is working closely with the Province of Alberta to become a fully accredited museum. The museum accreditation provides opportunities for economic growth and access to grants and other programs that are not available otherwise.

General Business

- Attended the National Roundtable on MMIWG Calls to Action hosted by Native Women's Association of Canada in January 2020
- Attended "Every Child Matters" Calgary Hitmen game presented by Siksika Health Services in partnership with Siksika Child & Family Services and First Nations Health Consortium held in February 1, 2020
- Bison meat provided April 17, 2020 to Siksika Nation members for two weeks at the Deerfoot Sportsplex in response to COVID-19
- Siksika Nation Administration closed for the designated holiday Siksika Day on September 22, 2020