

# Aitsiniki

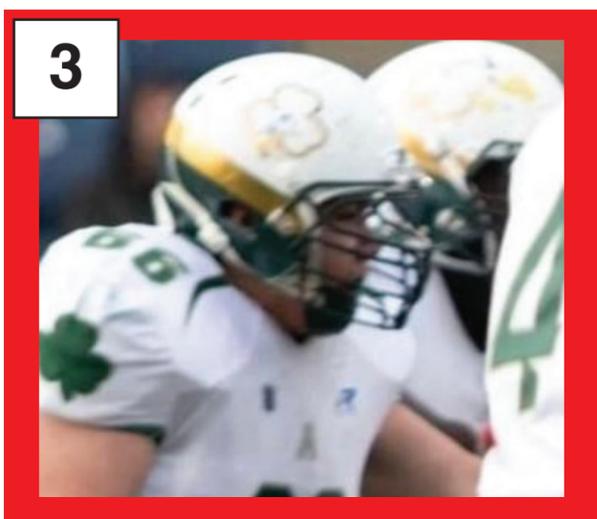
Siksika Nation's Most Trusted News Source

## Conditions ripe for grass fires



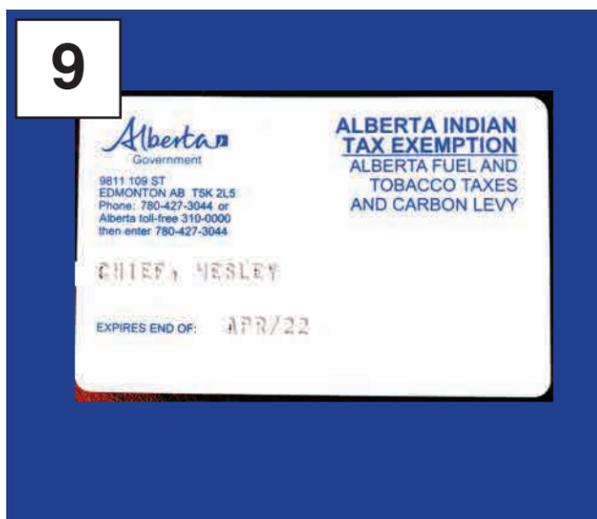
Photo by Carly Weasel Child

Local fire depts. responded to a grass fire in the Little Chicago area of Siksika Nation that burned 160 acres.



3

Yellow Old Woman playing semi-pro football with Airdrie Irish



9

Alberta doing away with Tax Exemption cards



11

Blackfoot Tribe share Vaccine with Blackfoot Confederacy and locals



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## Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

### Siksika Nation Chief and Council Update: April 2021

#### Public Safety Task Force Chair Carlin Black Rabbit

- Chief and Council passed a motion approving a Letter of Understanding between Siksika Nation and The Town of Strathmore, agreeing that a process should be in place to “ensure safe transportation of Siksika Nation persons being released from RCMP during inclement weather or in a situation where the released persons safety is of concern”. Both the Nation and the Town of Strathmore will contribute financially for a local taxi service for transportation.
- Chief and Council continue to promote safety in our community. The task force has a launched a safety campaign in our community to address addiction and substance abuse in the hopes to reduce the number of overdoses by Nation members. Signage will be placed throughout the Nation with information to report suspected drug trafficking:
  - *Local Detachment 403-734-3056*
  - *Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or Online at: [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)*

Those who require assistance with addiction can call: Siksika Community Wellness at 403 734 5687. This is an ongoing community effort; we need to stay vigilant and ensure our children and elders are protected.

- In addition to ensuring public safety in our community, please respect the new speed limit change on the 901 highway. The speed limit has been reduced from 100km-80km. Signage has been put up by Napi Outdoors to help promote the new speed limit. Special thanks to our Communications Specialist Lynn Calf Robe for designing both signs, and Dexter Red Gun for donating to help make these signs possible.
- **Report suspicious vehicles in Siksika.** Siksika Nation Chief and Council “want to empower the people to help keep our communities safe and require everyone to do their part by reporting suspicious activity to the RCMP immediately. Please note that all reports can be made anonymously. RCMP info listed above. You can also contact: Siksika Security 403-734-3815

#### Community Relations Task Force Chair Carlin Black Rabbit

- The Community Relations Task Force, in partnership with the Golden Hills School Division's First Nation liaisons, held a virtual student Chief and Council inauguration on April 21. Thirty-eight students from the 3 schools were sworn in by members of Chief and Council. Thank you to Joni Breaker and Christina Hoover for helping to organize the event along with the liaisons/staff from Wheatland Crossing, Westmount Elementary School, Strathmore High School and Crowther Memorial Jr. High School.
- Councillor Crowfoot, Councillor Healy, Councillor S Solway and Councillor Black Rabbit spoke virtually to Westmount Elementary and Chief Old Sun Grade 6 students about

local government and the roles of Chief and Council. Special thanks to Megan Big Snake and Francine Charlie for arranging this opportunity.

- Members of the Community Relations Task Force took part in a SAGE Clan patrol in Lethbridge on April 11, 2021 (All COVID-19 safety protocols were followed). The SAGE is a "grassroots organization that specializes in engage those who need it the most in our community." Founded by Blood Tribe Nation member Mark Brave Rock, SAGE Clan is based upon the successful community patrol, the Bear Clan, based out of Winnipeg.
- The Community Task Force is working closely with volunteers in our community to establish a Community Fridge to help address food insecurity within the Nation. A committee has been developed and is led by Nevan Bear Chief and task force Chair, Councillor Carlin Black Rabbit. The team is establishing a committee, identifying what is needed to start a fridge, and location. There are many community fridges being developed all over North America, a special thank you to the Calgary Community Fridge for providing resources. If you would like to volunteer/support the initiative, please email [siksikacommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:siksikacommunityfridge@gmail.com).
- "Let's Celebrate Earth Day" is a community clean-up initiative led by Councillors Susan Solway and Jenny Goodin. Leadership encourages members to work together to keep the environment clean by: Picking up garbage in your yard and community; Reusing items and materials as much as you can before replacing them; and Recycling items whenever possible. Share your before and after clean up pictures for a chance to win a gift card by May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Send photos to [sncc@siksikanation.com](mailto:sncc@siksikanation.com). "AINIYIIMA KSAHKOOM" - HONOUR THE EARTH.
- The Unsung Hero's project was a great success. The project was one of two that was held to celebrate International Women's Day throughout the month of March and into April, and recognized inspiring women in our community. Thank you to the nominees for your participation. Visit [SiksikaNation.com](http://SiksikaNation.com) to see the complete list. Reminder that a small gift will be mailed to all Unsung Hero's as soon as we receive all mailing addresses. Please send your mailing address to [sncc@siksikanation.com](mailto:sncc@siksikanation.com) to receive your gift card.
- Chief and Council continues to work with Strathmore Town Council on the MOU and the Anti-Racism strategy. Siksika Nation member Astokomii Smith, indigenous Liaison for the Town of Strathmore, and her team lead an anti-racism messaging campaign, "We Say NO to Racism," and invited Chief & Council to partake. Councillors Reuben Breaker and Susan Solway sat down with Astokomii Smith to discuss the importance of addressing this important matter.

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# Yellow Old Woman pushing himself in AFL



By Wesley Water Chief

In 2019, Shayde Yellow Old Woman was recruited by the Airdrie Irish, a men's semi-pro tackle football franchise playing in the Alberta Football League (AFL). He is looking forward to the start of this season, which begins in July, and pushing himself to the next level of football.

"During my first season in 2019 with Airdrie Irish, I was a little skeptical of how organized the team will be with a limited number on their roster," said Yellow Old Woman. "Airdrie is an hour out of the reserve and

commuting there and back is a little difficult as I do not have my class 5 license yet; however, this team messaged me, drove out to my reserve, and picked me up on our way to their games. Games played as far as Fort MacLeod.

I hope to learn a lot from this team in the next few years, what it takes to be a professional athlete on the collegiate level, to better myself each time I fail, and progress into a level no six-foot Blackfoot linemen has ever gone into yet."

Yellow Old Woman played high school football with the Strathmore Spartans where he was spotted by the Irish. Standing 6'0, at 275 lbs., team captain Connor Lutz said Yellow Old Woman made an immediate impact in his rookie year, earning him a starting position on the Irish offensive line, despite being just 19-years-old.

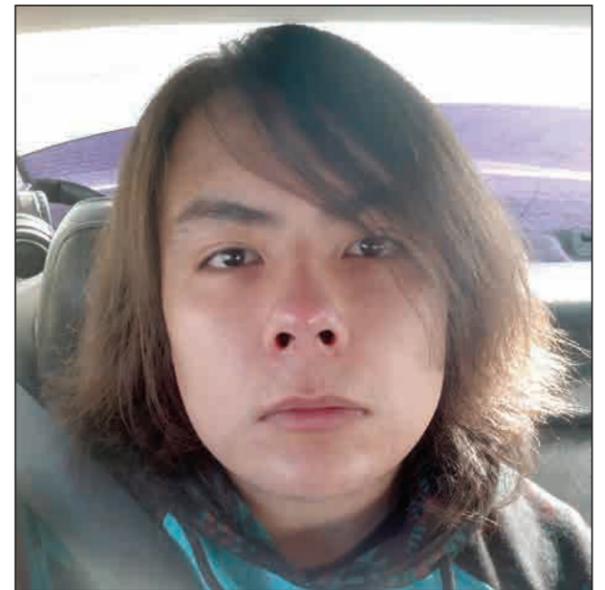
"Offensive linemen do not regularly get recognized on the stats sheet or highlight reel; however, this position is critical to the success of the team as they are responsible for protecting offensive ball carriers from being tackled by the opposing team's biggest defenders," said Lutz.

"Shayde has a quiet and reserved personality but plays with a fantastic controlled aggression and tenacity that sets him apart from other players. The team is glad to have Shayde re-sign for the 2021 campaign, following the cancelled season in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The team expects Shayde to once again fill a starting role on the Irish offensive line."

The AFL has teams in Grand Prairie, Fort McMurray, Cold Lake, Edmonton, Red Deer, Airdrie and Calgary. Each season the

winner of the AFL plays the winner of the Northern Football Conference (comprised of teams in Ontario and Quebec) for the Canadian Major Football League national championship.

The 2021 AFL season has been reduced in length to accommodate pending health restriction and is scheduled to start this upcoming July. This year the season consists of 6 games, 3 home and 3 away.



Photos submitted  
Shayde Yellow Old Woman plays offensive lineman for AFL Airdrie Irish

### Airdrie Irish 2021 Game Schedule

- July 10 @ Edmonton Elite
- July 17 vs the Calgary Wolfpack
- July 24 vs the Central Alberta Buccaneers
- August 7 @ Grand Prairie Cowboys
- August 21 vs Fort McMurray Monarchs
- August 28 @ Cold Lake Fighter Jets



## SIKSIKA FOOD CENTRE

Sharing nutritious food and advocating for food security for all.

Call 403-734-5706

to inquire about access to food supports for Siksikawa.



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# Siksika Nation's Tech Sector Comes Together to Improve Siksika's Internet and IT Services

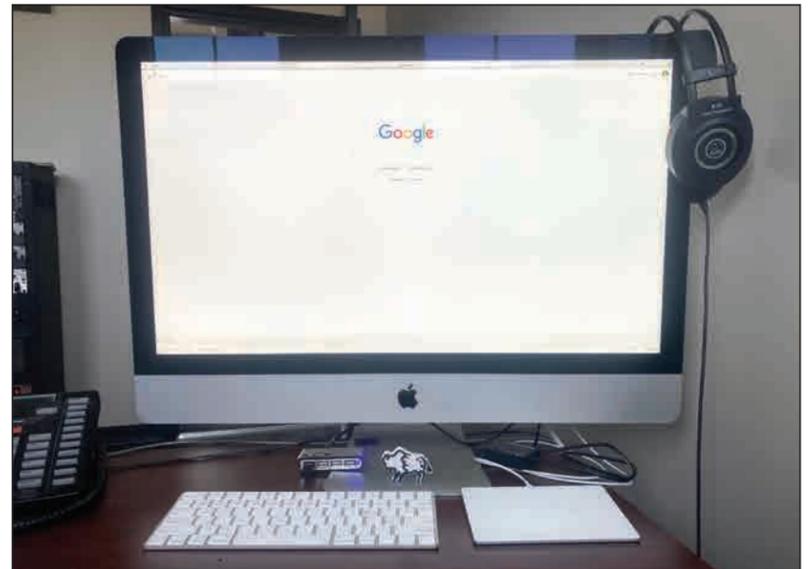
Submitted by Siksika Health, Jennifer Kohlhammer

*"The digital divide refers to the inequity in internet access between some communities, mainly rural, remote and on-reserve, and other communities, mainly urban and off-reserve, that prevents socioeconomic parity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and excludes many Indigenous peoples from the digital economy."*  
 - First Nations Technology Council

The digital divide is a current and increasing reality for Siksika. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) targets for internet speeds for all Canadian homes and businesses is at least 50 Mbps for downloads and 10 Mbps for uploads, or in other words: fast enough to stream HD videos, attend videoconference meetings, play multiplayer online games, or quickly download large files on several devices at the same time. Yet a recent community survey (Jan/Feb 2021) showed that average speeds across Siksika are 14.83 Mbps for downloads and 6.79 Mbps for uploads - nowhere near Canada's targets.

A number of internet options are available in Siksika for household and commercial use, however most of these are not meaningfully invested in the current and future development of Siksika Nation. A coordinated effort by Siksika for Siksika, reflective of deep community understanding is essential for the creation of a healthy digital ecosystem that will allow Siksikawa to thrive.

Siksika Nation has identified internet connectivity as a current priority area. In mid-2020, Tribal Manager, Mr. Richard Sparvier, initiated a working group to address internet and information technology (IT) challenges in Siksika that had been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The working group is made up of Siksika



Nation members and collaborators who are knowledgeable and experienced not only in IT, but also about the community itself, with participation from Siksika Nation's governance, commercial, educational, health, and social services entities, including SiksikaTel. The collaborative nature of the group allows for pooling of resources and sharing of collective wisdom, knowledge, and experience.

To-date, Siksika's internet group has prioritized project planning for improved internet service and capacity building for the Nation's tech sector, and pursued resources to help make these goals possible. With unanimous support from Siksika Nation Chief and Council, the group submitted an application to the Government of Canada's Universal Broadband Fund for internet infrastructure upgrades that will include a mix of wireless and fiberoptic cable solutions, for full coverage of Siksika Nation. Information about successful applicants has not yet been announced; please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

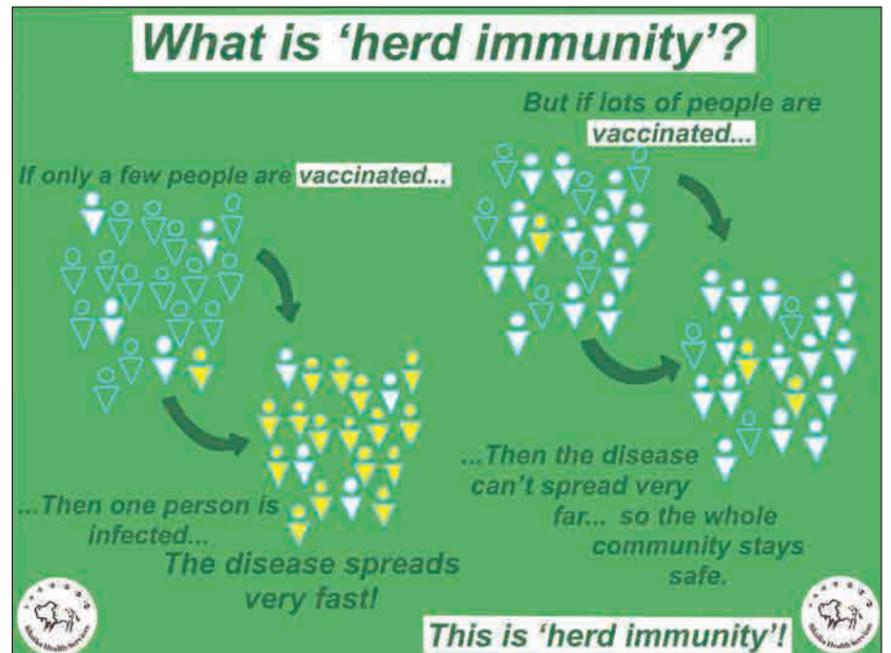
Since January 1, 2021, Siksika Health Services has been allocated the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for Siksika Nation members. The Moderna vaccine is a mRNA vaccine.

mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies.

That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

Siksika Health Services will communicate any additional allocation of other types of vaccines, to ensure nation members are informed on the type of vaccines offered. As of right now, the only vaccine offered in Siksika Nation is the Moderna Vaccine.

- Submitted by Siksika Health, Kelsey Solway



| April 23, 2021                             | 18528                | 622             | 617                                       | 2073                                       |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| COVID-19 Tests Completed To-Date           | Total Cases To-Date  | Recovered Cases | COVID-19 Vaccine First Doses Administered |  |
| <b>YELLOW - Moderate Risk</b>              | 1                    | 0               | 3   | 837  |
| SIKSIKA NATION CURRENT COVID-19 RISK LEVEL | Current Active Cases | New Cases       | Variant Cases To-Date                     | COVID-19 Vaccine Second Doses Administered |

# LET'S CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

**APRIL 22, 2021**

## SIKSIKA'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

### “AINIYIIMA KSAHKOOM” HONOR THE EARTH

Siksika Nation Chief and Council encourages Nation members to work together to keep our environment clean by:

- Picking up garbage in your yard and community
- Reuse items and materials as much as you can before replacing them
- Reduce the amount of waste you produce
- Recycle items wherever possible

**\*\*Extra garbage bags and gloves will be available for pick up in the Administration foyer starting April 21, 10am-4pm, and until supplies last**  
**\*\*Full garbage bags are to be placed in or beside existing dumpsters in your community**  
**\*\*Share your Before and After Clean-Up Photos for a chance to win! Send photos to [sncc@siksikanation.com](mailto:sncc@siksikanation.com) by May 3rd, 2021**

Please contact [sncc@siksikanation.com](mailto:sncc@siksikanation.com) for more information.

Take Pride In Our Community!

**SIKSIKA NATION CHIEF & COUNCIL**



*Photo by Wesley Water Chief*

Old Sun students Lane and Torie Wolf Leg, and Jeffery Waterchief enjoying lunch outside the college on a warm April, Spring afternoon.



*Photo by Wesley Water Chief*

The warm weather brings out the smiles from Old Sun staff Lorelee Waterchief, Fritzie Woods, and Erwin Bear Chief. I think they are smiling.



Photo by Siksika Health

Krista White and Treasure Yellow Old Woman were amongst the many people who made the the Calgary Urban Indigenous Community Immunization Clinic a welcoming and respectful place to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



Photo by Siksika Health

The Calgary Urban Indigenous Community Immunization Clinic was staffed by nursing students and community volunteers, including Dentists, Paramedics, and Medical Officers of Health. Iciar Bercian, graduate nursing student at the University of Calgary, prepares a COVID-19 vaccine.



Photo by Siksika Health

Dr. Crystal Cobb, a Calgary-based dentist, immunizes a young indigenous woman.

# SIKSIKA DENTAL

## FOR HAPPY SMILES

and all your dental needs

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Clinic Hours  
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9:00am - 4:00pm

Located in the  
Siksika Health and Wellness Centre

Walk-Ins and Emergencies  
Welcome

### DENTISTS:

- Dr. Deb Crowfoot
- Dr. Garet Herget
- Dr. Davis Fox
- Dr. Kayla Leugner-Lavallee



Photo by Siksika Health

Representation of traditional Blackfoot culture, showcased here by Siksika's Jarrett Pretty Young Man and Lanny McHugh, helped create a safe space for people to experience healthcare.



Photo by Wesley Water Chief

The pastures are still brown but Spring time crocuses are here.

# Siksika and Bow Valley College partner to offer Health Care Aide Certificate to Siksikawa

**Submitted by Kelsey Solway**

Siksika Health Services has partnered with Bow Valley College to offer information sessions about the Health Care Aide Program.

The Health Care Aide (HCA) Certificate program focuses on developing the core skills needed to care for individuals with various health care needs. Topics include personal care, assisting with mobility and nutrition, communication, assisting with medication delivery, and clinical skills.

Learners will gain theoretical knowledge and practical experience through a combination of on-campus labs, online or in-class learning, and clinical instruction in continuing care, acute care, and community/home care settings.

Upon completion of the program graduates will find work in hospitals, long term care, private residences, and other supportive care facilities.

Leah Wack is the Dean for Regional Stewardship at Bow Valley College. Wack says that this partnership give prospective Siksika students the support they need during the HCA program.

"I'm so pleased that Bow Valley College is able to serve a role in this important community initiative," said Wack. "Graduates of the Health Care Aide Certificate program will serve a valued role in their community at a time when it is most needed."

"Our partnership with Siksika Health Services to provide this program to the community will help ensure a supportive environment for the success of the learners participating."

Siksika Health Services is seeking certified Health Care Aides to work within the organization as there is currently a

high demand for HCA's at the Siksika Elders Lodge.

"Siksika Elders Lodge recognizes the loyalty, compassion, honour and respect that members of our team have demonstrated," explained Kory Duck Chief, Team Lead for Siksika Elders Lodge.

"By investing in them by supporting their educational endeavors; this is our way of saying 'we value you, we honour you and thank you for your contributions to the unique care needs of our Residents past, present and future.'"

"Our team at Siksika Elders Lodge, believes that Siksika Nation truly deserves highly skilled, certified individuals that will support our community members and their continuing care needs and investment in our people, and our team will set the stage for the sustainability of the Siksika Elders Lodge. We will continue to strive to meet our mission as a part of the Siksika Health Services organization, which is to provide exemplary health and wellness services."

This delivery format of the Health Care Aide program has a blended delivery structure. The blended delivery option allows you to complete the theory components of the courses online and the lab components on campus. Almost every course includes a lab component. The final 5 weeks of the program are a full-time clinical experience.

Depending on the number of courses you take at one time, you will need to attend on-campus labs up to five or six times per month. Bow Valley College and Siksika Health Services will work to coordinate travel arrangements for Siksika students for on-campus labs.

For more information, you can visit [www.bowvalleycollege.ca](http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca)



## Siksika Health Care Aide (HCA) Information Session – FAQ

<https://bowvalleycollege.ca/programs-courses/health-and-wellness/health-care-aide-certificate>

**Q:** If I've done all the HCA courses previously but need practicum hours. How do I proceed?

**A:** Depending on how long ago you took the courses, you might be able to get transfer credits from your previous institution. You will need to apply to the Health Care Aide program through [Apply Alberta](#), then request a transcript from the institution where you did your courses. They will send your record directly to Bow Valley College once the request is made. Once your application is received and assessed, you can then fill out and submit a [Request for Transfer Credit Form](#) to the Office of the Registrar by emailing it to [transfercredit@bowvalleycollege.ca](mailto:transfercredit@bowvalleycollege.ca) in a PDF format. **There is no fee to apply for transfer credit**

**Q:** How much is the Application Fee?

**A:** It's \$75 for all applications, however, **each applicant of Indigenous ancestry is entitled to two free-of-charge admissions applications per academic year:** one to a college certificate or diploma program, and one for high school upgrading where required to gain admission to a credit program. The applicant may elect which application will receive the application fee waiver(s) by requesting it through an [online form](#). Once the waiver is applied, it is deemed "used" and cannot be transferred, reversed, or carried-forward. The fee waiver request must be made within thirty days of the application being submitted.

**The applicant must still qualify for admission (such as by academic transcripts or admissions testing) and is responsible for payment of confirmation deposits, tuition, and other fees.** The Registrar's Office maintains a master list of fee waivers used each year and will notify students who exceed two requests per year. [This PDF document](#) explains the process and guideline

**Q:** Do we need to apply to Cochrane location even if I'm located closest to the Strathmore campus?

**A:** Yes. The license to run the program is currently with Cochrane but classes will be broadcast through Microsoft Teams on scheduled days and times. Instructors will be scheduled to be at certain campuses on set days and you are expected to attend when it's a campus near you.

**Q:** Is there any other travel involved?

**A:** Yes. There are a number of mandatory labs that will be scheduled at the Calgary main campus. Exact dates and times will be announced as soon as possible. We can help coordinate travel arrangements, if necessary.

**Q:** Do I do the application on my own?

**A:** Yes. The application will have to be done individually. However, Lilian will set up a LIVE session(s) to help with questions through application process (week of April 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Q:** What is fee for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)?

**A:** There is a one-time fee of \$200 for PLAR plus \$50 per credit.

**Q:** What is the due date for tuition fee and books?

**A:** After you have been accepted to the program, you will then receive a letter of acceptance and you will be given a deadline (normally a month depending on programs) to pay a \$200 confirmation deposit which will count towards the tuition fee. The tuition fee deadline is usually a day before classes start but if you are applying for funding, you will need to make sure your funder is aware of the payment due date as well.

## Driver killed on 901 after two semis collide

**By Wesley Water Chief**

Traffic had to be diverted onto the back roads on the west-end of Siksika Nation as emergency personnel and work crews dealt with the aftermath of a fatal truck collision.

On the evening of March 30,

around 7:00 p.m., two semis ran head on into each other on the 901 highway, with one of the truck drivers being killed in the accident.

Sgt. Mercer with the Gleichen RCMP said no charges have been laid to date and are unable to release name of deceased.



Photo by Wesley Water Chief

Crews clean up debris the next day after trucks involved had been towed away.

# Alberta to do away with Tax Exemption cards to stop duplication of services and red tape

By Wesley Water Chief

The Alberta Tax and Revenue Administration (TRA) served notice on April 15, that the Alberta Indian Tax Exemption (AITE) card used to purchase gas, tobacco and accommodation, exemption from tax on Alberta reserves and used by eligible individuals, will be eliminated.

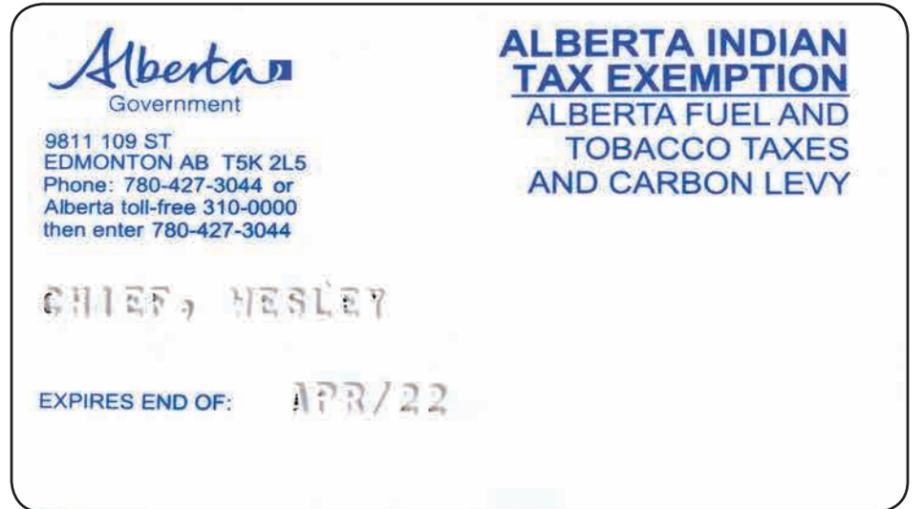
The notice posted by the TRA on their website reads that the card will be discontinued to reduce administration of the card. "In order to reduce administrative burden and unnecessary duplication as part of the Government of Alberta's ongoing commitment to reduce red tape, the AITE card issued by TRA is being eliminated.

Effective June 21, 2021, eligible individuals entitled to purchase fuel, tobacco and accommodation exempt from tax on Alberta reserves must present their federal Certificate of Indian Status card (federal status card) to the respective exempt sale retailer as valid evidence of exemption."

In short, the AITE card will no longer be accepted by exempt sale retailers after June 21, 2012 and the Indian status card will be accepted as proof for tax exemption when making those purchases.

Siksika Nation Chief Ouray Crowfoot says the move is welcomed and in a statement provided to Aitsiniki on behalf of council, said the card never should have "existed in the first place."

"Chief and Council welcomes the discontinuing of the Alberta Indian Tax Exemption (AITE) cards, aka the "White Cards" set to



AITE cards to be phased out on June 21, 2021

take effect June 21, 2021. From Siksika Nation's leadership perspective, the AITE card has served as an arbitrary and unnecessary obstacle to the exercising of our Treaty rights. Alberta has no business interfering in a Government-to-Government relationship between the Crown and the Nation. The discontinuance of the AITE card is long overdue and should have never existed in the first place."

**Tune in to 104.7 FM radio on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. to hear the Northern Lights Gospel Hour, showcasing local and northern musical talent and artists.**

Are you interested in building, purchasing or renovating a home?

**FINANCING IS AVAILABLE!**

*Siksika Homeownership Program*

For more details, phone Nelson Breaker, Treasury Department at (403) 734-4368 or email NelsonB@siksikanation.com.

Are you interested in homeownership / renovating your existing home or purchasing a home?  
Do you need financial counseling?

**HOME OWNERSHIP AND YOU OUTREACH**

Confidential one-on-one financial counselling is available via Zoom or by phone - 7 Days a week

To use Zoom you will need a computer with a mic and camera (optional). The service is available to band members.

For more information contact Scott Flamand at (705) 618-1093 or email flamandmservices@gmail.com

# Little Chicago fire burns 160 acres

By Wesley Water Chief

With the lack of rain this fall season and unpredictable wind conditions, the situation was ideal for a grass fire that Siksika Fire Chief, Tom Little Child estimates burned 160 acres in the Little Chicago area on Wednesday, April 14.

Fortunately no homes or buildings were lost in the afternoon fire that spread westward out of the valley. Little Child said having short grass around residences prevented the fire from spreading to nearby homes and buildings.

A Public Fire Order prohibiting fire risks had been issued by Siksika Nation Emergency Services two weeks prior on Mar. 28, due to the dry conditions and unpredictable wind.

Photos by Carly Weasel Child



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DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CELLULAR: (403) 325-0516

Email: [tomlc@snes.ca](mailto:tomlc@snes.ca)

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**SIKSIKA NATION EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**PUBLIC FIRE ORDER MARCH 28 2021**

Due to the very dry conditions and unpredictable weather (wind conditions) the Siksika Nation Emergency Services has determined the following:

Siksika Nation Emergency Services as of **Midnight March 28/21** is issuing a Public Fire Order thereby prohibiting the following until further notice.

- All the discharging of Fireworks
- Open burn barrels or fire pits
- Solid fuel barbeques (charcoal briquettes)
- Camp fires of any kind
- Burning of your grass around your homes or structures

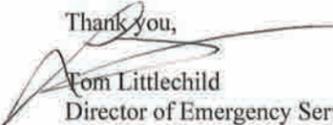
Exemptions:

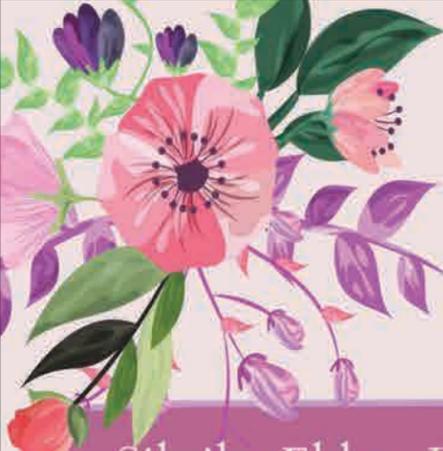
- Gas or propane stoves or barbeques that are CSA approved or ULC approved for use in Canada
- Portable Propane fire pits that are CSA or ULC approved for use in Canada

In regards to conducting sweats for ceremonies, we are only asking that you contact the Siksika Nation Emergency Services so we can conduct an evaluation of the site and ensure that it can be done safely during these dry weather times

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact the undersigned

Thank you,

  
Tom Littlechild  
Director of Emergency Services  
Siksika Nation Emergency Services  
SCO #001174  
Fire Discipline





Siksika Elders Lodge Presents:  
*Mothers Day Fundraiser*

BBQ boxes available for Mothers Day Weekend

Dinner for 4, boxes includes ingredients and recipes

\$30 Chicken | \$40 Flank

Pick up at Elders Lodge on May 8, 2021

To order please contact:  
[korydc@siksikahealth.com](mailto:korydc@siksikahealth.com)  
or call 403-734-5725



# Blackfoot Confederacy gifts surplus Covid-19 Vaccine at Medicine Line

By Stoneboy Nidanamska

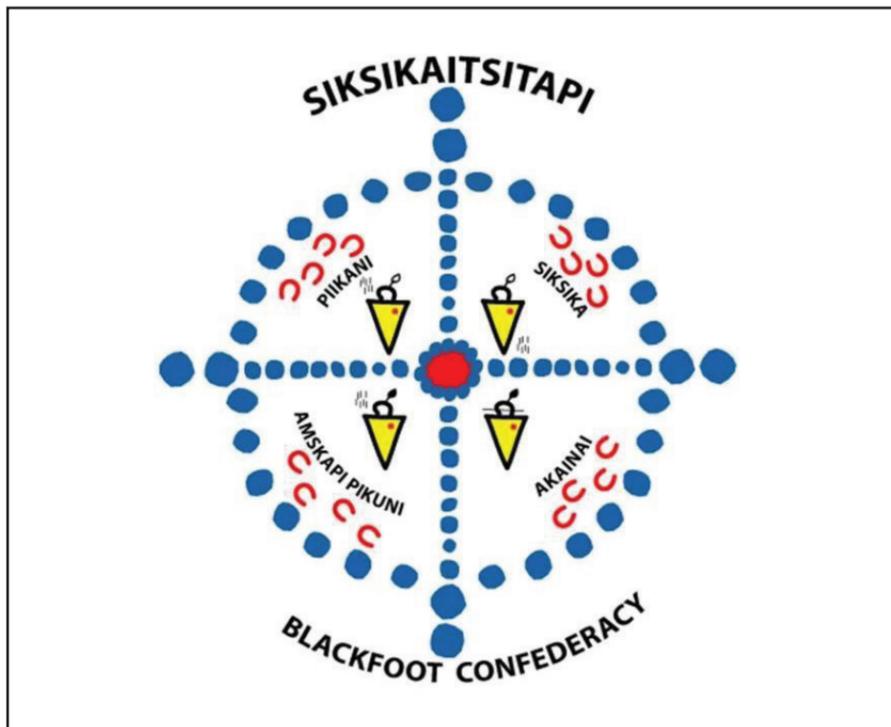
## BCTC NEWS RELEASE

April 20-21, 2021 Medicine Line, Siksikaitsitapii Territory – The Aamskapi’Piikuni Blackfeet Nation in Browning, Montana and the Siksikaitsitapii Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council (BCTC) collaborated in a historic government-to-government, nation-to-nation act of “reconciliation” to administer COVID-19 vaccines to members of the Blackfoot Confederacy - and residents of the nearby town of Cardston, Alberta.

The “gift” was made possible as the Aamskapi’Piikuni had a surplus of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines after immunizing the majority of its members and decided to offer the remaining vaccines as a gift, rather than wasting the vaccines – setting up a mobile clinic for northern Siksikaitsitapii tribal members at the Peigan-Carway Medicine Line crossing on Tuesday and Wednesday, during this challenging time of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Piita’hkotokii James McNeely, the public information officer with the Blackfeet Tribe in Browning, it was a surplus of doses on the southern side of the border that prompted the reserve to contact Canadian officials to offer vaccines to their relatives in Alberta – and then opening it up to others wishing to get vaccinated.

“We started having some discussion about that about a month ago,” McNeely said. “We threw this together in the last seven, eight days and it really fell together. I am actually brought to tears today hearing that the efforts to assist our relatives and folks across the medicine line with vaccines has been awesome! Many of the folks cried today when they were able



to get vaccinated.”

McNeely said the “act of reconciliation” came about when the Montana Blackfeet contacted Health Canada, provincial and state officials, and leaders of the Alberta Blackfoot First Nations to get the ball rolling, adding the majority of Montana Blackfoot members have received both doses.

“We’re probably at about 98 per cent (fully) vaccinated here on our reservation, (and so), through the efforts of the Blackfeet Tribe, BTBC, Southern Peigan Clinic, Blackfeet DES, Blackfoot Confederacy, Siksika Nation, Piikuni Nation, Blood Tribe, U.S. Customs, Canada Border Services, Health officials from State and Provincial governments, the Federal government on both sides - individuals (First Nations and non-First Nations) have been vaccinated!”

**“I’m actually brought to tears today hearing that the efforts to assist our relatives and folks across the medicine line with vaccines has been awesome!”**

**- Blackfeet Spokesperson James McNeely**

The mobile vaccination site was set up in a drive-thru format, where participants aged 16 and older would drive up to the Carway crossing, provide their passport or

status card, and received either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. McNeely said there were approximately 750 total doses available.

“We seen it as an opportunity to help those in need and that’s how First Nations people are on both sides of the border. Generous and kind.”

Since cars were turned directly around to head back into Canada, anyone who participated was given an exemption from the 14-day mandatory quarantine period for travellers returning to Canada by the Medical Officer of Health in Canada. Those in the Cardston area – 20 minutes away from the crossing – were also welcomed to get their

shots on Wednesday when 298 were immunized.

Anatsi’sinski, Tisha Bromley-Wadsworth, BCTC Health Coordinator and Apoyaakii, Bonnie Healy, Health Director for the Blackfoot Confederacy were an important part of the organizing team in Canada and was on hand to assist and give clients their exemption letters. “The mobile clinic was a great success, very emotional and no one who attended was turned away. We pulled the Medicine Line clinic together fairly quickly and worked with Indigenous Services Canada; Health Canada; Public Health Agency of Canada; and the Blackfoot Nations along with the Canadian and U.S. Border Services, who were very gracious and respectful.”

With the program ending on Wednesday afternoon, McNeely says the nation will return to the “Medicine Line” to facilitate another mobile clinic next week. “We (don’t) want to waste our extra vaccines, so we put this idea together and look what it did! Indian people are generous, and we’ve been vaccinating many people from all walks of life to help save lives and end this pandemic. This is a time for reconciliation and healing and (for) government-to-government relations to become stronger. Way to go everyone!”

The Aamskapi’Piikuni Blackfeet Nation administered over 400 vaccinations on Tuesday and Wednesday and plan to return to the Medicine Line - on the U.S. side of the Peigan-Carway Border Crossing - on April 28th and 29th to “gift” more COVID – 19 immunizations.

For more information and media inquiries or to register for vaccinations, please contact the BCTC at 587. 287.1100 or contact Anna’tsi’sinski at tishab@blackfootconfederacy.ca



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# Sam's Pizza

## Food menu

**- Lunch Special -**  
 (Monday to Friday - 12:00 to 2:00 pm)  
 Small pepperoni, Hawaiian,  
 or cheese pizza with drink  
 for \$9.99



Hot & Spicy

Fresh Food

Cheesy & yummy

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**To Order Phone**  
**587-727-2233**

**LOUISIANAN CHICKEN PIZZA**  
 Large (\$23) Medium (\$18) Small (\$16)  
 Fresh Grilled Chicken, Jalapeno, Green pepper, Onion, Chilly flacks, Louisianan sauce, Cheese, Fresh Tomatoes

**Tandoori Chicken Pizza**  
 Large (\$23) Medium (\$18) Small (\$16)  
 Specially Marinated Chicken with Tandoori spices, Fresh Tomatoes, Jalapeno, Green Pepper, Mushroom, Onion, Cheese, and Fresh Tomato sauce,

**Sam' Chicken Pizza**  
 Large (\$23) Medium (\$18) Small (\$16)  
 Grilled Chicken, Green Pepper, Mushroom, Onion, Tomato, Red Pepper, Cheese, Tomato Sauce

**Meat lover Pizza**  
 Large (\$23) Medium (\$18) Small (\$16)  
 Beef, Ham, Pepperoni, Donair, Green Pepper, Onion, Mushroom, Chilly Flacks, Black Olives Cheese, Tomato sauce.

**Donair Pizza**  
 Large (\$23) Medium (\$18) Small (\$16)  
 Specially Marinated Donair Meet, Green Pepper, Onion, Yellow Pickle Pepper, Fresh Tomato, Black Olives, Special Donair Sauce,

**Sam's PIZZA**  
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**Every one's Favourite Pizza**  
 Large (\$16.99) Medium (\$14.99) Small (\$12.99)  
 Cheese Pizza Load of Cheese Tomato Sauce

**Special Hawaiian Pizza**  
 Large (\$16.99) Medium (\$14.99) Small (\$12.99)  
 Ham, Pineapple, Mushroom, Cheese, Tomato sauce

**Traditional Pepperoni Pizza**  
 Large (\$16.99) Medium (\$14.99) Small (\$12.99)  
 Cheese and Pepperoni

**Vegetables Pizza**  
 Large (\$16.99) Medium (\$14.99) Small (\$12.99)  
 Green pepper- Mushrooms- onion - tomatoes - black olives Jalapeños

**Drink**  
 Can \$1.50  
 Bottle \$3.99

**Wings ,**  
 10 Wings for & 12.99  
 Hot wings ,BBQ wings, Sweet chilli wings, Teriyaki sauce wings, Salt & pepper wings Honey garlic wings

**Donair Plater Beef**  
 Fresh Donair Meet Marinated in Traditional Spices, Freshly Made Arabian rice with Carrots and Raisins, Garden Salad, Cucumber Pickles, Turnip Pickles, Italian Sauce, Tahini Sauce, Donair Sauce, Hot Sauce, and Cheese Extra

**Shish Kabab Plater**  
 Special Homemade  
 Beef Skewers with traditionally Marinated Aromatic Spices Freshly Made Arabian rice with Carrots and Raisins, Garden Salad, Cucumber Pickles, Turnip Pickles, Italian Sauce, Tahini Sauce, Donair Sauce, Hot Sauce, and Cheese Extra

**Beef Burger**  
 Homemade Beef Burger with special Marinating. With choice of Sauce, Lettuce & Tomato With cheese, Fresh Cucumbers, Side Coleslaw, Potato Salad.

**Extra Toppings**

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Meat   | \$3.99 |
| Cheese | \$2.99 |
| Veggie | \$2.99 |