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Siksika Nation's Most Trusted News Source

Strathmore Hospital raise Siksika Nation flag



The Siksika Nation flag was raised outside the Strathmore Hospital symbolizing relationship.

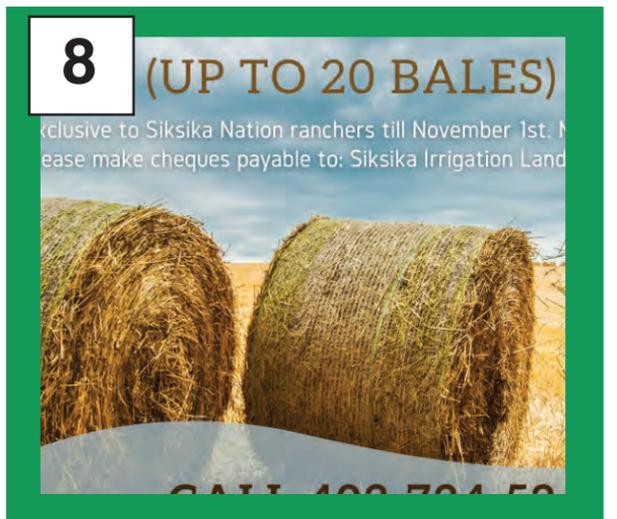
Photo by Wesley Water Chief



Siksika Nation Chief & Council update for Sept. 2021



Old Sun Community College 50th Year Celebration



8 (UP TO 20 BALES)

Exclusive to Siksika Nation ranchers till November 1st. Please make cheques payable to: Siksika Irrigation Land

Siksika ranchers offered discounted bales to feed livestock in drought



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Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

**Submitted by Chief & Council
Communications Consultant
Lynn Calf Robe**

Siksika Nation Chief and Council Update: September 2021

Siksika Nation Indian Residential School (IRS) Info. Session

(September 9, 2021 – Siksika Nation) Siksika Nation is working with the University of Alberta to carry out the search for unmarked graves at all mission, boarding and Indian Residential School sites located in Siksika. The scope of the work will focus on the application of remote sensing, ground penetrating radar (GPR), data collection and research (oral history, survivor support, archival research, etc.)

A virtual Info session has been organized to inform Siksika Nation members of the work being done and the process of the search itself. Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in the province, an in-person info session is not possible at this time.

The info session will include a comprehensive presentation from Dr. Kisha Supernant, Director of the Institute of Prairie Technology with the University of Alberta. Information on how to access Indian Residential School resources and supports will also be made available by Siksika Health Services.

INFO. SESSION

Date: September 15, 2021

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual Info Session (Zoom)

HOW TO VIEW: The virtual info session will take place using Zoom that will allow attendees to join without needing to register or create a Zoom account in advance. Attendees will be required to enter their name and email address upon joining. More information will be provided on the info session including how to view on your mobile device or computer. Please note that this info session is for Siksika Nation members only.

Request for Proposals Siksika Nation Branding & Marketing Plan and Implementation

Invitation to Proponents Siksika Chief and Council are pleased to extend this invitation for Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to larger and more experienced marketing firms to submit proposals for a, 'Siksika Branding & Marketing Plan and Implementation'.

Issued: September 10, 2021

Submission Deadline: November 10, 2021 (60 days)

SIKSIKA NATION TRESPASS BY-LAW NO. 2021-01

(September 13, 2021 – Siksika Nation) On September 9, 2021, Siksika Nation Chief and Council conducted a fourth and final reading of the Siksika Nation Trespass By-law No. 2021-01.

BEING A BY-LAW OF THE SIKSIKA NATION WITH A PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE REMOVAL AND PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS TRESPASSING ON THE SIKSIKA NATION RESERVE #146 OR FREQUENTING THE RESERVE FOR PROHIBITED PURPOSES.

The Trespass By-law has undergone the requisite three separate readings, plus an additional reading. The by-law has also been reviewed by the Nation's legal counsel, Fox and Fraser LLP and is authorized to be posted for public comment.

The period for public comment will end on: September 22, 2021.

Any comment or concerns about the by-law can be directed to: Councillor Samuel Crowfoot J.D.

Siksika Nation Chief and Council

Address: P.O. Box 1100, Siksika Nation, AB, T0J 3W0

Email: samuelc@siksikanation.com Website: <https://siksikanation.com>

Info. Session on Geographical survey of Indian Residential Schools (IRS) in Siksika

(September 15 – Siksika Nation) Siksika Nation Chief and Council organized an info session on the geographical survey of Indian Residential School (IRS) sites in Siksika on September 15th, 2021. Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in the province, a virtual Info session was chosen as the safest way to provide an update to Siksika Nation members.

The info session began with an opening prayer, remarks from Chief Ouray Crowfoot, Councillor Kent Ayoungman and Siksika Nation Indian Residential School Services Coordinator Leanne Sleight. A presentation from the University of Alberta was provided by Dr. Kisha Supernant, Director of the Institute of Prairie Technology that gave a thorough overview of the technical work involved. Information on how to access resources and supports was also provided by Siksika Health Services, Community Wellness and Mental Health. The info session wrapped up with a question/answer period.

For more information you can email Siksika Nation Chief and Council directly at sncc@siksikanation.com

Commemoration to honour Nato'sa'pi in Siksika

(September 21, 2021 – Siksika Nation) Siksika Nation Chief and Council is hosting the Nato'sa'pi Commemoration ceremony on September 22nd, 2021 at 10:30am in Siksika to honour Nato'sa'pi (1819-1897) and bring awareness of the final resting place of respected Chief of the Blackfoot, famously known as Chief Old Sun.

Nato'sa'pi was well-known as a Head Chief of the Siksika people and a signatory for Treaty Number 7, representing the North Blackfoot in 1877. His name and legacy still live on in the community including in the names of two schools in Siksika; Old Sun Community College and Chief Old Sun Elementary School.

The Commemoration ceremony will take place at the final resting spot of Chief Old Sun, located near the Canon Stockton Cemetery in North Camp, Siksika. The ceremony is open to the public and will commence with an opening prayer and remarks from Siksika Nation Chief and Council, Old Sun Community College and Siksika Board of Education followed by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to honour Nato'sa'pi.

Community Relations Task Force Update

Chairperson: Carlin Black Rabbit

- The Community Relations task force continues to strive to connect our community through building relationships with external organizations such as non-profits, all forms of governments, and public institutions. In a continued effort to support Nation families, the task force has an ongoing partnership with Kids Up Front; to date 15 families have been given event tickets to Calgary Stampeders home games, and the Calgary Comic Expo. There will be more tickets available, keep a look out on our social media pages with updates.
- Task force members, Jenny Goodin and Samuel Crowfoot have been assigned to develop the criteria for the 2021 Chief and Council scholarship, for Nation students graduating in high school and enrolled in credited post-secondary institutions. Last year, 10 Nation members were given scholarships and our team has allocated more funding for scholarships for more opportunities that our students to access.
- The task force developed and reviewed a request for proposal (RFP) for a Nation marketing and branding plan lead by Councillor Wade Healy. The RFP was approved by Chief and Council; and will be posted for 60 days. The RFP can be found online at <https://siksikanation.com/rfp-siksika-nation-branding-marketing/> and will be posted on all social media, and Aitsiniki.
- Task force members, Carlin Black Rabbit and Samuel Crowfoot, along with Chief Ouray Crowfoot and Councillor Tracy Mchugh took part in Siksika HOPE's tipi raising contest September 13th at the arbor. It was fun participating in the event hosted by Siksika Health and Wellness, we look forward to more community events throughout the year.
- Councillors Susan Solway, Jenny Goodin, and Communications Consultant have been assigned to engage with Siksika Health Services for the September 30th Orange Shirt Day community event; Chief & Council proclaimed this day as "Siksika Truth and Healing Day."
- The Community Relations Task Force would like to thank Mayor Pat Fule and Strathmore Council for the tremendous work over the past couple years. Both governments worked together to build positive relations between the two communities.

Public Safety Task Force Updates

Chairperson: Carlin Black Rabbit

- The task force is currently in the process of establishing the satellite police station on the east end of Siksika Nation. The land application has been submitted and approved. The RCMP, as per our CTA agreement will have four dedicated officers working out of the office. The task force is working hard to identify an opening, as there are many regulations that need to be followed and approved. The intention is to strengthen the police presence on the east end of the Nation, and to deter crime. More information to come in the next coming months. Modus Structures Inc. has been appointed as the official builder for the satellite police station, the task force will be working closely with the builder and RCMP on the construction of the facility.
- The task force retained Werkz Inc to begin a business case for the Nations policing application. The task force is pleased to continue our working relationship with Donna Tana and Werkz Inc. Werkz assisted the Nation in the authorization of the Peace Officer Program, early this year. The business case will take 9-10 months to complete, focusing on community consultation and feedback. Our goal is simple, **we need to have our tribal police reinstated and patrolling our Nation.**
- A request for public comment has been made for Siksika Nation Trespass By-law NO. 2021-01, the review of the proposed bylaw will be available on the Nations website, social media pages and through Aitsiniki.
- On September 1, members of the task force along with Chief Crowfoot and Councillor Wade Healy accompanied ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd to assess the 901-highway turn offs in high traffic volume areas. In response to a letter sent from the task force to Alberta transportation earlier this summer, the need for safer turn offs on the highway is vital. With the history of accidents on the highway, the task force continues to ensure safety on our Nation.
- The Public Safety task force would like to thank Sgt. D. S (Scott) Mercer, Operations NCO, Gleichen Detachment for his commitment to the Nation. SGT Mercer will be moving on to work with Calgary ASIRT. Mercer has been working in Gleichen for the past six years and has done an incredible job since arriving. Scott has been one of the main contacts the Nation has had with the Gleichen RCMP and played a key role in facilitating the working relationship with Siksika/RCMP.
- On behalf of the task force, we would like to thank Director of Emergency Management Stacy Doore, and the Siksika Nation Security who have been patrolling our Nation 24/7. The hard work and commitment to ensure our reserve is safe doesn't go unnoticed.
- With the temporary closure of the Gleichen Hotel/Liquor store, concerns were brought up on assisting our Nation members who have alcohol dependency. Members of the task force met with Siksika Health Services staff and the RCMP to develop a plan for safety and provide awareness to the community on addressing addictions. Siksika Health's team have done a remarkable job and continue to assist our people who need support.

Siksika Nation Councillor Samuel Crowfoot Selected to sit on Human Rights Forum.

Siksika Nation Chief and Council would like to announce that Councillor Samuel Crowfoot B.A., J.D. has been selected to sit on the Alberta Human Rights Commission's Indigenous Advisory Circle. The mandate of the Indigenous Advisory Circle is to provide independent advice and perspectives to the Alberta Human Rights Commission on its strategies to address and reduce discrimination faced by Indigenous Albertans. The Circle is focused on addressing human rights, diversity, inclusion and equity issues faced by Indigenous Peoples in Alberta. Councillor Crowfoot will sit on the Advisory Circle for a two-year term.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit the official website of Siksika Nation at <https://siksikanation.com> for more information on all Siksika Nation news including Siksika Nation Chief and Council, Administration, Entities and Business-related matters. You can also follow Siksika Nation Administration on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for regular updates including community programs and services, upcoming events and employment opportunities.

Siksika Nation Chief and Council

Address: P.O. Box 1100 Siksika, AB T0J 3W0 Phone: (403) 734 5109 Toll free: 1-800-551-5724
Email: sncc@siksikanation.com Website: <https://siksikanation.com>



Submitted by Lynn Calf Robe or C&C
Council hosts IRS info. session online.



Submitted by Lynn Calf Robe or C&C
RCMP Sgt. D.S Mercer thanked by council.



Submitted by Lynn Calf Robe or C&C
Chief & Council at drive in movie event.

Siksika Nation flag raised at Strathmore Hospital symbolizing relationship

By Wesley Water Chief

The Siksika Nation flag was raised outside the Strathmore Hospital on Sept. 22 as a sign of the continuation of building a good relationship between the Town of Strathmore and the Siksika Nation.

Siksika Nation Chief Ouray Crowfoot said there have been complaints brought to Chief and Council's attention in regard to mistreatment of Siksika people at the Strathmore Hospital and of racist incidents in the town.

He said flying the Siksika flag is a symbolic gesture, has meaning, but in itself is not going to solve racism. However, it serves as a reminder to everyone of where they are, who were the first inhabitants of this land, and it is a step towards building trust for the Siksika people.

"It's a constant reminder to everyone that comes into this parking lot. The first thing you see are the flags. So when the doctors come in, when the nurses come in, when the patients come in, and they see that Siksika Nation flag flying, they are going to be reminded that is our people," said Crowfoot.

"Our people were here before there was a Strathmore, our people were here before there was an Alberta, our people were here long before there was a Canada. We were the first people in this area and we should not be treated like second class citizens."

Chief Crowfoot said throughout history First Nation people and Siksika Nation have had to battle the government and its systems of governance, including legislation and the residential school era, to receive fair and equal treatment.

"Our people have been taught from an early age, don't trust the system and that is

what we are trying to correct. Again, there are a lot of great people that work in these hospitals. One of our councilors was a nurse in this hospital. So I am not saying burn it down and start again from scratch. There are a lot of great stuff that is going on in the Alberta health care system. But there is also a lot of negative things occurring as well. We are just trying to help restore that equity in the health system. It's equity treatment, that is what we are looking for."

Councilor Ruben Breaker has been working with the Town of Strathmore to improve relations during his two terms on council. He is grateful for steps being made by the town to address racism and recounts how the process began.

"It's a beautiful day to be here today and to be a part of this very significant ceremony. I remember about three years ago, we had this ceremony at our powwow where we offered AHS (Alberta Health Services) our flag as a token of goodwill and partnership with the Strathmore Hospital. And today we find ourselves, finally having this flag, our flag, flying high behind us," said Breaker.

"I'm so grateful that we followed up with this. In today's world, so much has happened since then. And so much activity that is prevalent in our communities that has built walls instead of bridges.

I am so grateful for the Town of Strathmore, the council, for stepping up and addressing some of these issues and calling it what it is. We worked together to address racism in our communities and it is a very sensitive thing to talk about, but it is reality. It's the truth of what is going on right now. And it is actions, such as this, that is starting points for us to continue on to make action."

Breaker said more work is needed to ad-

dress the mistreatment of Siksika people at the Strathmore Hospital and it is council's responsibility to ensure this is done. He said leadership will have to follow up with actions to address this so Siksika people will feel more welcome at the Strathmore Hospital.

"Flying this flag is one thing but it is continuous work to make sure that our people are treated equally, fairly, and with respect. A lot of our people took their first breath in this building, a lot of our people took their last breath in this building behind us. So as leaders it is our job to protect our people to make sure they are treated equally," said Breaker.

"There has been documented incidents brought to us about some mistreatment of our people, so it is our responsibility and duty to make sure that we follow up and make sure our people, our young people and our elders, are treated well.

So this day isn't just a flag raising ceremony, it is follow up and it is our job to make sure that we follow up in action items so our people can no longer be afraid to come to Strathmore Hospital, because that is reality.

A lot of our members they don't want to come here because of some mistreatment, I just going to tell you the way it is. They would rather go to Bassano, Vulcan, or Calgary. So today is a significant day that we take responsibility and accountability for the treatment of our people."

The Mayor of Strathmore Pat Fule echoed what Chief Ouray Crowfoot had said prior, that it is 'deeds and not words' that need to take place. "I've never believed in flowery and nice sounding words and then you go off and nothing happens. So we've worked hard for the past several years," said Fule.

"We have done a lot of great things together, we've worked hard, our two councils, to try and improve relations and to improve the situation for First Nations people who come to shop, visit, use our services in town, as well as those who live in our town, and we really feel we've made some great strides.

In closing, Fule reminded those in attendance a lot of the relationship building actions, including the raising of the Siksika flag, was in part due to the tragic death of Kristian Ayoungman.

"I also want to honor the memory of Kristian Ayoungman who was an amazing young man and a citizen in our community. He was student at Strathmore high, he was a player on the hockey teams here and a lot of the really good things have happened, unfortunately, sadly, because of the killing of Kristian Ayoungman.

We honor him and this is a day that I feel is like another piece in a puzzle, and the final puzzle is going to be the image or picture that we create of a more inclusive and welcoming society for people of all cultures, but especially our friends and neighbors from Siksika Nation."



Photo by Wesley Water Chief

Chief Ouray Crowfoot, Siksika leaders and representatives, along with Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule, emergency personnel, and Alberta Health Reps. take part in Siksika flag raising ceremony.

Old Sun Community College 50th Anniversary

By Carly Weasel Child

Old Sun Community College celebrated a major milestone with the 50th anniversary as a post-secondary institution and 30 years of the post-secondary student support program (PSSSP). The theme was "Aakomaanistaisopoyahkao'p – We will continue to strive for excellence."

The Sept. 20-22 event included guest speakers Olympian Cheryl Bernard and University of Calgary Anthropology & Archeology Professor Dr. Peter C. Dawson. Also, an art display unveiling by Adrian Stimson Jr. and portraits of Amelia Crowfoot-Clark and Margaret Water Chief by Chris Keating.

Program showcases such as the LPN Program, Siksika Knowledge Studies, Teacher Assistant Program, Indigenous Business Program, and the Indigenous Social Work Diploma Program.

Post-secondary graduates of 2019/2020 and 2021 were honoured with gifts and recognition. Also, Siksika Health CEO Tyler White and Council member Kent Ayoungman both received Honorary Doctorate of Law Degrees. Clarence "Agar" Wolf Leg was also recognized as a recipient of a Mount Royal University Honorary Doctorate of Law Degree.

The library was also officially named Sisoyakii (Amelia Crowfoot-Clark) – Lifelong Learning Centre. The event ended with fireworks and live music by Armond Duck Chief.

Chief Ouray Crowfoot said he was proud to witness the accomplishments of nation members receiving their post-secondary education and encourages others to continue learning both traditional and contemporary knowledge.

"I'm always going to be a big supporter of education, education is our power. My mother, she was the president of Old Sun for many years, she always instilled in me to get my education. As we move forward in this world as Blackfoot people, we have to keep our traditional ways and my mom instilled that in me as well. So we have to have both traditional knowledge and contemporary knowledge.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
During the celebration, Old Sun College recognized 2019/20 and 2021 grads and Honorary grads.

And as we get bigger as a nation, we need that education to push our nation to the next level. I'm proud to see everyone getting their education. A lot of our people get degrees and then leave the reserve to work.

What I'd like to see, as a long-term goal, is for us to have a full economy here on the nation. The importance of that is to have educated people in all aspects, education, law, social work.

So with the 50th year, it's a great milestone and I see us only getting stronger from here," said Crowfoot.

"It's empowering our people. When this was a residential school, they tried to break our people down internally and tried to make them think they're worth less. Getting that education and that knowledge, it lifts you up.

So we have to start lifting each other up. If you educate yourself, then you know your worth. And if you know how much you're worth, nobody can tell you you're worthless.

That education is one of the stepping stones, along with traditional knowledge, to help you know who you really are as a person and to know your worth. And when you know your worth, the sky is the limit."

Old Sun Community College President Dr. Maurice Manyfingers, was proud to see

so many students graduating and celebrating the importance of education.

Manyfingers hopes there will be a new building within the next few years and believes it is important for nation members to continue to strive for their education goals.

"The significance of the anniversary is that we are thriving in an old residential school. Everything that has happened here and with the unmarked graves, we are surviving and thriving as indigenous peoples.

We are keeping our nations going with programs and sustaining the language, so we're still very proud and we're hoping in the next few years we might have a new building.

Fifty years is a big milestone for any organization. We had 45-50 graduates who came here and we're very lucky. I know it's a term that has been used a lot, education is our buffalo, but it really is our blueprint to success," said Manyfingers.

"We are very resilient and we're very happy to be celebrating today. First nations communities are grieving with funerals, opioids, COVID, trauma. We need to celebrate and acknowledge our accomplishments, so that's the reason why we're having this today."

Siksika Nation Continues Strong Response to COVID-19

Submitted by Jennifer Kohlhammer
Siksika Health Communications

On Sept. 15, 2021 the province of Alberta announced new, temporary measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The majority of these measures have already been in place, or have been recommended on Siksika Nation, ongoing. For example:

- When Alberta relaxed indoor masking, Siksika did not.
- When Alberta stopped testing asymptomatic people, Siksika did not.
- When Alberta stopped contact tracing and isolation for close COVID contacts, Siksika did not.
- When Alberta stopped offering isolation supports, Siksika did not.

Our very own Siksika Nation health data is indicating that these

measures work. While there is widespread, uncontrolled community transmission of COVID-19 across Southern Alberta, with the Delta variant being extremely infectious, particularly indoors, Siksika Nation has experienced a comparatively much slower spread of COVID-19 in the community in recent months.

Siksika's Public Health team reminds us that COVID-19 and associated risks remain a significant challenge at this time, and that these risks are more pronounced for certain populations: particularly unvaccinated individuals (including children under the age of 12), and those who are immunocompromised.

Siksika Health Services recommends adhering to the public health measures proven to help prevent spread of COVID-19, as outlined in our Reopening Plan <http://siksikahealth.com/2021/08/24/siksika-health-services-covid-19-reopening-plan/>, and that all eligible Siksikawa (ages 12+ including those turning 12 in 2021) get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible. It takes 2 weeks after a dose to develop sufficient immunity from the vaccine.

Siksika people, places, and faces



Submitted by Lynn Calf Robe or C&C
Councillor Samuel Crowfoot B.A., J.D. selected to sit on the Alberta Human Rights Commission's Indigenous Advisory Circle.



Submitted by Sue Solway
Coun. Kent Ayoungman receives Honourary Doctorate of Law Degree from Old Sun.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Siksika fans enjoyed Hitmen vs Rebels game.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Post-secondary grads. and honorary grads. enter event at Old Sun.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Solway family view residential school photos at Old Sun celebration.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Ruth Scalplock, Raymonda, Lorelee, and Tracey Waterchief enjoy the portrait of Rev. Margaret Waterchief unveiled at the Old Sun celebration.

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





Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Darrel McDonald and Francis Wolfleg carry flags and lead dancers during Family Resources powwow.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Young Siksika proudly shows culture.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Everyone is invited to partake in round dance at Strathmore Park.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
Tiny tots get into the action and show their culture and moves at event.

2021 Senate Election and Referendum Vote Advanced Polls

Advanced voting polls for the Senate Election and Referendum Vote will take place at the Wheatland County Administration Building (242006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, AB) during the following times:

Saturday, October 9th - 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 13th - Noon - 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 16th - 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



Photo by Carly Weasel Child
The owl dance is enjoyed by couples at the Strathmore powwow.

Blackfoot Crossing looking to hire

Submitted by
Shayde Yellow Old Woman

Oki, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is looking to hire individuals with excellent customer service skills to work under contract in retail, conference catering, custodial, and as event coordinators.

Going forward with reopening, we have taken into consideration that these positions will be essential in making BHP fully operational. As of August 18, 2021 Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is undergoing some major park developments.

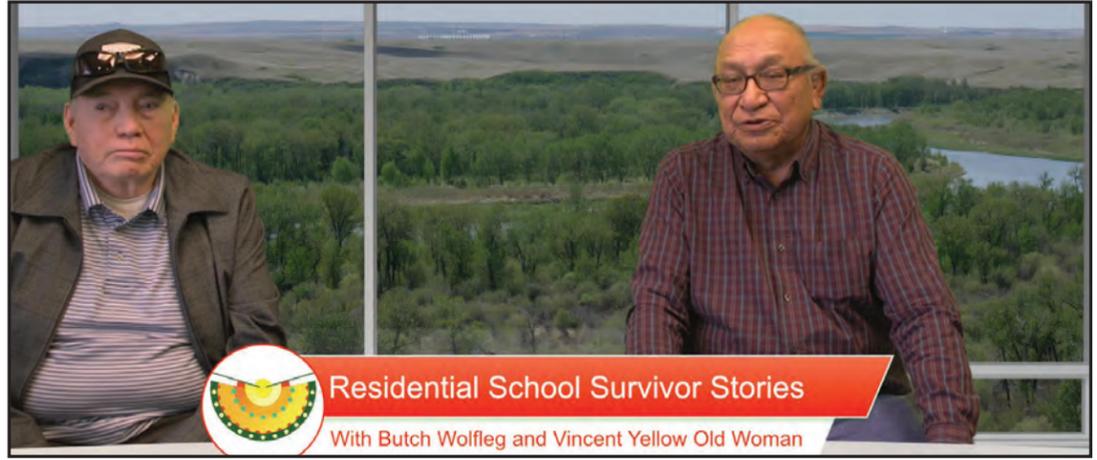
A new tipi park expansion will be installed soon. Unfortunately, we will postpone our volunteer program due to unforeseen circumstances. For more information regarding the Volunteer Program, email shannon@blackfootcrossing.ca.

We currently are still under the process of renovation which soon will be completed.

We will also be implementing new interpretive signs, landmark signage, and the new and improved Chief Crowfoot Gallery. With all the budget cuts, we are not given much opportunity to offer all the services the public requests and we apologize for any inconvenience.

Unfortunately, due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in Alberta, we have decided to postpone our grand re-opening until further notice. We are saddened to announce we will not be taking in any more appointments but will continue with various programs online.

We will continue to bring you the abundance of history, working closely with the Communications Team and Tour Guides,



through online interactive activities, touring, and cooking shows.

We understand the long-awaited patience from the community and will continue to update you with new spectacles and wonders.

Sept. 22, 2021 will mark the 144th year of the day the Treaty 7 was signed between the Blackfoot Confederacy and the Crown at Blackfoot Crossing.

On Sept. 25, 2021, partnering with the Tsuut'ina Trail Run and the SN7 Program, Blackfoot Crossing hosted the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Trial Race from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Participants enjoyed a 15-kilometre trail run through the beautiful scenery off the traditional Blackfoot territory surrounding the area where Treaty 7 was signed on the 22nd of September 1877.

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park had begun a new Webinar session that started in June. In the latest session, special guests Vincent Yellow Old Woman and Butch Wolf Leg discussed residential school stories with the Siksikaititapi.

Other lessons include the Morning 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. language lesson with Joanne Red Old Man and afternoon lesson that runs from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. These lessons are free every Wednesday, all you need to do is download the app Zoom, make an account, and email bookings@blackfootcrossing.ca.

Appointments will be postponed; you may contact our E-mail at bookings@blackfootcrossing.ca for any questions or concerns.

You may also contact to suggest or feedback regarding online history and lessons, and we'll get to you as soon as we can.

Anyone have interesting information on Siksikaititapiiks? Feel free to email bookings@blackfootcrossing.ca. You may also find this information on our Social Media platforms via Facebook (Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park), Twitter (@BlkftCrossing), and Instagram (blackfootcrossing).

We will be on Tik Tok soon, so stay tuned on our pages. Make sure to hit the follow button on our platforms for updates.

Province and Siksika Nation step up for ranchers after summer drought

Submitted by Kelsey No Runner
SRDL Communications

After the toughest summer in decades, the province of Alberta has announced additional funding for AgriRecovery response, the 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative.

Cattle and bison will be eligible for an initial payment of \$94 per head and a secondary payment of \$106 per head, for a total of \$200 per head. Other livestock will be subject to a different per head payment.

This initiative was created to help address extraordinary costs being incurred by Alberta's livestock producers this year as high temperatures and drought conditions affected farming yields and reduced grazing capacity for ranchers.

Applications will be online through AFSC Connect. Once applications are approved and processed, those who sign up for the direct deposit option will see payments toward the end of the month.

Producers who are current AFSC cli-

ents should ensure they have an AFSC Connect account and are signed up for direct deposit to receive program payments. For more information and to apply online, please visit www.afsc.ca

Breeding mares

Breeding mares that are used for the purposes of producing offspring as part a farming operation would be considered eligible for the AgriRecovery initiative.

Horses used for pleasure – rodeo stock, racehorses and working ranch horses – are not considered eligible. A minimum of 10 breeding mares are required to be eligible for the initiative.

Nation Support for Ranchers

In September, Siksika Resource Development Ltd. (SRDL) board of issued a directive for Siksika Farms to reserve the second cut of timothy hay round bales to be sold exclusively to Siksika Nation ranchers at market value till Nov. 1.

Siksika Nation ranchers can purchase

up to 20 bales at \$100 per bale. Bales must be paid in full before pick-up. It is a fair value as round bale prices have averaged between \$150-250 per bale locally.

After Nov. 1, any remaining bales will be for sale to the open market on a first come-first served basis.

SIKSIKA FARMS SECOND CUT ALFALFA ROUND BALES

\$100 (UP TO 20 BALES)

Exclusive to Siksika Nation ranchers till November 1st. Must pay before pickup. Please make cheques payable to: Siksika Irrigation Lands Corporation



CALL 403-734-5244

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FEED ACCORDINGLY - THE SELLER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPROPER FEEDING MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES BY THE BUYER

Submitted by Kelsey No Runner

Siksika Farms is selling bales exclusively to Siksika ranchers to aid in time of drought.

Calgary Hitmen Pre-Season Opener

Submitted by Jennifer Kohlhammer
Siksika Health Communications

Siksika Nation hosted the Calgary Hitmen's pre-season opening game at the Siksika Deerfoot Sportsplex on Sept. 18, 2021. The event was a rematch of the Every Child Matters game from February 2020, featuring the Calgary Hitmen vs. Red Deer Rebels, and builds on a growing partnership between the Calgary Hitmen and Siksika Health Services.

The Calgary Hitmen and Siksika Health Services recently signed a first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Through the signing of the MOU, the partners commit to continued growth of the vision and engagement of the Every Child Matters game: to inspire all youth, with a focus on Indigenous youth, to participate in

sports, and to understand that we can heal collectively through reconciliation. The aim of the partnership is to create the new normal for the promotion of cultural awareness in sporting events, with the hope of expanding the power and reach that events like this can have on communities.

Together, the partners are working to address stereotypes and racism by advancing inclusion in our communities through the promotion of Indigenous culture, language and history, and promote healthy lifestyles for all youth by highlighting the benefits of participation in sport.

Prior to game start, the Calgary Hitmen joined Siksika Health Services for a tour of Carlon and Lisa Big Snake's home, where a white buffalo calf was born in May of this year. Buffalo are of historical and traditional significance to Siksika Nation, and the white

buffalo in particular is a symbol of hope.

COVID-19 protocols for the game were aligned with the province of Alberta's new public health measures, announced Sept. 15, 2021. Event capacity was limited to 150 attendees, each of whom was required to participate in health screening prior to entry. All attendees who were eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (born in 2009 or earlier) were required to be fully vaccinated (fully vaccinated defined as 14+ days after second dose of approved COVID-19 vaccine).

Ticket holders were seated in pods with their household or cohort members, to a maximum of 5 people per pod. Mandatory masking was required for all attendees throughout the event.

Final score of the game was 5-1 for the Red Deer Rebels.

Siksika Health and Calgary Hitmen enjoy game

By Carly Weasel Child

Tyler White, Siksika Health Services CEO, said the event was historic as the Nation hosted a WHL game for the community and for the youth. It also strengthened the relationship between Siksika and the Hitmen Organization, creating opportunity for future events.

"It's a historic event to host a Hitmen game here in Siksika. Seeing the crowd and the kids, that's the reason why we do these things. It gives them hope and opportunity," said White.

"At the same time, we're educating these players who have never been on a reservation. Before the game today, we went to Carlon & Lisa's to see the white buffaloes, things like that are so important.

So, I'm really grateful for today as we build the partnership we have with the Hitmen. When the kids see the players on the

ice, it gives them hope and something to aim for."

Rob Kerr, Manager of Business Operations for the Calgary Hitmen, said the game was significant as it solidified the partnership between Siksika Health and the Hitmen organization.

Kerr hopes other teams and organizations can create partnerships with First Nations communities to encourage healing, reconciliation, and healthy lifestyles through sport.



"I can't even begin to put into words how fun this was and how great it was to work with everyone today. It wasn't a full house, but it was nice to be back playing in front of fans again.

For me, this was a further execution of the MOU and this unique relationship that we forged with Siksika Nation, that we think is a model not only for junior hockey but a model for sport and recreation across Canada to do something meaningful. We hope that this game inspires the kids to pursue their athletic dreams and healthy lifestyles. It's a continuation of what has been a wonderful partnership," Kerr said.

"It meant a lot to our players to be here today and to understand the significance. We want to show other teams and athletes to take that step and to learn. We're really blessed and thankful to have this partnership with Tyler White and Siksika Health Services."

Siksika Nation COVID-19 Statistics Update

Submitted by Jennifer Kohlhammer
Siksika Health Communications

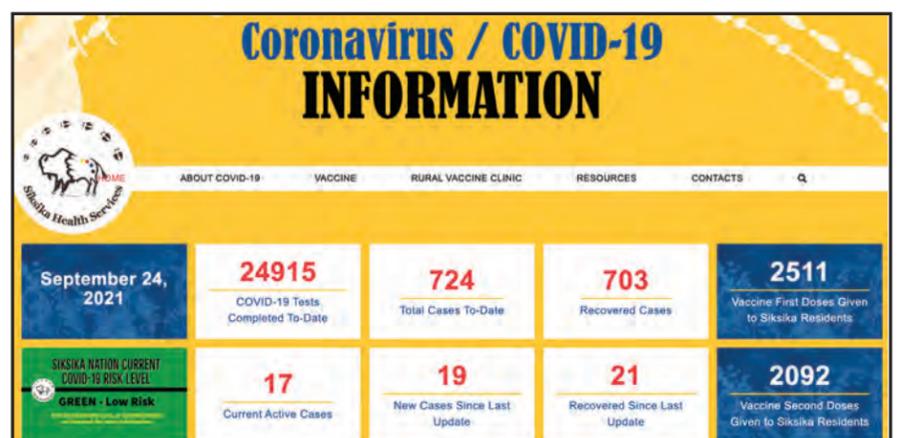
As of Sept. 24, 2021, Siksika Health Services is managing 17 active cases of COVID-19. To-date, Siksika Health has given 2,511 COVID-19 vaccine first doses to matapiiks who reside on Siksika Nation, and 2,092 COVID-19 second doses to matapiiks who reside on Siksika Nation. This means that 78.6% of eligible Siksikawa on Siksika have received their first dose, and 65.5% have received both their first and second doses. Matapiiks, immunization is the best way to protect yourself and others from severe outcomes from COVID-19.

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION is available on a walk-in basis at the Siksika Health & Wellness Centre from 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday (no appointments required). Mobile (including in-home) immunization is also available through Siksika Health's Aisokinakio'p Immunization Special Forces vehicle. Call Siksika Home Care at 403-734-5695 to book an in-home appointment.

COVID-19 TESTING remains available in Siksika by drive-thru every day of the week (including weekends) at the white tents near the baseball diamonds between 10:00am-1:00pm daily, or by calling the COVID-19 Response Unit (CRU) dispatch at 403-734-5688.

For up-to-date COVID-19 information for Siksika Nation, stay tuned to Siksika Health and Siksika Nation official communications channels:

- Website: <http://siksikahealth.com/covid-19-home/>
- Facebook: @SHWCsiksika
- Twitter: @Siksika_Nation
- Radio: 104.7FM – "The Nation's Station"
- And use the hashtags to join the conversation: #SiksikaCares #SiksikaStrong



Siksika Family Services Corporation

Report To Siksika

SFSC Organizational Review 2021 – Completed!

An organizational review of Siksika Family Services Corporation (SFSC) was completed by business consulting firm MNP LLP (MNP). Earlier this year Chief and Council and SFSC Board of Directors awarded MNP the contract to conduct an independent organizational review to support the Board of Directors responsibility in providing effective governance and advocate on the best interest of the corporation. Over a period of five months, the consulting firm conducted numerous interviews with members of the board, senior-level management and frontline staff, as well a thorough review of all corporate documents.



The Siksika Family Services Board of Directors & Executive Team are:

- Chair, Samuel Crowfoot
- Vice-Chair, Fred Rabbit Carrier
- Treasurer, Francis (Butch) Wolfleg
- Secretary, Carol Many Heads
- Community Rep., Karen Running Rabbit
- Council Rep., Carlin Black Rabbit
- Council Rep., Reuben Breaker
- Chief Executive Officer, Merlin Breaker
- Executive Assistant, Tanya Own Chief

For information or questions on corporate or board related matters, please send emails to: tanyamh@siksikafamilyservices.com

Samuel Crowfoot, Chair of SFSC Board of Directors, commented that over the coming weeks SFSC Board of Directors and management will continue to carefully assess the recommendations in the report from MNP. "We are ready to take these challenges head on and remain focused on moving forward to further enhance our services to the Nation," said Crowfoot.

The report also recommended a corporate wide integration plan that is focused on the mandate of SFSC. A shift to a more client centric focus will also ensure the corporation is well positioned to operate more effectively in the post-pandemic world that has made unprecedented public and private sector challenges.

Siksika Law for Siksika Children: Legislation Development

Siksika Nation will soon have complete decision-making power over our children in need with new legislation currently being developed by Siksika Family Services Corporation (SFSC) with guidance and input from a Community Consultation Task Force (CCTF) and support of SFSC legal team. This Legislation development is a result of the announcement of Bill C-92 in January 2020 by the Federal Government, which empowers Indigenous communities to develop their own jurisdiction and laws for children of the community. Prior to the announcement, Siksika has had a long history of leading in creating its own Siksika specific jurisdiction for children and families of the Nation. This includes a special jurisdiction within the city of Calgary.



Although progress has been made for the Nation, current legislation creates many challenges as Siksika children who become involved with Child and Family Services are subject to the legislation in the province the child resides. SFSC currently operates under the Alberta *Child Youth and Family Enhancement Act* (CYFEA) which was created by the Province of Alberta and is not mindful of First Nation children, culture, or history – a similar story among other provincial

legislation. CYFEA does not allow SFSC to work with nation members if they reside outside of the Nation or the city of Calgary.

Samuel Crowfoot, Chairman of SFSC Board of Directors, spoke on the importance of drafting Siksika's own legislation which mentions allows the Nation to oversee critical issues such as the best interest of Siksika children and helping our own children and families no matter where they reside long before intervention steps need to be taken. "Current legislation does not adequately protect Siksika children and families. Having our own Siksika Children's Law will be a historical step for Siksika children, recognizing our right of self-governance that existed prior to Colonialism" said Crowfoot.

When approved, Siksika will be one of the first among first nations in Canada to have their own children's legislation. SFSC Board of Directors will look to have a special update both English and Blackfoot on the Nations radio station in October 2021. Updates will also be communicated.

2021 Siksika Summer Employment Program Concludes Providing Essential Experience for Students

The 2021 Siksika Summer Student Employment Program concluded on August 27th 2021 with 11 Post Secondary Students and 125 High School Students completing the program.

Funding for the program was secured by Siksika Employment and Training Services (SETS) through various grants such as Canada Summer Jobs, with remaining funding provided through Siksika Family Services Corporation. To be eligible to participate, applicants must be at least 15 years of age at the beginning of employment, have been registered as full-time students in the previous academic year and return to school on a full-time basis in the upcoming academic year.

For 2021, Siksika Students were placed in employment positions throughout the Nation's departments such as Siksika Health Services, Siksika Family Services Corporation, Blackfoot

Crossing Historical Park and privately-owned businesses M&R Gas Station/Boy Chief Trading Post and The Barn located on the west side of the Nation.

"It is important for our nation youth to be aware of health and safety issues in the workplace, especially as they begin their summer jobs. Both employers and employees have responsibilities when it comes to health and safety in the workplace," said Carrie-Ann Backfat, Youth Employment Coordinator for SETS who has overseen numerous successful youth programs for the Nation during her time with SETS.

All students were also provided with information current COVID-19 protocols that were to be followed in conjunction with what their workplace has mandated to ensure safety of students, staff and the community. "There were no reported cases of COVID-19 in the 2021 Summer Student Employment Program," mentioned Backfat.

SFSC CEO Provides Corporate Update on Programs and Services

Siksika Family Services Corporation (SFSC) continues to provide tailored services that support Siksikaikowans (People of Siksika): adults, children and their families.

SFSC is constantly reviewing programs and services to identify strengths and weaknesses that will greater support the Siksika community. Furthermore, SFSC continues to be innovative and forward thinking in terms of funding, grant acquisition and piloting unique programs.

Identifying Early Prevention & Intervention and Social Development are cornerstone in ensuring that we, as service providers, provide programs that reflect the social determinants of health and positive living from infancy to adulthood.

Programs and Services

Siksika Support for Independence (SFI) currently has four client programs operating and is looking to commence a fifth program soon. **The II-kiimis-kookoosiiks (Be kind to your children) Program** began in June and has been extended for more 10 months. The program was highlighted as a success with SFI and parents, providing nutritional meals for 107 children in 39

households to date. SFI works closely and in partnership with Siksika Day Care to provide the successful program.

- **The Soaring High Together Program** commenced in July 2021, which helps participants with addictions, life struggles and past traumas with the help of certified facilitators and Elders within the community.
- **The Education is the new Buffalo Program**, offered to students who may require additional help in their studies and the *Evolution – Culture and Essential Skills Program*, which offers clients cultural and literacy skills both commenced in September 2021. SFI will look to start a financial literacy program for clients by the end of October 2021.

Siksika Career Employment and Income Support (SCEIS) established a new website to provide Siksika Nation members residing within the City of Calgary with current and up-to-date information was created earlier this year. The initiative is apart of the Siksika Urban Care Plan, visit www.snfsc.ca for more information.

Henry Three Suns Child and Youth Care Society (HTSCYS) has renewed its accreditation through the Canadian Accreditation Council (CAC) for Human Services. The society was awarded accreditation in February 2021 which renews its status with the CAC for another 3 years. CAC Accreditation has been granted for governance and management, as well as all four of HTSCYS Child and Youth Group living programs. The society was first accredited with the CAC in 2017.

Siksika Family Services Website is in development and will be launched in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, follow us on Facebook for weekly updates and breaking news.

SFSC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DIRECTORS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Service Area	Director	Email
PSS (White Buffalo)	Mildred Broad Scalplock	mildredbsl@siksikafamilyservices.com
SETS	Daniel Stimson	daniels@siksikafamilyservices.com
Siksika Daycare	Adrienne Lagrelle	adriennel@siksikafamilyservices.com
SFI	Pam Rabbit Carrier	pamrc@siksikafamilyservices.com
SCEIS	Ethel Running Rabbit	ethelrr@siksikafamilyservices.com
Band Designate	Trudy Yellowfly	Trudyf@siksikafamilyservices.com

Siksika Shelter	Kera Black De Man	kerab@siksikafamilyservices.com
Children's Services	Yolanda Youngpine	Yolanda.youngpine@gov.ab.ca
HTSYC	Sharla McMaster	sharlam@siksikafamilyservices.com

For any information regarding Siksika Family Services Programs and Services please contact: Reception @ SFSC Resource Office: 403.734.4360 or reception@siksikafamilyservices.com.

CONTEST TIME!!! COMPLETE THE WORD SEARCH AND TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR COMPLETION ALONG WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AND SEND TO BEFORE OCTOBER 20, 2021 @ pearlge@siksikafamilyservices.com

Siksika Family Services Corporation

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 EHPAANUDMWSNMJRDZHIR
 RITQPTFNICSHJSVUTRTI
 ATSYAESRGRUOXIAFEOT
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 CEHLIZAJLPAMDRIYSEM
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board of directors	HenryThreeSuns	receiving home	parent link
integration	community	programs	services
together	daycare	siksika	shelter
family	child	sets	sfi
support	sceis	care	pss

SIKSIKA NATION'S

Continuous Strong Response to COVID-19 is Producing Results

Compassion for people, Protecting one another, Public health measures



Letter to the Editor

Aitsiniki is accepting letters to the editor which will be printed in the monthly issue of this newspaper. Letters must include the name of the writer and location and may be edited for length and clarity. In order to protect our publication, Aitsiniki reserves the right to refuse any submission that can be viewed as potentially libelous, discriminatory, obscene, threatening, or copyrighted. A Letter to the Editor can be mailed or emailed using the contact info. listed on the Siksika Media credit and contact section. Include a phone number so we can contact you to verify the authenticity of the letter writer.

	Wesley Water Chief - Media Coordinator (w) 403-734-5340 (c) 403-361-0561 email: wesleywc@siksikanation.com
	Carly Weasel Child - Communications Officer (w) 403-734-5574 (c) 403-901-8762 email: carlywc@siksikanation.com
	Dana Stonechild - Office Administrator/Advertising (w) 403-734-5340 (c) 403-667-0906 email: media@siksikanation.com

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Contact us:
 P.O. Box 1490 Siksika, Alberta, T0J 3W0
 1-800-551-5724 ext. 5339 (403) 734-5339
media@siksikanation.com www.siksikanation.com

Please contact Siksika Media for current Ad and Subscription rates.

Notice of Special Ballots

Elections Alberta and Alberta Municipal Affairs have requested that Wheatland County provide voting opportunities to Members living on Siksika Nation who wish to vote in the upcoming Senate Election and Referendum Vote, which are taking place on October 18, 2021.

If you wish to vote in person, please attend the Gleichen & District Community Centre on October 18th. If you are unable to vote in person, Wheatland County is offering Special Ballots.

If you wish to vote by Special Ballot, please submit your application to the Presiding Deputy Returning Officer, Shanna Pierson, via telephone (403-934-3321), fax (403-934-4889), in person, or by e-mail (shanna.pierson@wheatlandcounty.ca) and include the following information:

1. First and last name;
2. Municipal address of the applicant;
3. Mailing address to which the special ballot will be sent;
4. Contact telephone number;
5. Contact e-mail address.



Notice of Election

Wheatland County, Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given:

A. That an election will be held for the election of a Senate nominee for the purposes of the *Alberta Senate Election Act*;

B. That a vote of the electors will be held on the following referendum question(s) under the *Referendum Act*:

- *Should section 36(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 – Parliament and the government of Canada's commitment to the principle of making equalization payments – be removed from the constitution?*
- *Do you want Alberta to adopt year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is summer hours, eliminating the need to change our clocks twice a year?*

Voting will take place on the 18th day of October, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Voting stations will be located at the Gleichen & District Community Hall.

In order to vote, you must produce identification for inspection. The identification must be a Band or Federal Status Card or one or more of the Acceptable Forms of Identification found at <https://www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote/> as required by section 53 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

DATED at the County of Wheatland, in the Province of Alberta, this 17th day of September, 2021.

Returning Officer



**NEVER STOP JOIN US
RUNNING 3 OCT.
2021**

October is Breast Cancer
Awareness Month

Join us for a 5K Walk/Run in honour of the Siksika women & men who are fighting, survived & those who have yet been inflicted with breast cancer.

Sunday October 3rd, 2021

Start Time: **9:00am** @ Siksika
Administration Building Parking Lot

Everyone Welcome - Cohort grouping
encouraged ** Don't forget to wear PINK**



Siksika Nation COVID-19 Community Immunity



**← 78.6%
VACCINE
FIRST DOSES
COMPLETED**



Siksika Nation COVID-19 Community Immunity



**← 65.5%
VACCINE
SECOND DOSES
COMPLETED**

