



# Office of Chief and Council Government of Siksika Nation

## **Siksika Nation Chief and Council Update: June 2021**

### **General Business:**

In solidarity with the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation and the families of the 215 children who lost their lives while attending the Kamloops Indian Residential School, Chief and Council wrote an Open Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, calling on the Canadian federal government to work with individual First Nations to launch an immediate and thorough investigation into all 139 Indian residential schools and sites across Canada, as was recommended in the final report *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls To Action, Missing Children and Burial Information*.

### **Siksika Nation celebrates Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day**

Siksika Nation Chief and Council celebrates the Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21, 2021) with Siksika Nation members and guests with a community BBQ and outdoor market on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The event kicked off at 10:00 am in the parking lot of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park. It provided a BBQ drive thru service from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm by leadership, Siksika N7, staff, volunteers and Siksika Nation Fire & Rescue.

Special guest Katari Right Hand, the Calgary Stampede Parade Marshal was on-site for a special meet and greet and handing out copies of the official 2021 Calgary Stampede poster. The poster was created by Lexi Hilderman, 22, winner of the Calgary Stampede Youth Poster Competition and features an image of Katari in her fancy dance outfit.

MC and Councillor Samuel Crowfoot introduced the dance demonstrations and door prize winners. Despite COVID-19 measures, the event was well attended and Siksika Nation Chief and Council would like to thank all who came out including Nation members, guests, cooks and volunteers.

### **TASK FORCE**

#### **Community Outreach/Charities/Communications:**

**Inaugural Chief and Council Livestream Community Update for June 9, 2021** - Siksika Nation Chief and Council is excited to introduce Siksika Nation to YouTube Live with the inaugural livestream community update to Siksika Nation members on June 9th, 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic restricted leadership from connecting with community members the traditional way; in-person interviews, meetings and gatherings so they had to look at new ways of sharing information with Siksika Nation members.



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The need to remain transparent and respect COVID-19 restrictions at the same time has proven to be a challenge for all communities worldwide, Siksika Nation included, so many have opted to use technology as a new way to do business. While it does not replace the old way of meeting with people in-person, it does provide another opportunity for leadership to share the work they are doing and to reach a larger Siksika Nation audience including off-reserve members who often do not have the opportunity to visit Siksika and stay informed.

The livestream community update began at 1:00 PM and ran until 4:30 PM from the Siksika Nation Chief and Council Chambers in Siksika. The agenda included introductions from Chief Ouray Crowfoot and Councillors Ike Solway, Armond Duck Chief, Kent Ayoungman, Leon Cranebear, Carlin Black Rabbit, Wade Healy, Susan Solway, Rueben Breaker, Tracy McHugh, Jenny Goodin, Samuel Crowfoot, Kendall Panther Bone. An overview of the agenda was delivered by Chair and Councillor Ike Solway and Taskforce updates were provided by Taskforce Chairs.

The virtual event included a question and answer segment that gave Siksika Nation members an opportunity to engage with Chief and Council regarding agenda items by email. Chief and Council thanks all who participated in the first livestream community update and looks forward to connecting with more Siksika Nation members at future events. To watch a recording of the livestream community update, check out our website at [SiksikaNation.com](http://SiksikaNation.com) or our YouTube Channel at Siksika Nation. Watch for more information on the next livestream community update.

## **Public Safety/Policing/Security/Legal:**

### **Announce the New Peace Officer Program for Siksika Nation**

Siksika Nation (June 15, 2021) – Siksika Nation Chief and Council is excited to announce that the Solicitor General Peace Officer Program of Alberta has provided authorization to employ Peace Officers in Siksika. The new program will provide Level 1 Peace Officers to work directly in the community, including three Siksika Nation members.

“The Peace Officer program is a huge step forward for the Nation. The Public Safety Task Force and leadership continues to ensure our community is safe for our people, and we are committed to upholding our responsibility. With the Peace Officer development, this is a major milestone that we can all be proud of as a Nation.” Shared Councillor and Chair of the Siksika Nation Chief and Council Public Safety Task Force Carlin Black Rabbit. (See press release for more information)



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## ENTITIES

### **Old Sun Community College:**

On June 1, 2021, Old Sun Community College issued a statement of support to the Tk'emlups to Secwepemc First Nation and the families of the 215 children who lose their lives while in attendance at the Kamloops Indian Residential School; and called on the Federal Government to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls To Action. Since then, numerous people have visited the college to offer prayers, tobacco, and gifts. The college received a large amount of teddy bears that will be put on display in the near future, as a way of honouring the children who attended Old Sun Indian Residential School. Old Sun Indian Residential School operated from 1929-1979, and was re-purposed into Old Sun Community College shortly afterwards. Staff and students are thankful for all of the heartfelt gestures that have been shown by the community, to honour the children.

Students in the Academic Upgrading Program ended the 2020-21 school year on June 25, 2021, with a small awards ceremony and feast. Congratulations to all students for completing the school year!

June 15<sup>th</sup> was the funding deadline for all new and continuing post-secondary students for the 2021-22 year. Please send in all supporting documentation as soon as possible.

### **Siksika Family Services Corporation:**

A call for Community Consultation Task Force Applications regarding Bill C-92 and Siksika Specific Legislation for Children and Family Services was sent out to Siksika Nation members on June 5th. We are looking for members of the Siksika community to sit on a task force to review legislation that is being developed and provide feedback to the technicians.

All are welcome to apply, special preference will be given to those applicants who: know Siksika culture and language, have backgrounds in social work, former or current foster parents, former children who have passed through a foster home(s)/group home(s), applicants with experience in drafting and or reviewing legislation, educators and elders. The deadline to apply is July 16, 2021. See copy of Request for Proposal for more information. If interested please send a resumé and cover letter describing why you wish to participate to:

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