

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY



25TH ANNUAL SIKSIKAITSITAPI BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CONFERENCE

TOWARD THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY 7

150 YEARS OF TREATY, THE INDIAN ACT, COLONIZATION AND SURVIVAL,
STRENGTHENING OUR SOVEREIGNTY WHILE RETAINING OUR
SIKSIKAITSITAPII AND IDENTITY

Our History | Our Rights | Our Future

HOSTED BY SIKSIKA NATION

September 21-23, 2026
Calgary Airport Westin | Calgary, Alberta

Calgary Airport Westin | Calgary, Alberta, leaders, professionals, researchers, youth, and community members to reflect on the Blackfoot Treaty (Treaty 7), the Indian Act, colonization, survival, and development - and to advance Niitsitapii priorities on the critical issues of today.

Honouring the past | Confronting the present | Building the future

A Message from Chief Samuel Crowfoot

Siipiinaomahka



“Oki, and welcome to the
25th Annual Siksikaitsitapi
Blackfoot Confederacy
Conference.”

“On behalf of Siksika Nation, it is my honour to welcome our relatives from Kainai, Piikani and Amskapi Piikani, along with our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, leaders, youth, presenters and guests.

This year’s gathering invites us to reflect on 150 years of treaty, the Indian Act, colonization and survival. Although these forces have profoundly affected our people, they have never extinguished our identity, our languages, our ceremonies or our inherent sovereignty.

We remain Siksikaitsitapi—connected by our history, our values and our responsibility to future generations.

Our ancestors prepared us to adapt without surrendering who we are. This conference is an opportunity to learn from one another, strengthen our relationships and move forward together on our own terms.

May these days be filled with meaningful dialogue, renewed connections and a shared commitment to protecting our lands, our people and our Siksikaitsitapi way of life.

We welcome you to Blackfoot territory.”

DAY 1

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21 2026

Opening Gathering and Blackfoot Storytelling

TIME & LOCATION	PROGRAM
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM Nose Hill Park Calgary, AB	Registration and Land Marking Ceremony • Land Marking Ceremony led by Kent Ayoungman and Confederacy Elders.
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM The Westin Calgary Airport Hotel	Confederacy Elders Storytelling Evening • An evening dedicated to retelling and preserving our stories from around the Confederacy, including historical accounts of war, capture stories, and victories to share with attendees and to pass on to future generations

DAY 2

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 2026

Blackfoot Treaty (Treaty 7) History | Confederacy Priorities | Collective Advocacy

TIME & LOCATION	PROGRAM
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast • Registration desk opens and breakfast is served.
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Official Opening, Grand Entry and Welcome from the Blackfoot Confederacy • Opening prayer, Grand Entry, and introduction of the Master of Ceremonies and Host Drum. • Welcome from the host, Siksika Nation, in Blackfoot Territory. • Remarks from the Chiefs of Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, and Aamskapiipikani.
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: Inaistsiiyisin (Making a Sacred Agreement) • Blackfoot Confederacy Traditional Knowledge Panel. • Facilitator: Wilton Good Striker, Kainai Nation. • Panelists: Eldon Weasel Child, Siksika Nation; Martin Heavy Head, Kainai Nation; Leonard Weasel Child, Piikani Nation; and Joyce Spoonhunter, Aamskapiipikani.

DAY 2**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 2026***Blackfoot Treaty (Treaty 7) History | Confederacy Priorities | Collective Advocacy*

TIME & LOCATION	PROGRAM
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch served by Westin staff.
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Blackfoot Confederacy Annual Report • An update on the state of the Confederacy, joint initiatives, leadership and organizational developments, and shared priorities for the year ahead
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Health Break
3:15 PM - 4:45 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: People with Developmental Disabilities Joint Litigation Update • Update from legal counsel and Councillor Tracy McHugh. • Panel presentation followed by a question-and-answer period
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Banquet and Blackfoot Film Screenings and Filmmaker Discussion • <i>Kiitokii</i>, "The Origin of the Prairie Chicken Dance" celebrates Blackfoot culture through storytelling, song and dance. Its primary aim is to encourage pride, and a deeper appreciation and respect for the Blackfoot language and culture among Blackfoot youth, elders, and families. Presented by Jeanette Many Guns • <i>Itseetamapi</i>: A young Blackfoot woman with an unexplained connection to the spirit world struggles to understand her gift as a dark presence begins drawing closer, threatening to overwhelm her life. Presented by Adam Solway



DAY 3**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2026***The Indian Act | Citizenship | Sovereignty | Action*

TIME & LOCATION	PROGRAM
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast and Networking
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks • Opening remarks from the Master of Ceremonies.
9:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Keynote Address by Bob Joseph Bob Joseph, Co-Founder & CEO of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. has provided training on Indigenous relations since 1994. He has assisted thousands of individuals and organizations in building Indigenous relations. Bob has worked internationally for clients in the United States, Guatemala, Peru, and New Caledonia in the South Pacific. In 2006, Bob co-facilitated a worldwide Indigenous Peoples round table in Switzerland, which included participants from the United Nations; Australia; New Zealand; North, Central, and South America; Africa; and the Philippines. Bob has worked as an associate professor at Royal Roads University and has routinely been a guest lecturer at other academic institutions. He has an educational background in Business Administration and International Trade and is a certified Master Trainer who in May of 2001 was profiled in an annual feature called, "Training: the New Guard 2001" by the American Society of Training and Development. Bob was one of nine trainers selected for the feature from over 70,000 members who come from more than 100 countries and 15,000 organizations. Bob is also the author and co-author of books and resources relating to working with Indigenous Peoples, including: • 21 Things™ You May Not Know About the Indian Act • Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips, and Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality • 21 Things™ You Need to Know About Indigenous Self-Government: A Conversation About Dismantling the Indian Act • Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples®, 5th Edition
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Health Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Indian Act Registration Blood Quantum Membership and Blackfoot Sovereignty • Legal presentation by Fox LLP addressing Bill S-2, Indian Act registration, blood quantum, and membership. • Panelists: Carly Fox (Foxx LLP), Adele McMaster (Siksika Membership), Audrey White Quills (Blood Tribe Registrar) • Discussion with representatives from the membership departments of the Blackfoot Confederacy Nations.

DAY 3**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2026***The Indian Act | Citizenship | Sovereignty | Action*

TIME & LOCATION	PROGRAM
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: A.I. in Blackfoot Territory- What the expansion of artificial intelligence and data centres means for Niitsitapi—and how our cultural teachings and values must shape the path forward. • Blair Feltmate, JFK Law discuss the legal and regulatory challenges posed by data-centre development in Blackfoot Territory. • Jay White, M.Sc., P.Biol. Senior Biologist. <i>Spencer Environmental Management Services Ltd.</i>
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: Alberta Separation and October 19 Referendum – An update on the Confederacy's Legal Challenges in Court and discussion on the ballot issues and voter requirements • Walsh LLP and Fox LLP
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM	Closing Remarks and Ceremonial Transfer • Closing remarks and transfer of the robe and drum
3:45 PM	Conference Adjournment



Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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TOWARD THE 150TH
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Thank you!

Thank you to the elders, panelists, facilitators, presenters, and our keynote speaker Bob Joseph. Thank you Calgary Westin Airport Hotel and staff for your hospitality and meals, and to Siksika Nation, for hosting the 2026 Blackfoot Confederacy Conference.

Thank you to our volunteers, staff, and helpers for ensuring the success of the conference.

Finally, a special thank you to all the participants for attending the 25th annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference.

We apologize if we missed anyone.

Kiitakitamaatsin.

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