FREE Vol 32 Issue 2 PI TA KI SOOM (FEBRUARY) 2023

Aitsiniki

Siksika Nation's Most Trusted News Source

Siksika Health's third annual "Every Child Matters" Calgary Hitmen Hockey Game Another Success



New Miss Blackfoot Crossing Princess Crowned: Trinity Pretty Young Man





Alvine Eaglespeaker and Agar Wolfleg cutting the ribbon for Miiksika'am (Redcrane) Theatre



Hannah Owl Child on stage at King Edward Hotel



Tawny Big Bull at Many Guns Boxing and Fitness

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SIKSIKA MEDIA

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Media Coordinator's Note

Oki Aitsiniki readers,

I'm Floyd Black Horse, Media Coordinator at Siksika Media. My parents are Floyd Medicine Shield and Marisa (Black Horse) MEDICINE SHIELD BLACK KETTLE, from the Siksika Nation.

Alittle about me, I was born and raised in North Calgary. I am the second youngest of seven siblings and biologically-speaking, the only boy with an adopted brother.

I have been in the media nearly most of my life, illustrating words in elementary and junior high school eventually taking photography classes in my senior year at James Fowler high.

I completed my Bachelor of Communication in Journalism at Mount Royal University in 2021.

As a trained and educated journalist in the field, I've always wanted to be a news reporter; writing stories seems to be my niche. I read as often as I can from romance to mythology novels and practice English grammar on the side.

I think what I enjoy most about stories is the character of most people in situations: the stormy night, the pandemonium, a moment of achievement, or tears.

Situations tell us what that means for the person and ourselves. They help us move through our own adversity and carry forward.

In this month's issue of the Aitsiniki, we cover the crowning of the New Miss Blackfoot Crossing.

It's amazing to see Siksika ceremonies in practice and be witness to activities in our culture.

Special occasions remind me of those who led the path before me and helped me get to where I am today.

In stepping into the shoes of the many editor-in-chief's before me at the newspaper, I admire their purpose. They did some really great work in the years previous.

Much congratulations and best wishes to Blackfoot Crossing's next royalty.

Thank you for learning about me and allowing me to introduce myself, it is my humble honor.

Be sure to check out Siksika Media updates on our Facebook page before it hits the stands.

I hope this month's Aitsiniki is your favorite issue yet.



Photo submiited by: Floyd Black Horse
A self-portrait submitted for the Aitsiniki monthly news publication - taken February 2020 while in school at Mount Royal University.



Trinity Pretty Young Man crowned Miss Blackfoot Crossing at second annual Princess Pageant



Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Newly crowned Miss Blackfoot Crossing Trinity Pretty Young Man



Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Kayci-Lynn Breaker, BCHP Princess 2022 crowns new Miss Blackfoot Crossing Princess 2023 Trinity Pretty Young Man.



Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Miss Blackfoot Crossing takes a photo with her family in attendance.

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Siksika Media reporter

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (BCHP) held their second Princess Pageant on February 10th.

BCHP was not able to have a pageant for a few years because of the COVID-19 pandemic so this was a special event in terms of being very anticipated.

As well as hosting the Princess Pageant, BCHP had named their theatre Miiksika'am (Red Crane) Theatre, after Veteran and Spiritual leader Clarence Agar Wolfleg. This was a great honour for Wolfleg as he wasn't told that the theatre would be named after him, in which left him very surprised.

It is very fitting for the theatre to be named after Wolfleg as he is seen as a spiritual leader and veteran, in which, he is called upon by spiritual societies to help with ceremonial events.

The opening of the theatre and cutting of the ribbon was done by Agar Wolfleg and Spiritual Leader Alvine Eaglespeaker.

With that the Pageant had started and participants along with visitors were fed. Participants were also greeted by past Miss Blackfoot Crossing Kayci-Lynn Breaker and participants were asked to showcase a talent, a speech, and to dance their chosen category in which, each contestant were judged upon and points were taken. Although every Participant was very talented and was a hard choice, Trinity Pretty Young Man was made new Miss Blackfoot Crossing.

Pretty Young Man said that it is a great honour to be Princess. Newly Crown Princess Trinity Pretty Young Man said that she "is running in honour of Leo Pretty Young Man Sr. because the idea of BCHP was his idea, so she felt that she needed to run for princess in honor of him, as well as traveling and representing her culture along with her already traveling to Manitoba, so she may represent her title".

Pretty Young Man was also greeted and crowned by past Miss Blackfoot Crossing Princess Kaycii Lynn Breaker.

The event was very well put together and had many spectators who came out to view this pageant.

This amazing Princess pageant and naming of Miiksika'am (Red Crane) Theatre, was organized by Sasheen Wright and Shade Yellow Old Women.



Photo:Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Clarence Agar Wolfleg (Miiksika'am) with his picture of newly opened Miiksika'am (Redcrane) Theatre.



Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Alvine Eaglespeaker and Agar Wolfleg cutting the ribbon for Miiksika'am (Redcrane) Theatre.

Crowfoot residents cautioned about unauthorized vendors in the community

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Siksika Media reporter



Photo: Floyd Black Horse
Crowfoot NTN resident trailers on Feb. 8. A Public Safety alert was shared via social media after report of suspicious sales occuring in the neighborhood. Nation authorities request that nation members not allow door to door sales people into your homes, as the Nation does not permit such activity.

Two salesmen wearing Brinks uniforms were reported selling security systems on the east end of Siksika at the Crowfoot NTN (New Temporary Neighborhood) trailers.

In a February 3 Public Safety alert posted to the Siksika Nation Administration Facebook social site, the salesmen were seen wearing Brinks badges and acting on behalf of the security services company, driving a black hatchback.

Residents in the area were being sold doorbell camera installations.

At the time, vendors had no permit to work or be in the community.

Dean Young, Public Safety Manager, in an email response said there was no information from nation members or personnel regarding encounters with the men.

"However, the public safety alert still stands for the people, to be aware of the risk of door to door vendors, and we value the information being given to us from the Nation members so we can follow up and catch these guys."

After speaking with individuals in the area, this is a regular occurrence within the community, not only at the Crowfoot trailers but on the nation.

Although it is a regular occurrence for this to happen, there have been reports in the past of non-Siksika members attempting in selling goods without applying for the proper authorizations through the tribal administration.

According to an email response by Land Manager and Property Tax Administrator, Hester Breaker, an internal business process must be followed.

"They issue out access permits to non-Siksika members, companies, groups, etc." and the business process is carried out by Siksika Lands Management tribal department.

Trailers in this side of the reserve are relatively isolated by unpaved roads and the One Gun Trail,, about 10 km into the nation from highway 1.

Public Safety has asked that if approached by any individual that is selling goods or any type of service, not to engage and report to Public Safety at 403-934-3815.









Reconcili-action Hits The Ice In Third Annual Every Child Matters Game

By Carly Weasel Child

On February 4, Siksika Health Services and the WHL's Calgary Hitmen organization hosted the third annual Every Child Matters game at the Scotiabank Saddledome.

The event is an ongoing partnership that began in 2019 and has become a yearly tradition to promote Indigenous culture, encourage healthy lifestyles, and create inclusion in youth sports. Most importantly, the Every Child Matters game is a family event for the children with every child in mind – past and present.

Siksika Health and the Hitmen organization acknowledge this by honoring the families of survivors and building awareness of the Residential School system while creating positive opportunities for Indigenous youth in the community.

The events were held with Blackfoot representation throughout the game. The national anthem sung in Blackfoot by youth
Dilayna Black Horse, in-game commentary in full Blackfoot aired on CJWE by Butch Wolf Leg and Eldon Weasel Child, drumming and singing by Sorrel Rider, First Nations first responders as flag bearers, orange Hitmen Jerseys designed by Jacob Alexis and Richard Running Rabbit, and performances by local dancers of all ages.

This year, the game was dedicated to Siksika Matriarch Payotapoyakii – Margaret Bad Boy. Mrs. Bad Boy was a beloved Siksika elder who became a grandmother to the children in Residential Schools. She never had any biological children, but she adopted over 100 children. In her caretaking, she showed love and compassion to the children and taught the importance of culture and language. Because of her contributions, she's regarded as one of the reasons why the Siksika language is still strong in the community.

Ouray Crowfoot, SIksika Chief, feels that the event brings great pride to the community and can create future opportunities for other events and partnerships. As well, he believes events like this from the nation sets a great example for other Indigenous communities. Crowfoot was proud to see the positive representation for Siksika and is looking forward to the evolving partnerships with outside organizations.

"I think it's gaining more and more momentum each year. It's become a movement. It's a lot more than just the game on the ice. I think it's growing year by year," says Crowfoot at the post-game press conference. "It's starting to spill off from the game and into partnerships and other ventures, and it's all for the kids,"

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Siksika Health's special guest, was in attendance and in awe of the partnership between Siksika Nation Health Services and the Calgary Hitmen. Blackstock is a social worker, professor, author, activist, and advocate for the rights of Indigenous children.

She is a member of the Gitxsan Nation in B.C. and is nationally respected for her many years of relentless work and dedication to child welfare services. She co-founded the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and in her work, she is changing discriminatory policies and working towards systematic and cultural equality for First Nations children in Canada.

Blackstock said the Every Child Matters game was a positive example of the opportunities First Nations communities can achieve for the children when given the proper support and resources.

"It's my first time attending the event and I think that this is wonderful, to come to a place where children and families are at heart and send the message of reconciliation in a way that they can really build off of a premise of love," said Blackstock. "When our people think of the stories of residential schools and some of the struggles we face today, it brings up a lot of emotions of anger and sadness, and those are real emotions. But the way we can reach reconciliation, the way to do it, is on the basis of love."

Blackstock feels that the importance of love was shown with the children and families smiling in the crowd. She shared that the work from Siksika is a positive example for the entire country to see. She said that it's inspiring for communities to witness events such as this so they too can get the support that they need for future opportunities.

"People can point at the example here today and say look, they got it done, we can also get it done for our kids and our families in our community."

Tyler White, Siksika Health Services CEO, said the day was special for the community and everyone involved. He believes it's more than just the game, it's about the experience and the positive influence it has on the youth.

"We're so honored and so excited about today. It's exhausting work, but at the same time it's all for the children and families, at the end of the day that is why we do what we do," said White. "We also dedicated the game to Mrs. Bad Boy and that was extremely special to have the platform to do that and I'm grateful that the family was a part of it to witness it and to share their stories of her legacy. She was a hero for our nation and it was an honor to have the family share her story."

Dr. White shared that with the ongoing theme of reconcili-action, it builds on the growing relationship with the Calgary Hitmen organization. He included that the partnership has made a positive impact between both communities and has created a platform for education and awareness.

"We're doing this together and I think that's how you can educate and create an understanding."

People can point at the example here today and say look, they got it done, we can also get it done for our kids and our families in our community
- Cindy Blackstock, Special Guest

Siksika People, Place and Faces



Photo: Floyd Black Horse
Clarence Agar Wolfleg in uniform before opening ceremony at Every Child Matters hockey game.



Photo: Floyd Black Horse
Every Child Matters opening ceremony including traditional dancers, drummers and flag carriers.



Photo: Floyd Black Horse
Calgary Hitmen in Every Child Matters jersey's and Siksika Minor Hockey team players during on-ice traditional performances.



Photo: Floyd Black Horse
Calgary Hitmen play against Edmonton Oil Kings, an Every Child Matters game dedicated to Indigenous youth empowerment.

COVID-19 STATS

February 15, 2023

2515 Total Cases To-Date	**2506** Total Recovered Cases	**36547** COVID-19 Tests Completed To-Date
3 Current Active Cases	**5** New Cases Since Last Update	**10** Recovered Since Last Update

GET VACCINATED
Monday to Friday | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Siksika Health & Wellness Centre

SIKSIKA DENTAL
FOR HAPPY SMILES
and all your dental needs
CALL 403-734-3488

Clinic Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Located in the
Siksika Health and Wellness Centre

Walk-Ins and Emergencies Welcome





Photo: Floyd Black Horse

Siksika Nation band Double Rider perform on stage at the King Edward Hotel in downtown Calgary on Feb. 11.



Photo: Floyd Black Horse

Drummer Lennon Owl Child of the rock and roll band Double Rider.



Photo: Floyd Black Horse

Guitarist and vocalist Hannah Owl Child of the rock and roll band Double Rider.



Photo: Floyd Black Horse

Carlin Black Rabbit (second right), Siksika councillor attends the album release party for Double Rider with friends.





Siksika People, Place and Faces Continued



Photo: Dawne Warner, Siksika Human Resources
DerRick Starlight, Comedian & Entertainer, visits the Executive suites at Every Child Matters Hitmen Hockey game 2023.

SIKSIKA MEDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Aitsiniki is the premier publication of the Siksika Nation. Our target audience is primarily the membership of the Siksika Nation. We also attract much interest from non-Nation audiences who share an interest in First Nations news, cultures and perspectives. Our estimated readership is 7500.

Advertise with us today!

For general and retail advertising information
Please call or email
(P): 403-734-5339
(E): media@siksikanation.com



Photo: Siksika Media
Hockey game fans wearing Every Child Matters jersey's during intermission.



Photo: Siksika Media
Owen Crane Bear, Siksika councilor, at Every Child Matters.

A local gym invites Siksika Nation members to a variety of boxing classes being offered at fitness centre

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Siksika Media reporter

Students from the Siksika Nation High School are participating in Tawny Big Bull's boxing class at Many Guns Boxing & Fitness Centre at the Siksika Business Plaza in Siksika, Alta.



A student works on his blocking during instruction.
Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

The fitness class is being offered to students at Siksika Outreach, and Siksika Nation High school. Kick Boxing is a four-point fighting style that involves kicks, punches, shins, and feet.



Students practicing their kicks.
Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

It is great for self-defense and great for exercise.

Tawny is a local photographer and one of seven trainers at the gym. The trainer's are Halle Door, Racey Big Snake, Isabel Peace Maker, Tawny Big Bull, Alex Legault, Sarah Slomka, and Robert Edmonstone. Chelsey Yellow Fly is a therapeutic physical trainer and administration staff at reception. Yellow Fly promotes and schedules programs for Many Guns gym.

Each student is being shown how to punch, block, and kick. However, this is one of many fitness and boxing programs, also offered by other trainers at the fitness centre.

Some of the fitness classes that are offered are yoga, HIIT/ Circuit Training, women's fitness, men's fitness, youth boxing, open boxing and adult boxing.

Everyone on Siksika is urged to go and checkout any of these classes now, they are free of charge to Nation members who are interested in participating.



Tawny Big Bull, Many Guns Boxing & Fitness Centre trainer, instructs a student. **Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle**

If you want to get any more info or just have some questions, contact Chelsea Yellow Fly at ChelseaYF@SiksikaHealth.com.

You can also check them out on Facebook and join their Facebook group at "Many Guns Boxing and Fitness", as well as register online and show up to any of the classes.

Interim Communications Specialist: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Oki, my name is Tyrone Sitting Eagle, my Blackfoot name is iiniskim. I am from siksika right from the community. I have recently graduated from the University of Lethbridge with my Bachelors of Music degree, in digital audio arts.

I produce my own music under the name 'Eleeus,' my music is readily available on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Music. My goal is to eventually go full-time and make music as well as put work into making content on various social media platforms such as YouTube. I also participate in various ceremonies that are happening on the reserve, and love to dance powwow and travel during the summers.

I have recently started working at Siksika Media and will do my best to write, create new content that Siksika hasn't seen, and represent Siksika well culturally and publicly.



Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Siksika Media asks: What are you doing for Valentine's?



Donalda McMaster, Trail market shopper: Go out and eat



Donna McHugh, left, Trail Market shopper: Stay home and play my games



Joely Medicine Shield, Petro-Canada cashier: Chee, nothing.



Kyler Morin, Trail Market employee: Definitely be going out to eat



Benjamin Keizer, Petro-Canada customer: Crashing someone else's Valentine's day. Single's awareness day, right?



Alayna Doore, Petro-Canada customer: Just going back home to Lethbridge and going out to a movie.

Oki,

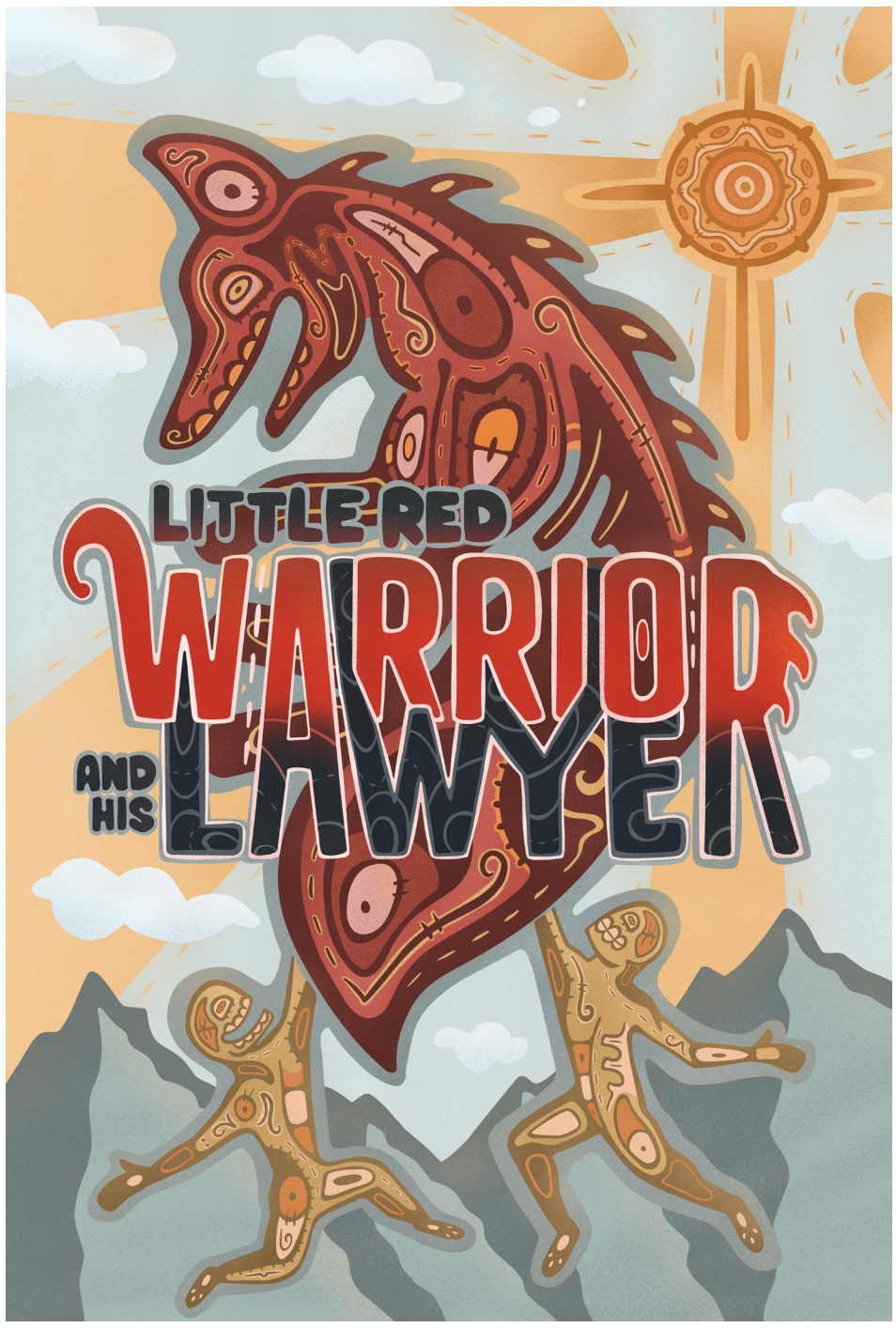
We wanted to reach out and make sure that you knew about our $20 ticket offer through Theatre Calgary for our Indigenous audiences to see 'Little Red Warrior and his Lawyer' by Kevin Loring.

You won't want to miss this hilarious comedy by one of Canada's finest and funniest playwrights, who also happens to be Indigenous. The production runs from January 31st - February 19th, 2023. Although previews have already begun, the official opening night of the play is February 3rd!

Visit www.TheatreCalgary.com ticketing page.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support, and coming out to see our shows!





First Nations Drinking Water SETTLEMENT

Call 1-833-265-7589 or visit firstnationsdrinkingwater.ca for more information.

INDIVIDUAL FORMS (ADULT)
REPRESENTIVE FORMS ARE FOR MINORS – PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – ESTATE FORMS
DEADLINE: MARCH 7, 2023

EACH PERSON MUST SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM INDIVIDUALLY AND USE YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL.

THIS IS NOT PER HOUSEHOLD – IT IS PER PERSON.

February 22: ELDERS SESSION 10:00 AM - Noon at Arbour
Public session at 1:00-2:30 PM
Next Session at Siksika Administration are:
FEBRUARY 27: 10-12 (closed for Lunch) 1-2 pm
March 6: 10-12 (closed for Lunch) 1-2 pm
Lawyer will on site to sign declarations.

Contact: Lucille Wright 403-361-4143 Jenny Goodin 403-734-5100

SIKSIKA NATION TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE:

*The Public Works Department is currently looking to hire part time Heavy Equipment Operators. *

Requirements include:
- HEO certification/3 years' experience.
- Class 5 Drivers License
- Updated Drivers abstract.
- Grade 12 diploma or GED
- Being able to stand in strenuous and inclement work environments.
- Ability to work in a team environment.
- Record keeping systems.
- Knowledge of Alberta Transportation & Safety Guidelines.
- Able to be on call, work on a shift schedule and respond to emergencies in a timely manner.
- Able to adjust to changes in priorities and duties as directed by Supervisor.

General Duties include performing skilled work in the operation of large, motorized equipment to service demands of the Public Works Department (Roads, Solid Waste, Cemeteries, Etc.)

Please submit application, resume, certifications to *Human Resources*.
Email: recruitment@siksikanation.com
Direct Line: 403-734-5567/5579

OPEN UNTIL POSITIONS ARE FILLED





IIYIKINAAMI – SPIRIT HELPER :

BACHELOR OF NURSING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ROUTE

UCalgary Nursing and Old Sun Community College has designed the Iiyikinaami—Spirit Helper Bachelor of Nursing Indigenous Community Route Program to support the enrollment and success of future Registered Nursing students from both the Siksika Nation and surrounding Indigenous communities.
This is an expanded program over five years to include a first year for upgrading courses at Old Sun Community College. Once enrolled in the nursing program, students will be able to take a majority of classes onsite through a combination of online and in-person classes. Student funding options can be discussed with the college faculty.

Step 1: Register for Upgrading Courses at Old Sun Community College. Must apply by June 15.

Year 1

Complete upgrading through the Adult Upgrading Program at Old Sun Community College

Qualifications

- English language Arts 30-1
- Mathematics 30-1 / 30-2
- Chemistry 30
- Biology 30

*Recommend an overall average of 70% & a minimum of at least 65% in each requirement

Step 2: Apply to the Iiyikinaami—Bachelor of Nursing Program at the University of Calgary. Must apply by March 1

Year 2—5

Undergraduate program as a University of Calgary Nursing Student

*Potential student applications to the Bachelor program will be considered if requirements have been met**

For more information, please contact:

Debbie Smith—Coordinator, Iiyikinaami, Bachelor of Nursing Indigenous Community Route
Old Sun Community College / Tel: 403-734-3862 Ext 233 / Email: debbie.smith@oldsuncollege.ca
Or visit University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing for program information: at https://www.ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/explore-programs/nursing-indigenous-community