

Siksika Nation's Most Trusted News Source

Treaty 7 Chiefs from the Blackfoot Confederacy including Chief Ouray Crowfoot from Siksika Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation and Stoney Nakoda took part in historical puck drop ceremony at Calgary Flames game on Mar. 4 in Calgary, Alta.

Photo: Carlv Weasel Child

Treaty 7 Chiefs from the Blackfoot Confederacy including Chief Ouray Crowfoot from Siksika Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation and Stoney Nakoda took part in historical puck drop ceremony at Calgary Flames game on Mar. 4 in Calgary, Alta.

Photo: Carly Weasel Child

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Security guards on the Nation

Town of Strathmore co-hosts 1st ever powwow

Siksika men training



Alfred Many Heads (pictured), is one of the Siksika leaders teaming up with local supporters to provide Security Guard training to Nation members.

Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

By: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

There is a need for more individuals on the Nation who have their security licenses.

Alfred Many Heads, former Siksika Nation councilor and Siksika Employment and Training Services, Employment Training Coordinator, and

Barry Duck Chief, Siksika

Employment and Training Services Program Coordinator, are running a six-to-seven-week Security Training program.

They say there is a need in the community, “one being security guards.”

Since beginning the training, they have partnered with Lethbridge College and Siksika Nation Justice department on the reserve.

As team leaders, they have also contacted other places like the Protective Service Branch.

Recently, there were some individuals who have completed this program and will be graduating this coming Spring.

If you have any questions on this contact Mr. Many Heads or Mr. Duck Chief at Siksika Employment and Training Services at 403-734-5136.

By: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

The Hunt family of Siksika Nation and the town of Strathmore, in Strathmore, Alta., host inaugural “Lead by Example” pow wow in memory of their son ‘Kakato-si’ Kristian Ayoungman.

In memory of Ayoungman, the pow wow couple wanted to honor their son for his four year memorial for all to learn about First Nation’s culture.

In 2022, the Hunts were invited to a town council meeting where they presented the idea of the pow wow. Prior to the invitation, Mrs. Hunt says meeting with the whole town of Strathmore was a surprise. Included in the plans were the mayor and council, where a vote was made and supported by Strathmore citizens to have the memorial event.

A unanimous decision vote ‘Yes’ was motioned with the aid of Strathmore resources, from logistics to a team working on all aspects of the event for a successful pow wow.

Ayoungman’s family has been overwhelmed with the gratitude and support, such as from Siksika Chief Ouray Crowfoot and council appointed Hector Winnipeg to represent council, and Siksika Corporate leaders Siksika Health CEO, Dr. Tyler White, Siksika Hope’s Dr. Quentina Adolfo, Siksika Group of Companies’ Shane Breaker, Siksika Plumbing’s Horton Running Rabbit and more have come forward to help and sponsor the inauguration.

Mr. And Mrs. Hunt want this to be a healing experience for communities of Siksika Nation and the town of Strathmore and pave the way

towards reconciliation for all to learn from.

“I want others to learn about native people, to learn more and teach the communities about our untold history of First Nations, about the Blackfoot culture and create a safe place for everyone to come together and celebrate,” says Melodie Hunt, Ayoungman’s mother and Lead by Example pow wow organizer. “This event is also recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and having families join the honour dance for them to heal.”

A Traditional and Jingle dance special dedicated to Kristian Ayoungman, with special sweaters created for the program will be part of the dances. The family requests those dancing to wear green in honoring Ayoungman.

For the Hunt’s, still grieving the loss of their son, they want this pow wow to celebrate their son’s achievements. In turn, this is a very big and meaningful occasion not only for them, but for the community Ayoungman was a role model too.

“We feel others could learn from this tragic loss by educating, having others learn about First Nations in a positive light so that this does not ever happen again. It celebrates one of Siksika’s most honored young persons and brings the community together to reconcile towards a better understanding of Native people.”

Sponsors and tickets can be purchased by visiting Leadbyexamplepowwow.com. Sales from the event are going to be used for the powwow or put into future pow wows to continue Ayoungman’s legacy.

Elder’s sit down and talk



By: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Every Tuesday, an Elder’s Tea is hosted by Siksika Family Services White Buffalo program and organized by Mahnaz Karimi. This event is held at various places around the reserve at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this Elder’s tea is to bring the community together and

sit down and talk with elders in the community.

“It seems youth are a little bit afraid to speak with elders,” says Karimi.

In turn, this is meant so youth can get to know elders on the nation and bring back visiting.

One thing that was a big part of Siksika was the visiting, there would be lots of visiting and this is aimed to bring a lot of that back, as well, show youth some culture and sit down with elders and talk.

SIKSIKA MEDIA

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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
SiksikaNation.com

Please contact Siksika Media for current advertisment and subscription rates.

Floyd Black Horse
Media Coordinator

Doug Winnipeg
Communications Officer

Tyrone Sitting Eagle
Communications Specialist

Contributing Writers:

Carly Weasel Child
Waylon Black

Population ‘Overeating’ concerns Nurse Practitioners

Community Diabetes program is open for all to join

By: Floyd Black Horse

An official launch for the Siksika Community Health Diabetes program at the Deerfoot Sportsplex Recreation Centre began Mar. 1.

The program is about educating community members on Diabetes, it's needs and building family support.

The Centers for Disease Control and Intervention (CDC) defines Diabetes as a “chronic (long-lasting) health condition that affects how your body turns food into energy.”

Sharon Swampy, Registered Dietician, works with Siksika Health Services and co-facilitates the program. She discusses topics such as Food Sovereignty and specific dietary needs open to any age or those who have any nutrition concerns.

Swampy advises not to cut out your favorite foods at the start of any diet. When a dieting person cuts out chocolate or cultural foods they may give in and start overeating.

“It’s more about finding that balance,” says Swampy. “How can you incorporate those foods but also still be eating nutritious foods.”

The most important food consideration Swampy gives is to start little by little when it comes to sustaining a healthy diet. Swampy recommends adding nutrients to your diet as a key factor in weight loss goals or daily menu plans.

“A lot of people lack fiber. You will find a lot of fiber in fruits, vegetables, or whole grains.”

The Diabetes program has been a support group in the nation for several years. Due to the COVID-19 halting many services, it's been closed. During its closure, the program has been re-vamped into an alternating weekly schedule.

Each week, a new subject on Diabetes is introduced then followed by a support-group style the following week.

A soft launch was held January 2023.

Tracy McMillan, Siksika Health Services Nurse Practitioner, co-facilitates the revamped program. McMillan meets with the group to facilitate various physical and mental health activities.

The clients participating in the program range from 10 to 90 years old, mobile or not mobile, well or not well. The average number of participants is thirty with around twenty participants attending the official launch.

Diabetics and health-concerned nation members sat in on the topic of self-care and did stretching and body movement exercises.

Vendors such as SN7, ORPYX, and a vaccine-information booth were part of the afternoon, promoting healthy active living.

McMillan encourages the practice of self-care habits on the path to improving your physical health.

“Just a good five or ten minutes every day can make a huge difference,” says McMillan, on self-care practices you can do at home. “For the general population, just parking further away

of the grocery store and taking those extra steps across the parking lot make a huge difference.”

McMillan prescribes and diagnoses patients, while taking the nursing part of her job with extra care.

Retinoscopy is a health-condition associated with Diabetics and is done once a year at the doctor's office. The check-up looks at the blood vessels in your eyes to see if they are healthy.

A patient's photo is taken and sent to the doctor's office. The doctor then determines if the patient requires follow-up.

Tamara Low Horn, Community Health Representative, assists in booking in clients. For Siksika Nation members, a referral process is followed.

“We also have one's that are off reserve that usually go to Gleichen. The doctor's there will send us a referral,” says Low Horn.

Eye-testing involves dilation if it is needed when the doctor can do a further check-up.

Low Horn participated in the workshop's creative exercise. The stretching activity was a little bit of a song and dance routine choreographed by one of the workshop facilitators.

“It was fun,” says Low Horn. “They usually do different exercises when we come in on the Wednesdays.”

The Diabetes Program is every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Deerfoot Sportsplex and is open to everyone.

Re-naming ceremony at Lodge

By: Floyd Black Horse

A recent naming ceremony through the endeavors of Linda Little Chief hopes to bring meaningful change in the Siksika community.

A resource center in Siksika Nation changed its name from its English word to Blackfoot lettering which translates to, Helping Lodge. ‘Isspommihthaoyis,’ OR the former Siksika Support Centre (SSC), a department of the tribal administration, sought out an elder's committee before making changes to the service area's namesake.

Linda (Linnie) Little Chief, SSC Project Coordinator, says the overall name change will invite more Nation members in accessing their services.

“We wanted to ensure that we're making a connection to who we

are and also providing all of the supports to our nation members.”

Several programs were given names by ceremonial elders involved in the conception of each program's Blackfoot name. Emergency Supports is now named ‘Aitapis'tapikssao'p,’ Food Centre is called, ‘Isstsinahkohksin,’ and the Healing plan program's name is ‘Sikohkitsihtaan.’ Each name also translates to lengthier meanings in their English form.

Aitapi'tapikssao'p translated is “something you turn to for assistance in the present; right now, as you need something you turn to for help.”

The overall name comes from an elder a long time ago who knew the center as a place for help. The lodge is a former clinic and youth treatment center.

Leandra Waterchief, Outreach Worker, does intake at the lodge. The Intake Assessors see a variety of people and, depending on

their needs, help them out in that direction.

The Healing plan utilizes all the different departments on the Nation. Clients who need help with addictions might receive a referral to Siksika Mental Health, or, if they need help in Housing, they will do a referral to Housing.

The Intake Assessors team includes Evans Yellow Old Woman and Tasheena Black Kettle.

“We don't like to call them clients,” says Waterchief. “We like to refer to them as cousins, our relatives.”



Linda Little Chief, left, and Leandra Waterchief, right.
Photo: Floyd Black Horse

Once ‘cousins’ are in Sikohkitsihtaan, it is six months in length, but the actual start time happens when they are ready to begin. A process which is not about ‘rushing’ and ensures there is an after-care period once their needs have been met.

“As an Outreach worker, my goal is to work with other departments to build those relationships and find other resources because sometimes the resources here on the Nation are limited so I would like to build relationships with the surrounding towns, mainly Strathmore and Calgary.”

Dr. Vivian Ayoungman is a member of the Elder's Advisory Committee which decided to give Siksika names to the lodge.

Together with the committee the purpose of each name, she says, is about speaking the language and adding more meaning to the

Continued on pg. 7

Siksika People, Places and Faces



Calgary Flames game Indigenous people from Treaty 7 and surrounding communities carrying drums, wearing their favorite Flames jersey's and gathering with friends and family on Mar. 4 at Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary, Alta. **Photos: Carly Weasel Child**



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Calgary Flames team photo featuring members of the Treaty 7 Nations taking part in the pre-game ceremony. This is the 1st Annual Indigenous Celebration game and 1st Land Acknowledgment for the Flames.

Photo: Carly Weasel Child

Calgary Flames give first land acknowledgement



Dilayna Blackhorse sings the national anthem at Calgary Flames pre-game ceremony. Photo: Carly Weasel Child

By: Carly Weasel Child

The Calgary Flames gave their first ever land acknowledgment at inaugural Indigenous Celebration game on Mar. 4 at the Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary, Alta.

The inaugural event gathered seven Chiefs from Treaty 7 Nations.

In partnership with the tribes of Treaty 7, Chiefs, princesses, elders, dancers and drummers from the different tribes all participated in the pre-game ceremony.

Chiefs from each of the Treaty 7 nations took part in the historical Puck drop. Siksika youth Dilayna Blackhorse sang the National

Anthem in Blackfoot. As well, jersey's co-designed by Jacob Alexis and Siksika member Richard Running Rabbit were worn in the pre-game warm-up. The signed warm-up jerseys have been auctioned off with proceeds going towards Indigenous youth programming.

For many, an event like this felt like a long time coming.

Former Western Hockey League (WHL) player, Tsuut'ina Nation's Brent Dodginghorse, said it was a historic event and feels that the strength and resilience of our people were highlighted.

"Games like this have been a long time coming. This should have happened a long time ago, but the Flames are doing their best and they're taking the right steps," said Dodginghorse. "Every Child Matters games opened the doors and every year the Flames are learning more about our culture, traditions and heritage."

As a role model and former Calgary Hitmen player, with his experience as one of the first professional Indigenous hockey players in Southern Alberta, he became a liaison for the Calgary Flames

organization to help plan the event.

Also, as an all-around athlete in Hockey and Rodeo, Dodginghorse hopes event like this sends a message to Indigenous youth to continue to try hard and be proud of where you come from.

"Each nation should be proud of the culture," said Dodginghorse, on how the day was special for him. "The fact that we brought all the Treaty 7 Chiefs together, as well as the traditional and spiritual leaders, we did it all as a group. This was all accomplished by working together. Also, we had a working committee with a representative from each nation, and I think it was a job well done to the committee."

Geordie Macleod, Senior Director of Game Presentation and Events for the Calgary Sports & Entertainment Corporation (CSEC) said the event was emotional and special. He feels honored to be a part of the partnership and shared that he learned a lot about culture leading up to the event.

Macleod addressed the months of hard work that went into the making of such a celebrated day. Through liaison with Dodginghorse, getting in contact with the

Nations was one of his proud accomplishments, making sure they took all of the appropriate steps.

"We met with representatives from all the Nations several times. The pre-game ceremonies were spectacular. Seven Chiefs at center ice, seven elders, seven princesses, seven drummers, it was all just so beautiful to see," said Macleod. "I was offered the opportunity to be part of a prayer this morning. Seven elders came to the Saddledome and we did a prayer at 9:00 a.m. this morning and it was one of the most special things I've ever been a part of."

The Calgary Flames hosted the Minnesota Wild team for their celebration game.

Dodginghorse remarks that everyone should be proud of the culture. And says, "everyone should be even more proud to be Indigenous today."

"For young athletes out there, work hard and believe in yourself. It can be tough but never give up. Chase your dreams and don't be afraid to play hockey wherever you can. Do something different. Chase dreams and believe in yourself."

Visit www.siksikanation.com for the latest council news, updates and Internet broadcasts of CFX 104.7 fm "The Nation Station"



Siksika U13 Buffaloes team want to thank the following for donations (money, gift cards, raffle item or food) to our hockey tournament March 11-12, 2023.

- Mitch and Delores Right Hand

-Hector and Rhonda Winnipeg

-Pearl Good Eagle

-Gordon Royal

-Owen Crane Bear

-Carlin Black Rabbit

-Kendall Panther Bone

-Strater Crowfoot

-Rose Red Gun
- Strathmore Canadian tire

-Horace Bull Bear

-Apanaki makes- Karia AYM

-Siksika Subway

-Siksika Family Services

-Challenge Industries

-Siksika March Madness Committee

for sponsoring the merchandise for all participants and 1st and 2nd place winners!

A huge thank you to all the parents who also made the tournament a huge success!

A Winner for All



Photo: Floyd Black Horse

Profile: Hester Breaker Submitted by Siksika HR Department

Human Resources (HR) at the Siksika Nation Tribal Administration (SNTA) congratulates Hester Breaker on her new role as Siksika Land Manager & Property Tax Administrator in Siksika Land Management service area (Lands).

On September 13, 2021, Breaker took on Lands and was expected to return to her role as Treasury Manager. But, due to her hard work, expertise, and successful management skills, she has transitioned and restored our department to a fully functioning, self-sustaining and efficient service area. Breaker is an inspiration and motivating factor due to her integrity and leadership as manager.

Hester Breaker began as Treasury Manager in 2017. As Treasury Manager, she was truly an expert in her area and revered as one of the top employees by her former Manager Owen Crane Bear. As the secondment to Lands

Management approached, Treasury was saddened by the loss of an excellent employee. However, the secondment proved to be a win for the Administration as Breaker has now proven herself to be the most effective Manager for Lands.

Born and raised in Siksika's west end residential community, Ms. Breaker comes from a farming/ranching family background. She is a mother and grandmother, two roles in life she says she loves.

It's not just having an education that matters - Hester Breaker, Siksika Land Manager & Property Tax Administrator

In 1992, Breaker graduated with a post-secondary education in Business Administration with an accounting focus. On graduation, she entered the corporate workforce on an academic scholarship with Imperial Oil Resource.

"It's not just having an education that matters, but what you do with it. I used it as a foundation to build an extensive career path in energy, business and management related positions."

Along her career path, she has continued to build on her education and work experience. She graduated in 2019 from the First Nation Tax Commission's Property Tax Administration program as Class Valedictorian. In 2010, she graduated with distinction from the Na-

tional Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA) program to become a certified Land Manager. Both her educational pursuits enable her to aid in any First Nation community in Canada, in these specialized areas - First Nation Land Management and/ or Property Taxation.

Breaker says she enjoys her accomplishments and continues to do them on a personal and professional level. Breaker joins the Siksika Land Management department, which requires the coordination and oversight of multiple internal and external land transactions, while managing responsible land stewardship practices.

"I look forward to taking on a greater mentor role in the future. I have managed to accumulate diverse work and life experiences which I like to share and encourage others, especially young people. To strive forward in a good way for themselves and others."

For the past year and five months, Lands has become more efficient and sustainable, helping our professional establishment and Siksika Nation members. We can only predict that further great developments and successions will come from Hester Breaker and her Land Management Team for years to come.

Siksika's 1st all-girls hockey team

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

On February 28th, the U13 Winterhawks faced off with the Siksika Jr. Buffaloes at the Deerfoot Sportsplex arena in Siksika, Alta – It was a close game as the score went back and forth. Both teams battled scoring lots to take the win. The Winterhawks ended up scoring in the last ten minutes of the third, bringing the Winterhawks the win over Siksika Jr. Buffaloes.

Winterhawks is the first all girls hockey team from the Siksika Nation to be a part of the Rocky Mountain Female Hockey League (RMFL).

Kai Waterchief, RMFL Siksika Director, and Valene (A.K.A.



Winterhawks celebrating their 8-7 win. Green and purple are the team's colors. Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle

Chelsey) Dixon, Winterhawks Manager, led the formation of the Siksika Winterhawks.

Forming the team included out-of-pocket expenses for coaching clinics needed for head and assistant coaches as well as getting sponsored by Leaky Sol Plumbing, Gordon Royal, Siksika Housing and Siksika Support Centre, David

Wells, and Siksika Nation Treasury department. The efforts aided in getting the team formal jerseys, "a cost of nearly four thousand dollars."

Kiara Bigoldman is the team's Head Coach and Christie Duckchief is the Assistant Coach assisted by Waterchief in practice games.

The Winterhawks have not had it easy being new to the league. Dixon says there have been some challenges.

"The girls have faced discrimination, but this hasn't stopped them playing the game that they all know and love," says the Manager. "Although there is this challenge, the girls and coaches still try very hard and pushed towards becoming a better team, and not focusing on negativity and sticking with positive thinking."

The team is Siksika's first all-girls hockey team, which consists of nineteen players in RMFL and is all independent from Siksika.

"Every person involved in this team including the players have made a great effort to make Siksika proud."

By Siksika Health Communications

On March 3 & 4, 2023, Mount Royal University hosts a weekend of learning, research, and connection. This multidisciplinary symposium aims to foster community and enhance inclusivity of physical activity and sport across the province, for all Albertans experiencing disability.

A Community Advisor for Calgary's Adaptive Hub, Siksika Health Services' Dr. Tyler White opened the symposium with a presentation about the significance of adaptive physical activity on Siksika Nation.

Dr. White shared that "Siksika people often communicate that individuals with unique needs are special gifts from Creator, and were historically referred to as

Siksika people often communicate that individuals with unique needs are special gifts from Creator, and were historically referred to as Pissatsipokiaayawa, or 'special children.'

- Dr. Tyler White

Pissatsipokiaayawa, or 'special children'. They express that these people are closer to Creator, as they are pure in spirit, and

have unique skills to adapt and communicate with their families.

Families and friends of our special children stress that a "label of disability does not define a person, but rather, it

focuses on a person's strengths."

There are no words for "disability" in the Blackfoot language, and

quite often you'll hear stories shared of people's strengths who had a disability. The concept of inclusion has always existed in our Siksika way of life.

Adaptive Physical Activity aligns with this belief, and values every individual's strengths and interests to match them with appropriate activities.

Through collaboration with like-minded and like-hearted partners, such as Dr. David Legg at MRU's Department of Health and Physical Education, the Calgary Adaptive

Hub, the Autism and Asperger Friendship Society, Lacrossing Barriers, our Siksika Health Mental Health & Wellness and Siksika Recreation departments, and many others, we have been able to start to bring adaptive physical activity to Siksika in a good way.

Initiatives like the Adaptive Physical Activity Symposium give opportunity for us all to show our support by honoring and celebrating peoples' diversity through community consensus program development, spreading awareness, and promoting inclusion in sports.



Photo: Siksika Health Communications

Together, we strive for equity in health and wellness for all, and we demonstrate acceptance and inclusion in all aspects of life. Adaptive sports are sports, and all people matter.



Photo: Siksika Health Communications

Re-naming ceremony (Pg. 3) continued

services they provide.

Appropriate names were thought of by the elders in terms of what each program signifies, and how the general population might understand them.

The overall name, Isstsinahkohksin, was decided because they offer a lot of different services.

The naming ceremony was the 'Big Smoke' ceremony, an overnight event where people ask for prayers.

"The Big Smoke ceremony is big in our community because during the wintertime is when people might make a vow," says AyOUNGman. "It means that you host the big smoke so that prayers can be offered, and it could be prayers for someone who is sick, for things happening in your family or community. But it could also be to wish for the good things for the Nation, for the upcoming year."

The ceremony lasts all night and during the wintertime. AyOUNGman has attended several ceremonies and listens to all the songs which are sung.

"This is the one ceremony where all the ceremonial songs from the societies come together."

The ceremonies can be hosted at someone's home or conducted by some of the centers such as Health services.

Little Chief wanted to encourage at least one member of each team to attend. About sixty Nation members in all capacities made it.

The event went from Mar. 3 into Mar. 4, starting at 9:30 p.m. and concluding in the early hours of the morning.

"The Big Smoke was actually to continue the success that we're having," says Little Chief. "Also, that we continue to get the support from the leadership that we're getting."



Siksika Nation Administration

Public Safety

ANNOUNCEMENT

AISKAPIMOHKIKS PROGRAM EVALUATION PUBLIC INPUT

We are conducting an evaluation of the Aiskapimohkiiks program to ensure we are meeting our mandate to provide quality resolution services to Siksika Nation. Part of this evaluation includes a survey for any and all members of the Nation and Nation stakeholders to complete. It does not matter if you have not used the program, this survey is open to all members of the Nation.

Since the implementation of the Aiskapimohkiiks Program on Siksika Nation in 2003, the program, utilizing the services of trained Elders of Siksika Nation, who are also certified Mediators, has successfully dealt with over 400 dispute cases. As a type of an Aboriginal restorative justice alternate dispute resolution program, the Aiskapimohkiiks Program has positively impacted numerous Siksika Nation members, the Chief and Council, Siksika Administration, and the community at large. The latter includes the RCMP, Provincial court system, court workers, Crown Prosecutors, defense lawyers, duty counsels, and the like.

The survey can be completed online by visiting:

<https://srvy.pro/2HS9DVP>

If you wish to complete a paper copy, you may find them at the Tribal Administration Building at the Justice counter.

The survey will be available between **March 13 until March 27, 2023**. Please have the paper copy returned to the Justice counter by the last day of the survey.

Thank you for contributing to the improvement of the Aiskapimohkiiks program.

The Aiskapimohkiiks Team

siksikanation.com



Classifieds

Spirit Helper is recruiting

Job Posting!!!



Department: Old Sun Community College
Position: Community Liaison and Program Recruitment Coordinator
Term: April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024 Term Contract
Deadline: March 21, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

General statement:
The Community Liaison and Program Recruitment Coordinator provides information and advice to potential students and participates in the development and implementation of recruitment and community liaison strategies to achieve student enrollment targets for each program offered at Old Sun Community College.

Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to:
rhonda.healy@oldsuncollege.ca before 4:30 p.m. of the posting closing date.



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SIKSIKA MARCH MADNESS



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Siksika People, Places and Faces (Cont'd)



Richard Running Rabbit, left, Skylar Running Rabbit, center, Chance Breaker, right, promoting SN7.
Photo: Tyrone Sitting Eagle



Nation Fair Committee 2023 at Deerfoot Sportsplex Arena during meeting on Mar. 1.
Photo: Floyd Black Horse

By Waylon Black

The first couple of months of 2023 have seen many changes in the Old Sun Community College (OSCC).

In February, the Iiyikinaami (Eye-yik-e-naw-me) – Spirit Helper: Bachelor of Nursing (BN) (Indigenous Community Route) Siksika Pilot Project invited University of Calgary (UCalgary) Faculty of Nursing guests to join in an all-day event. UCalgary Nursing and OSCC 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.

Debbie Smith, Iiyikinaami Coordinator, hosted the event. The session included a meet and greet, program curriculum presentations, college & Siksika Health Services tours, and a return to campus with a public student engagement session.

This is an expanded program over five years to include a first year for upgrading courses at OSCC. Once enrolled in the nursing program, students can take most classes onsite through a combination of online and in-person classes. Student funding options can be discussed with the college faculty. In March, the OSCC team was led in a Policy Development and Planning meeting which united the team in common goals and policies in supplying the best possible service



delivery to the community.

“We are a community college and everything that we do must reflect service to the community,” says Fritzi Woods, OSCC Registrar. “A big part of the process is building upon past procedures to guide our new policies.”

OSCC Interim President Maria Big Snake is providing unique guidance to her team in bridging the old ways with the new, using the College’s foundation to grow innovative ideas and setting goals which will advance the College into the mainstream world of education.

On March 29 & 30, OSCC will be hosting a Recruitment Blitz featuring all the current and upcoming classes and programs as well as a tipi full of fun and learning with a staff meet and greet, traditional dance showcases and Owl Dance, a two-step competition and guest speakers. So, dust off our moccasins and your dancing boots and come join us for a fun time!

For all Facebook users, please like and follow our page at Facebook.com/ oldsun.communitycollege and see regular updates as well as cultural and language projects from the Siksika Film Tribe and the Elders in Residence.



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



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>