



Declaration

Siksikaitstapi Issksinima'tstohksinn

The Siksikaitstapi, the Blackfoot Confederacy of the Kainai-Blood Tribe, Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation and Amskapi Pikuni were placed upon this earth by Ihtsipaitapio'pa, the Creator with a unique culture and language to occupy a specific territory of land to fulfill His purpose. Thus WE, THE MEMBERS OF SIKSIKAITSTAPI – THE BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY, speak Nitsi'powahsin – the Blackfoot Language, among other things, hold many landmarks within our territory as sacred monuments; which among our beliefs include the Akokatsin – Sundance; socially and tribally organized into extended families, clans, tribes and nations; govern ourselves accordingly according to customs given to us by the Creator; presently occupying the lands within our traditional territory, the Blood Indian Reserve, Siksika Nation Reserve, Piikani Nation Reserve, and the Blackfeet Reservation. To maintain ourselves under the guidance of the Creator; To initiate a sense of responsibility to our people and nation. To continue to seek better means of survival; To provide for an orderly and accepted way of carrying on our culture, rights, powers and welfare of our Nations; under the powers we hold as sovereign people do ordain and establish the Siksikaitstapi Issksinima'tstohksinn; To carry out the duties as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

Whereas the Chiefs of the Siksikaitstapi – the Blackfoot Confederacy Nations of the Kainai-Blood Tribe, Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation, and Amskapi Pikuni, express this philosophy of the Siksikaitstapi – Blackfoot Confederacy.

A. And Whereas the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

- Article 13 (1) Indigenous Peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
- Article 14 (1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- Article 14 (2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
- Article 14 (3): States shall, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
- Article 23: Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous Peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining, health, housing and other economic and social programmes through their own institutions.

B. First Nations have an inherent and Treaty right to education, including post-secondary education as part of the lifelong learning process.

And Whereas, the Siksikaitstapi – Blackfoot Confederacy recognize that through the process of Treaty Making, particularly, the Blackfoot Treaty of 1877 (aka Treaty #7) recognize the trust held by our Chiefs and Councils to protect our inherent rights given to us by our Creator for our children and for generations to come.

Now Therefore be it resolved the leadership of the Siksikaitstapi – Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs hereby declare that the educational leaders of the Blackfoot Confederacy Nations of Kainai-Blood Tribe, Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation and Amskapi Pikuni Lifelong Learning Institutions ensure to its members the following:

- Affirm our jurisdiction over Siksikaitstapi – Blackfoot Confederacy Education, no one speaks for our nations, nor should any outside entity claim our population numbers.
- Affirm our inherent and Treaty rights to education.
- Affirm that Canada will not delegate its fiduciary obligations owed to Blackfoot Confederacy First Nations over First Nations education to provincial, territorial governments, or other third party entities.
- To deal with common issues and where appropriate, to join together to deal with governments or other entities as one united confederacy.
- To collaborate and support community and educational strategies that support the revitalization of Nitsi'powahsin, the Blackfoot Language.
- To ensure that the trust held by our Chiefs and Councils of our Nations to provide, promote and support the learning excellence of the Siksikaitstapi Indigenous Knowledge, fluency in Nitsi'powahsin, the Blackfoot Language; and the Western Knowledge of the newcomers.

THE SIKSIKAITSTAPI, BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CHIEFS OF KAINAI-BLOOD TRIBE, SIKSIKA NATION, PIIKANI NATION, AND AMSKAPI PIKUNI HEREBY RATIFY AND AFIRM THIS DECLARATION MAY 2020 BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY TERRITORY ALBERTA, CANADA.

A blue ink signature of Makiinima Chief Roy Fox, written over a horizontal line.

MAKIINIMA CHIEF ROY FOX

KAINAI – BLOOD TRIBE

A blue ink signature of Chief Stanley C. Grier, written over a horizontal line.

CHIEF STANLEY C. GRIER KIAAYO TAMISOOWO

PIIKANI NATION

A blue ink signature of Niokskaistamik Chief Ouray Crowfoot, written over a horizontal line.

NIOKSSKAISTAMIK Chief OURAY CROWFOOT

SIKSIKA NATION

A blue ink signature of Apa'mah'ka Chairman Tim Davis, written over a horizontal line.

APA'MAH'KA CHAIRMAN TIM DAVIS

AMSKAAPI PIKUNI