



Oki Collective QUARTERLY

ISSUE #002-Q325

Q3.2025 ♦ BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY TRIBAL COUNCIL



INDEX inside this issue:

24th Annual Blackfoot
Confederacy Conference Hosted
in Sikóóhkotok



IELCC Child and Family Services
Continue Confederacy Work to
Support Children Youth and
Families



Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs
Called Out Métis Nation of Alberta
Encroachment into Blackfoot
Territory



Blackfoot Confederacy and Town
of Banff Formalized Relationship
Through Blackfoot Naming of New
Bridge



Blackfoot Confederacy
Acknowledged Service of
Outgoing Siksika Chief Ouray
Crowfoot



Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council presents the second edition of **OKI COLLECTIVE // QUARTERLY**. This publication provides a structured account of the Confederacy's governance, advocacy, cultural, and community updates. It also highlights the work done by a team of Blackfoot professionals dedicated to advancing the collective interests of Niitsitapi and all things Blackfoot.

Issue 002 of OKI COLLECTIVE documents a period of significant Blackfoot Confederacy activity and leadership, including the 24th Annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference in Sikóóhkotok, national representation at the Alberta Recovery Summit, and major relationship-building milestones such as the Blackfoot naming of the Thunder Medicine Pipe Bridge in Banff. This issue also captures the Confederacy's unified leadership response to Métis Nation of Alberta actions through Chiefs' statements and a five-part educational campaign reaffirming Blackfoot law, Treaty rights, and territorial sovereignty. Additional highlights include the preservation of Blackfoot knowledge through Elders' teachings on historic trade routes and the acknowledgment of outgoing Siksika Chief Ouray Crowfoot's service and contributions to Confederacy-wide governance and intergovernmental relations.

KEY GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES



September 2025



24th Annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference Opens in Sikóóhkotok

The 24th Annual Siksikaitstapi Blackfoot Confederacy Conference was held from September 15 to 18, 2025, in Sikóóhkotok, bringing together Chiefs, Elders, leadership, and community members from the four Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, and Amskapi Piikuni. The 2025 conference was hosted by Piikani Nation, with delegates recognizing Piikani for welcoming participants and carrying the responsibilities of host Nation.

The conference opened with a landmark ceremony at the Galt Museum and Archives. On the second day, proceedings began with a pipe ceremony led by Ira Provost, followed by a grand entry and prayer by Jordon No Chief with the Wandering Tribe drum group. Chiefs from each of the four Nations delivered opening remarks, outlining priorities and shared directions for the year ahead.

Across four days, discussions focused on governance and legal issues central to the Confederacy, including Section 35 rights, treaty obligations, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and long-term reform for Siksikaitstapi governance. Education sessions and community discussions featured legal experts, educators, and policy leaders, alongside Confederacy-wide updates.

Day three, held on September 17, centered on reform, resource rights, and program reporting. The day began with prayer and breakfast, followed by a morning session on Siksikaitstapi Long Term Reform led by Kelly Provost, Kirby Many Fingers, and Charity Fleming, which examined strengthening governance and improving services through long-term structural change. Later that morning, Brad Michael presented on the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, emphasizing the need to keep treaty rights at the forefront of all land and resource decisions.

In the afternoon, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council staff delivered detailed updates across economic development, environment and lands, health, education and language, children's services and Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care, intergovernmental relations, communications, and technical services. The presentations highlighted priorities, progress over the past year, and ongoing work, while providing opportunities for feedback from niitsitapi in attendance.

Cultural programming was integrated throughout the conference, including film presentations, traditional dance performances, and community banquets. The conference concluded on September 18 with sessions on UNDRIP, a presentation from the Peigan Board of Education, and a closing transfer ceremony. Hosting responsibilities were formally transferred to Siksika Nation, who will host the Blackfoot Confederacy Conference in 2026.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Conference continues to serve as a key forum for advancing collective priorities, strengthening collaboration among the Nations, and affirming the sovereignty and shared direction of the Siksikaitstapi.



December 2025

IELCC Child and Family Services Continue Confederacy Work to Support Children Youth and Families

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, through Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care and Child and Family Services, continues coordinated work with Blackfoot Nations and Tribes to support children youth and families across the Confederacy. The work focuses on culturally grounded approaches that respect Nation and Tribal authority and support long term planning and decision making.

Over the past season, Child and Family Services has prioritized relationship building and information sharing to support Nation and Tribal planning efforts. Engagement related to An Act Respecting First Nations Inuit and Metis Children Youth and Families remains central, with ongoing requests for information presentations and guidance.

Regular discussions with Government of Alberta ministries continue to clarify processes and responsibilities as Nations and Tribes move toward exercising jurisdiction.

Prevention and Early Intervention continue to guide this work and are informed by Niitsitapi cultural teachings. New representatives on the Prevention and Early Intervention Sub Table have expanded community input and helped ensure local priorities shape the work.

Presentations to Child and Family Services Service Delivery offices have supported alignment with Niitsitapi knowledge and community based practice. Improving access to clear and relevant information remains a key focus. Ongoing collaboration across the Confederacy supports informed decision making and planning by Nations and Tribes. Together, this work reflects a shared approach to child and family wellbeing across the Blackfoot Confederacy.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council continues to advance Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care through systems grounded in Blackfoot ways of knowing. This work supports holistic child development, cultural continuity, and equitable access to early learning for Blackfoot children and families.

Progress under Goal No. 5 of the Strategic Plan includes community driven planning guided by Elders and Knowledge Holders and strengthened partnerships across the Confederacy, including ongoing work with Amskapi Piikuni Head Start and Child Care. Niitsitapi pedagogies remain the foundation of IELCC, supported through capacity building for educators and administrators and the 2025 BFC IELCC Kano'hssini Symposium. An updated BFC IELCC Three Year Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2028 has been completed.

Curriculum and literacy work continues through culturally grounded resources that integrate Nitsiipowahsin, Elder teachings, and land based learning, alongside literacy initiatives such as Jolly Phonics training. Data collection and monitoring support accountability and guide ongoing planning and decision making.



September 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Health Participated in Alberta Recovery Summit

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council Health participated in the Alberta Recovery Summit held from September 23 to 25 at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre. The summit brought together provincial and national representatives to advance recovery models and strengthen community based approaches to mental health and addiction. Discussions emphasized the importance of Indigenous perspectives and reinforced the role of First Nations in shaping recovery systems across Alberta.

Jacey Doore and Mother Councillor Marsha Wolf Collar-Doore of Siksika Nation delivered a featured presentation titled Family Systems Breaking the Cycle: A Mother and Daughter's Journey to Recovery. Their presentation focused on the role of family, community, and culture in supporting recovery and long term wellness.

Jacey, who marked two years in recovery while completing graduate studies, and Councillor Wolf Collar-Doore, speaking as both a mother and community leader, shared how Blackfoot values continue to guide healing and resilience. Their presentation received a standing ovation from summit delegates and was recognized as a significant contribution to the 2025 gathering.

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council Health acknowledged and commended their leadership and the strong representation they carried on behalf of Siksika Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy as Niitsitapi.

October 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs Called Out Métis Nation of Alberta Encroachment into Blackfoot Territory

The Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs, representing the Kainai Blood Tribe, Piikani Nation, Siksika Nation, and Aamsskaapikani (Blackfeet) Nation, issued a unified call affirming their responsibility to protect Blackfoot Territory and the sovereignty of their Nations. The Chiefs called on the Governments of Canada and Alberta to cease supporting Métis-led initiatives taking place within Blackfoot Treaty Territory.

The Chiefs stated that recent actions associated with the Métis Nation of Alberta and affiliated Métis associations—including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas initiatives, flag raisings, and naming projects—were occurring without Blackfoot consent and were being used to create the appearance of rights and authority within Blackfoot Territory.



The statement referenced the 2011 Supreme Court of Canada decision *R. v. Hirsakorn*, which confirmed that there were no historic Métis communities in southern Alberta and no Métis harvesting rights or Aboriginal title in the region. Chiefs emphasized that these legal findings continue to be disregarded through ongoing Métis-led activities on Blackfoot lands.

The Blackfoot Confederacy called for the immediate suspension of these initiatives and reiterated that governments must recognize the Blackfoot as the original and rightful stewards of the territory. Chiefs stressed that reconciliation requires respect for Blackfoot law, governance, and consent, rather than policies or programs that undermine or bypass Blackfoot authority.

The statement concluded with the Chiefs reaffirming that the Blackfoot people have never relinquished their responsibility to protect Niitsitapi Territory and will continue to defend their lands, sovereignty, and collective rights as the Blackfoot Confederacy.

Blackfoot Confederacy Statment from Chiefs October 16, 2025

October 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs Responded to Métis Nation of Alberta Claims on Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

The Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs issued a formal response on October 28, 2025, to claims by the Métis Nation of Alberta regarding efforts to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas within Blackfoot Territory. The Chiefs stated that the Métis Nation of Alberta did not engage with Blackfoot Chiefs, Blackfoot Nations, or the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, and instead proceeded through public statements that failed to recognize Blackfoot jurisdiction and authority.

The Chiefs emphasized that private land purchases and public naming contests did not override Blackfoot law, stewardship, or ancestral responsibilities that have governed the territory for thousands of years. Any attempts to assert harvesting rights, Aboriginal title, or jurisdiction without Blackfoot consent were stated to be unacceptable, with actions bypassing Blackfoot protocol described as a continuation of colonial practices on Blackfoot lands.

The Blackfoot Confederacy also acknowledged support from First Peoples across Canada and from Métis citizens who publicly stood with Blackfoot leadership. The Chiefs reaffirmed that all initiatives within Blackfoot Territory must respect Blackfoot protocol and consent, reiterating that Blackfoot sovereignty is not negotiable.

The statement concluded with the Confederacy reaffirming its commitment to protecting Blackfoot Territory and upholding the laws and responsibilities that have guided the Blackfoot people since time immemorial.



Head Office: 400 - 10th Street SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1K6
Phone: +1 403 271 1100
Email: info@blackfootconfederacy.ca
Website: www.blackfootconfederacy.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Theoren Royal, Blackfoot Confederacy Communications
E: TheorenR@blackfootconfederacy.ca

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CHIEFS' CALLS OUT MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA'S ENCROACHMENT INTO BLACKFOOT TERRITORY

Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB), Blackfoot Territory - October 16, 2025 - The Siksikitsitapi Ohiwiniinaiks (Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs), representing Kainai-Blood Tribe, Piikani, Siksika, and Amsaskaapi'pilani Nations, calls on the Governments of Canada and Alberta to immediately cease supporting Métis Nation of Alberta "Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas" (IPCAs) and related initiatives within Blackfoot Territory (Treaty No. 7).

Our objection is to the current actions of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) that encroach on Blackfoot Territory and Sovereignty. The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is using IPCAs, Memoranda of Understanding, flag raisings, and naming projects as a policy bank door to establish "harvesting rights" and jurisdictional authority, despite clear legal precedent that no such rights exist.

The 2017 *R. v. Hirsakorn* decision explicitly determined there were no Métis communities in southern Alberta. As a result, **no Métis harvesting rights or Aboriginal title apply within Blackfoot Territory** (Treaty No. 7). This decision remains binding law. Continued funding and institutional support for these initiatives under the banner of reconciliation or Indigenism - by federal and provincial governments, and by public institutions - undermines that ruling and fails to uphold Blackfoot consent-based jurisdiction.

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council holds that IPCAs must not be used to reintroduce rights or authorities that have been rejected in court, nor to imply shared jurisdiction within Blackfoot Territory. True reconciliation begins with respect for First Peoples' law, governance, and consent, not with bypassing those orders through generic "Indigenous inclusive" frameworks.

We stand in solidarity with other First Nations who have raised related concerns about Métis encroachment into territories that are not their own, including the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (<https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/ubcic/indigenous-people-union-ubcic-demands-metis-recognize>) and Ontario First Nations Chiefs (<https://www.ontariofirstnations.ca/ontario-first-nations-continue-to-call-for-unity-surrounding-the-implementation-of-19-11-2025>).

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council | BlackfootConfederacy.ca | info@blackfootconfederacy.ca | 403.271.1100

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CHIEFS RESPOND TO MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA CLAIMS REGARDING INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS IN BLACKFOOT TERRITORY

Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB), Blackfoot Territory – October 28, 2025 – The Siksikaitsitapi Ohkin'ninaiks (Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs), representing Kainai-Blood Tribe, Piikani, Siksika, and Ampskaapi'piikani Nations, reaffirm our October 16 request for Canada and Alberta to discontinue support for Métis Nation of Alberta initiatives related to Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in Blackfoot Territory Treaty No. 7. In response to the MNA's public statements outlining its acquisition of lands through private sales and its intent to establish a network of Métis led IPCAs, the Blackfoot Confederacy asserts that private land transactions do not negate Blackfoot jurisdiction. Participation in a competitive market process is not equivalent to obtaining consent from the First Peoples of this territory, and private ownership does not override the inherent rights, protocols, and responsibilities the Blackfoot hold by Treaty and through thousands of years of relationship to these lands.

October 28, 2025
Statement

October 28, 2025 Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs reaffirmed that Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area initiatives within Blackfoot Territory cannot proceed without Blackfoot consent, underscoring that Blackfoot law and sovereignty are non-negotiable.

October 2025

Blackfoot Knowledge Keepers Shared Stories of Historic Trade Routes

SBlackfoot knowledge keepers and respected leaders Leonard Weasel Traveller, Wilton Good Striker, John and Carol Murray, Eldon Weasel Child, Herman Yellow Old Woman, and Tobias Provost gathered on October 30 in Sikóóhkotok to share oral histories and teachings on historic Blackfoot trade routes. The session brought together Elders, leadership, and technical partners to document and affirm Blackfoot knowledge rooted in place and experience.

The discussion included contributions from Nathan Crow of the Kainai-Blood Tribe with KPMG and Kirby Smith of Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, supporting the preservation and respectful sharing of Blackfoot knowledge. Participants shared stories that highlighted the depth of Blackfoot trade networks and the responsibilities tied to land, movement, and relationships across territory.

The Blackfoot Confederacy expressed appreciation to the knowledge keepers for sharing their teachings and to KPMG for supporting the project. The collected stories will be shared with Confederacy members early next year, continuing intergenerational learning and strengthening understanding for future generations.

October 30, 2025

Blackfoot knowledge keepers and leaders gathered in Sikóóhkotok to share oral histories of Blackfoot trade routes, supported by Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council and KPMG, with teachings to be shared with Confederacy members in the coming year.





Blackfoot Confederacy and Town of Banff Formalized Relationship Through Blackfoot Naming of New Bridge

The Blackfoot Confederacy and the Town of Banff gathered on November 5 in Natoohsiskoom, the Blackfoot name for the Banff area meaning “holy springs,” to hold a sacred pipe ceremony and offering marking the beginning of a formal working relationship toward a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

The gathering also marked the official naming of a pedestrian bridge in Banff as the Thunder Medicine Pipe Bridge, known in Blackfoot as Ni Naim’skah Ko Yin Ni Mai Pas Tan. The bridge naming followed several years of collaboration between the Town of Banff and Blackfoot Confederacy representatives, including municipal staff, Confederacy leadership, and Blackfoot Elders.

Town representatives noted that the bridge, completed in 2013, was a significant piece of municipal infrastructure that had not previously been formally named. The naming process brought together Elders and leaders from the Blackfoot Confederacy, including Eldon Weasel Child and Herman Yellow Old Woman of Siksika Nation, to ensure the name reflected Blackfoot law, history, and responsibility to the land.

The ceremony was attended by Banff Mayor Corrie DiManno and members of Town Council, alongside leadership from the Blackfoot Confederacy including Chief Travis Plaited Hair, former Chief Roy Fox, Leonard Weasel Traveller, Peter Weasel Moccasin, Elijah Provost, Herman Yellow Old Woman, and Kimmy Shade, Chief Executive Officer of Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council.

Remarks during the ceremony emphasized the importance of recognizing Blackfoot presence and knowledge within Natoohsiskoom and renewing relationships grounded in respect and accountability. Confederacy leadership noted that the bridge naming reflected the ongoing responsibility of the Blackfoot people to protect, honour, and renew relationships across their ancestral territory.

The naming of the Thunder Medicine Pipe Bridge was recognized as both a symbolic and living acknowledgment of Blackfoot sovereignty and stewardship. The event marked the beginning of a sustained partnership between the Blackfoot Confederacy and the Town of Banff, to be guided by a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding focused on shared priorities including land, culture, education, and economic development.



November 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Launched Educational Campaign Addressing Métis Nation of Alberta District Claims

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council launched and carried out a five-part educational campaign in response to claims and public narratives advanced by the Métis Nation of Alberta regarding district boundaries, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, and so-called historic Métis territories within Blackfoot lands. The campaign was designed to separate fact from fiction, correct public misinformation, and affirm Blackfoot and First Nations' rights, jurisdiction, and sovereignty.

The campaign addressed the 2023 Métis Nation of Alberta District Boundaries Act, which created new provincial districts without consultation with Blackfoot Nations, Chiefs, Elders, or Knowledge Keepers in areas that have always been Blackfoot Territory. The Confederacy stated that administrative boundaries, modern mapping, private land purchases, and public naming initiatives do not establish Indigenous presence, governance, or nationhood.

Building on Chiefs' statements and formal responses issued earlier in October, the campaign examined efforts to advance Métis-led initiatives, including IPCAs, without Blackfoot consent. The Confederacy reiterated that these actions conflicted with established legal findings, including *R. v. Hirsekorn*, and disregarded Blackfoot law, Treaty relationships, and governance responsibilities.

Through historical, legal, and cultural evidence, the campaign reaffirmed that the Battle River, Mohkinstsis (Elbow), Ootssapi'tomowa (Nose Hill), Okotoks (Rock), and surrounding areas are deeply rooted in Blackfoot language, ceremony, diplomacy, and land stewardship. Place names, oral histories, archaeological records, and living ceremonial markers were highlighted as evidence of continuous Blackfoot presence and governance since time immemorial.

The campaign also clarified the historical context of the Battle River and Wetaskiwin, noting that peace agreements between the Blackfoot and Cree affirmed boundaries and mutual respect, not shared jurisdiction. The Confederacy stated that attempts to overlay new narratives onto Blackfoot lands disregarded established Treaty obligations, Indigenous law, and Blackfoot sovereignty.

The Blackfoot Confederacy concluded the campaign by reaffirming that Blackfoot Territory has never been relinquished and cannot be redefined through provincial legislation or public narratives. The Tribal Council acknowledged the support of First Peoples across Canada and Métis citizens who publicly stood with Blackfoot leadership in defense of truth, law, and Nation-to-Nation relationships.



FICTION VS FACT :

METIS NATION OF ALBERTA (MNA) DISTRICTS AND THE BATTLE RIVER NARRATIVE

///// FICTION:

"THE MNA'S BATTLE RIVER, ELBOW, AND NOSE HILL DISTRICTS REFLECT HISTORIC MÉTIS PRESENCE ACROSS SOUTHERN ALBERTA."

FACT: /////

ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS, AND RESOURCES ARE ABOUT LAND — ITS USE, GOVERNANCE, AND MEMORY. BEING INDIGENOUS TO A PLACE IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING INDIGENOUS IN A PLACE.

IN 2023, THE MNA CREATED DISTRICTS WITH ZERO CONSULTATION WITH THE BLACKFOOT NATIONS, CHIEFS, OR THE CONFEDERACY ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS — IN AREAS THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BLACKFOOT TERRITORY.

THIS IS. AND WILL ALWAYS BE. BLACKFOOT TERRITORY.

LEARN MORE
WWW.BLACKFOOTCONFEDERACY.CA

ARADJAI • SIKSIA • PIKANI • AMSRATI PIKUNI





November 2025

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Leadership of Siksika Nation

On behalf of Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, we extend our formal congratulations to Chief Samuel Crowfoot and the newly elected Siksika Nation Council. Your election marks an important transition in leadership, and we recognize the mandate you have received from Siksika Nation members to move forward on key priorities for the community and for all Niitsitapi.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council looks forward to continuing our intergovernmental work with Siksika Nation under your leadership. We remain committed to coordinated governance, shared strategic planning, and advancing Confederacy-wide priorities that protect our rights, strengthen our Nations, and support long-term stability for our people.

We also acknowledge outgoing Chief Ouray Crowfoot and the departing Council for their service and contributions during their term. Their work has supported important initiatives within Siksika Nation and across the Confederacy, and we recognize their efforts on behalf of their citizens.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration with Chief Samuel Crowfoot and the new Council as we continue the collective work of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

December 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Acknowledged Service of Outgoing Siksika Chief Ouray Crowfoot

Blackfoot Confederacy Acknowledged Service of Outgoing Siksika Chief Ouray Crowfoot
The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council extended its thanks to Ouray Crowfoot as he concluded his term as Chief of Siksika Nation following the November 26, 2025 election, which resulted in the election of Samuel Crowfoot as Head Chief.

First elected in November 2019, Chief Ouray Crowfoot brought financial and governance experience to public service and supported the advancement of key priorities for Siksika Nation. During his tenure, Siksika finalized the settlement of its land claim, signed in June 2022, marking a significant milestone for the Nation.

At the Confederacy level, Chief Crowfoot represented the Blackfoot Confederacy in intergovernmental relations, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Communication and Cooperation with the City of Calgary on May 9, 2025. His work contributed to strengthening relationships and advancing coordinated approaches across Blackfoot Territory.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council acknowledged Chief Ouray Crowfoot for his service to Siksika Nation and his contributions to Confederacy-wide governance and relationship building, and extended best wishes to him and his family in the next chapter ahead.



Economic Development and Employment Update Highlighted Key Progress in 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council Economic Development and Employment advanced several priority initiatives in 2025, with significant progress reported on the Waterton Springs Campground project and Confederacy-wide economic planning.

In 2025, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council completed a feasibility study and business plan for the Waterton Springs Campground in partnership with Canadian Ecotourism Services. Work also advanced toward establishing a non-profit entity that will receive the campground from the National Conservator of Canada. Once the entity is finalized, the Confederacy will complete a land transfer agreement and acquire the site for a nominal fee of one dollar.

Design planning continued throughout the year in collaboration with MPE and affiliated architects, focusing on revitalization of the campground to include a multi-purpose building, RV campsites, tipi sites, and nature-based walking pathways. On September 25, 2025, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council hosted a site visit with Blackfoot Elders, management, and advisors to view the campground and provide guidance grounded in Blackfoot knowledge and land stewardship.

Economic planning also progressed through the Blackfoot Confederacy Economic Development and Employment Committee Table. On December 9, 2025, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council hosted a meeting with representatives from the Government of Alberta focused on economic development, jobs, and employment training initiatives. Discussions included confirmation of additional provincial funding to support the Committee Table in 2026.

The Economic Development and Employment Committee Table was scheduled for early 2026 to review and update the 2025–2027 workplan. Once finalized, the updated workplan will be presented to the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs for review and approval, continuing coordinated efforts to strengthen Blackfoot-led economic development and employment opportunities across the Confederacy.





September 2025

Blackfoot Confederacy Golf Tournament Brought Community Together in Support of Siksikaitapi Youth

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council welcomed Nations, partners, and supporters to the 2025 Blackfoot Confederacy Golf Tournament, held September 5 in Coaldale, for a day centered on connection, generosity, and shared purpose.

The annual tournament continues to serve as a meaningful gathering that brings people together in support of Siksikaitapi youth. Funds raised from this year's event will help sustain programs and initiatives that promote learning, leadership, and personal growth for future generations.

The Confederacy extended appreciation to sponsors, partners, and supporters whose contributions made the tournament possible, along with staff, volunteers, and organizers who worked behind the scenes to ensure a successful day. Participants were thanked for their continued commitment to Blackfoot communities and for joining on the course in the spirit of unity.

Congratulations were also shared with this year's tournament champions, Siksika Parks and Recreation.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council acknowledged the strong sense of community reflected throughout the event, noting that the collective support demonstrated through the tournament helps build lasting opportunities for Siksikaitapi families. The Confederacy thanked everyone who took part and looked ahead to welcoming participants back for next year's tournament.

Court Decision Upheld Treaty Rights and Reinforced Blackfoot Confederacy Position

A ruling from the Alberta Court of King’s Bench upheld the constitutional protection of Treaty rights, confirming that any attempt to pursue Alberta independence would violate Treaty obligations. The decision was welcomed by the Siksikaitsitapi Ohkinninaiks Society, the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs Society representing Siksika Nation, Kainai Blood Tribe, Piikani Nation, and Amskapi Pikuni.

The Court found that transforming provincial borders into international borders would interfere with Treaty commitments made between the Crown and the Blackfoot people in 1877. It reaffirmed that Treaties are binding Nation-to-Nation agreements protected under the Constitution of Canada and cannot be altered, reinterpreted, or set aside through provincial legislation or political movements. The ruling clarified that Treaty 7 was a peace agreement to share the land, not a surrender of Blackfoot sovereignty, and that its guarantees related to land, resources, education, health, and Blackfoot ways of life remain fully in force.

The decision also reinforced that Treaty rights are foundational to the legal and constitutional framework of Alberta and Canada. For the Blackfoot Confederacy, the ruling affirmed long-standing understandings that Treaties shaped these lands long before Alberta became a province and continue to govern relationships between First Nations and the Crown today.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs Society emphasized that Treaties are sacred, enduring agreements that must be respected in any discussion about Alberta’s future. The ruling was recognized as providing important legal clarity and reaffirming that Treaty rights remain central to Canada’s constitutional order and to the ongoing Nation-to-Nation relationship with the Blackfoot people.



Head Office: P.O. Box 916, Stansbury, AB T0L 1Y0
Branch Office: 7101 Main Road SE, Calgary AB T2H 1G1
Phone: +1 581.282.1180
Email: info@blackfootconfederacy.ca
Website: blackfootconfederacy.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs Society - Welcomes Court Decision Protecting Treaty Rights

Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB), Blackfoot Territory – December 5, 2025 – The Siksikaitsitapi Ohkin’inaiks Society (Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs Society), representing Kainai-Blood Tribe, Piikani, Siksika, and Amskapi-Pikuni Nations, acknowledge today’s ruling by the Alberta Court of King’s Bench, which confirmed that any move toward Alberta’s independence would be unconstitutional and would violate Treaty rights.

Our Treaties are the foundation of this land, since the signing of Blackfoot Treaty 1877. They were signed between Treaty number 7 and the Crown, and are protected under Canada’s Constitution. These agreements guarantee our rights to land, resources, and self-determination. No province can break these promises or change borders without our consent.

The Court recognized that turning provincial borders into international borders would encroach on Treaty rights. This decision is a clear message: **Treaties cannot be ignored. Treaties are not optional. Treaties are law.**

The **Historical Context** of the Blackfoot Confederacy includes the Siksika, Kainai, Piikani and Amskapi-Pikuni Nations. Our people entered into **Treaty 7 in 1877** with the Crown. This Treaty was not a surrender of our sovereignty - it was an agreement to share the land and live in peace with the newcomers. In exchange, the Crown promised to uphold our rights to hunt, fish, and maintain our way of life, and to provide support for education and health.

Treaty 7, like all Numbered Treaties, is part of Canada’s constitutional framework under **Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982**. These Treaties are binding agreements that cannot be changed or broken by provincial legislation or political movements.

This is a reminder to all Albertans and Canadians that First Nations are **founding partners** in the creation of this province. Any discussion about Alberta’s future must always include Treaty right holders. We will continue to defend our Treaties and uphold the spirit and intent of those agreements for future generations.

Treaty rights don’t just “overrule” Alberta—they **bind Canada and its provinces**. Any attempt to separate without renegotiating Treaties and amending the Constitution would be unconstitutional.

“Our Treaties are sacred and binding. They cannot be erased or deviated from the original intent by political agendas. We stand united with all Treaties 1 to 21 to protect our rights and our relationship with the Crown.”

For media inquiries, please contact:

Theoren Royal, Blackfoot Confederacy Communications | Email: theoren@blackfootconfederacy.ca

Health Team Advanced Engagement, Governance, and Advocacy Priorities

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council Health team reported a quarter marked by extensive engagement, learning, and coordination in support of health priorities for the four Blackfoot Nations. Activities reflected continued efforts to strengthen health governance, partnerships, and culturally grounded approaches to wellness.

During the reporting period, the Siksikaititapi Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council Health Department participated in the Alberta Recovery Summit, hosted as part of the 9th Annual Recovery Capital Conference, contributing to discussions on recovery models, mental health, and addiction supports on behalf of the Confederacy. Health Directors Kash Shade, Angie Sarsons, Kelly Smith, and Dustin Wolfe also participated in a high volume of meetings focused on system planning, policy, and collaboration.

The Health Directors received a presentation from Indigenous Services Canada officials Deena Hinshaw and Minh Young on the First Nations Health Data Strategy. Additional meetings included discussions with the Health Quality Council on future collaboration and a presentation by Dr. Leroy Little Bear on the Treaty Right to Health. The Health Directors also met with The Alex Community Health Centre to discuss services for urban Blackfoot populations in the Calgary area.

Further engagement included meetings with Government of Alberta representatives, including Lisa Haggerty, in preparation for leadership discussions, as well as a separate provincial presentation focused on grant writing. The Health team also met with Dr. Rita Henderson and colleagues from the University of Calgary to discuss health governance and the potential for the Blackfoot Confederacy to assume a more active role in health services delivery for its Nations.

In addition to system-level work, the BCTC Health team attended prenatal classes to share information on the Blackfoot Birth Helping Program. The sessions supported expectant mothers by providing information on cultural rights and available services, while also strengthening partnerships with health, education, and community service organizations.

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council Welcomed New Health Coordinator

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council welcomed Buffy (A'poy'akii) Bromley-Grier as the Confederacy's new Health Coordinator. Buffy is a proud Blackfoot woman and mother from the Kainai (Blood Tribe) and brings a strong background in Indigenous health research to the role.

In her position, Buffy supports the advancement of health priorities for the Blackfoot Confederacy, with a focus on informed advocacy, collaboration, and systems that reflect Blackfoot values and ways of knowing. Her work is grounded in strengthening the health and well-being of Blackfoot people and supporting the exercise of the Treaty right to health.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council acknowledged Buffy's commitment to community-driven health work and welcomed her to the Health team as she begins this role serving the four Blackfoot Nations.





December 2025

Destination Blackfoot Advanced Major Tourism Milestones in 2025

Destination Blackfoot continued to build momentum in 2025, advancing key initiatives that position the four Blackfoot Nations as a unified, Blackfoot-led tourism destination grounded in culture, stewardship, and economic sustainability.

Destination Blackfoot, led by the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, connects visitors with authentic Blackfoot places, stories, and experiences while strengthening opportunities for Blackfoot-owned operators across Siksikaitstapi Territory.

In November 2025, the initiative completed its new logo and full branding kit, marking a major step in establishing a cohesive visual identity for the destination. Development of the Destination Blackfoot website also progressed throughout the year, with the website expected to go live in Q1 2026, alongside the launch of the Destination Blackfoot Instagram page in early 2026.

The Tourism Asset Map reached completion in February 2025 and remains under ongoing maintenance, supporting coordinated promotion of Blackfoot tourism experiences and operators.

In November 2025, Destination Blackfoot also completed work on a feature with Condé Nast, one of the world's leading media and publishing organizations. The upcoming article will spotlight Blackfoot businesses and the people behind them, amplifying Blackfoot stories to an international audience.

Destination Blackfoot continues to focus on building a sustainable tourism economy that balances economic outcomes with social, cultural, and environmental priorities.

By positioning Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, and Amskapi Pikuni as one powerful destination, the initiative strengthens Blackfoot visibility regionally and globally while honoring Blackfoot responsibility to the land.

The work reflects a long-term investment in future generations, demonstrating that Niisitapi ways of knowing remain the foundation of meaningful tourism development and community prosperity.





October 2025

Honouring One of Our Own | Ashley Day Chief

Congratulations to our own Ashley Day Chief on her induction into the University of Lethbridge Alumni Honour Society.

Ashley, of Kainai-Blood Tribe, is a proud staff member of the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, CEO and co owner of AdvancedAg Inc. with her brother Joshua Day Chief, and a leader in the Blackfoot Entrepreneur Business Network.

She made history as the first Indigenous Chair of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and serves on the ULethbridge Senate and the Town of Raymond's Truth and Reconciliation committee.

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council is proud to celebrate one of our own making an impact for Blackfoot and First Nation communities.

Blackfoot Confederacy Welcomed New Staff to the Team

Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council welcomed two new team members in fall 2025, strengthening administrative and health supports across the organization.

Marla Wolf Leg joined the team in October as Administrative Officer. A member of Siksika Nation, Marla serves as a key point of contact for administrative support and coordination, bringing strong organizational skills and day-to-day operational support to Confederacy work.

In November, **Buffy Bromley-Grier** joined as Health Coordinator. From the Kainai (Blood Tribe), Buffy supports core health initiatives and advances community wellness priorities, contributing her background in Indigenous health and advocacy to Confederacy programming.

Both appointments reflect continued investment in building capacity to serve the four Blackfoot Nations.

Whats Next:

- Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Treaty Nation Information Exchange – Feb 9-10, 2026 (Calgary, AB)

OUR TEAM (DECEMBER 2025)



Leadership Team:

- Kimmy Shade, Chief Executive Officer (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Carol Mason, Director of Operations - Siksikaitstapi Chiefs Society (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Dr. Genevieve Fox, Director of Education, Language and Culture (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Shirley Crop Eared Wolf, Director of Childrens Services and IELCC (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Kirby Smith, Director of Intergovernmental Relations (Piikani Nation)
- Jodi Running Rabbit, Executive Administrative Officer (Siksika Nation)
- Theoren Royal, Corporate Affairs and Communications Manager (Siksika Nation)
- Patti Currie, Director of Public Relations-Siksikaitstapi Chiefs Society (Montana First Nation)
- Justin Bruised Head, Enviroment and Blackfoot Guardians Coordinator (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Shane Breaker, Economic Development Project Manager (Siksika Nation)
- Buffy Bromley-Grier, Health Coordinator (Kainai-Blood Tribe)

Service Area, Project Coordination and Support:

- Cassie Ayoungman, Promotion Coordinator, Destination Blackfoot (Siksika Nation)
- Travis Yellow Wings, Administrative Officer (Piikani Nation)
- Nitasha Scout, Administrative and Cultural Liaison Officer (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Marla Wolfleg, Adminstrative Officer (Siksika Nation)

Advisory Roles:

- Charles Weasel Head, Health Consultant Advisor (Kainai-Blood Tribe)

Office and Building Management:

- Robyn Cochrane-Starlight, Office Assistant/Reception (Kainai-Blood Tribe)
- Daryl Many Grey Horses, Maintainence Technician (Kainai-Blood Tribe)





BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY TRIBAL
COUNCIL

587.727.1100

www.blackfootconfederacy.ca

PO Box 916
Stand-Off, AB
T0L 1Y0

facebook.com/siksikaitsitapi

instagram.com/destinationblackfoot