

**BLOOD TRIBE COUNCIL REVIEW**

# **TSINIKSSINI**

**Blood Tribe Communications**

**VOL. 1 ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**FREE**

**SCALING  
CHIEF  
MOUNTAIN**

**LANDS STAFF  
CLIMB CHIEF**

**BLACKFOOT  
HEADDRESS  
MAKING  
COMEBACK**

**ALBERTA CHIEFS  
ELECT LEADER**

**RED CROW COLLEGE  
HUMAN RESOURCE  
INVENTORY**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DEPARTMENT  
PROFILE: FCSS**



**Published by Blood Tribe  
Administration  
COMMUNICATIONS Department**  
TSINIKSSINI

The Blood Tribe Council Review entitled 'TSINIKSSINI' is dedicated to the sharing of information for the people of the Blood Tribe. The move to a magazine format will feature news, stories, articles and an array of items as our way of sharing what is occurring on the Blood reserve and beyond.

We hope you enjoy your magazine and invite any suggestions you may have in improving our coverage on any number of events and activities. The magazine will be printed on a monthly basis and will be distributed to various locations on the reserve.

The magazine is free of charge.

The magazine is published by the Blood Tribe Communications department and is printed by Robin's Southern Printing. The collection of information, photographs and layout of the magazine is from the Blood Tribe Communications department.

We would like to acknowledge Darlene Plume, Senior Executive Officer, the Blood Tribe Chief & Council and the people of the Blood Tribe for your support.

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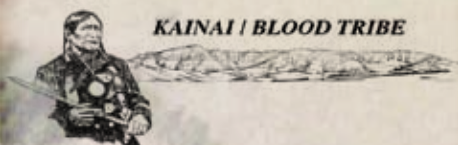
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# Message from Blood Tribe Council



Oki. Greetings:

First and foremost, I want to thank you for having faith in me to lead you in this term. My goal is to bring back the integrity and pride we once had for our reserve. I want you to have the confidence in all our departments in knowing your needs will be met. There is some restructuring yet to be performed, and with your support, advice and understanding, we can make that change everyone is talking about.

Unity, cooperation, forgiveness and re-uniting with friends and relatives are the key to that change. Our Chief and Council have many duties and responsibilities which include, among others, our Housing, Health and Education needs. But, with your support, we can face all challenges and overcome all obstacles as we walk on similar paths together.

The past is in the past; it is time to move to the future.  
We are a strong people because we are proud to be Kainai.

Yours truly,

Andrew Bull Calf  
Blood Tribe Council

# MEMBERS OF LANDS DEPARTMENT ASCEND SACRED CHIEF MOUNTAIN

It was an experience to remember for a group of people from the Blood reserve who climbed one of the most sacred monuments of the Blackfoot people—the Chief Mountain. Lead by outdoorsman and Lands Forest Health Technician Okan Hungry Wolf, the group of six Bloods, of which only four persisted, scaled their way around huge boulders, across deep crevices and over tons of shale to stand atop the majestic Chief and to overlook the miles and miles of traditional Blackfoot territory far below them. “I try to make it up Chief Mountain every year,” said the experienced outdoorsman who has guided a number of expeditions in the past. “I treat every visit to Chief Mountain like a spiritual pilgrimage. I make offerings, pray, look for signs to have a good day, and for good luck in my life.” Hungry Wolf, who is prepared to bring those who feel a need to climb the Chief, said the hike to the top was to bring closure to the year’s workplace activities. “It was kind of a year-end wrap-up of our (Lands) field work activities, and a yearning from all of us to go there.” With temperatures in the low 30’s, those who braved the heat were treated to one of the most spectacular views anywhere in the world.



*Okan Hungry Wolf has made numerous journeys to the top of the Chief Mountain.*



*Sacred Chief Mountain.*

Kansie Fox, Lands conservation biologist, said she attempted to climb the mountain when she was quite young with her dad, Richard Fox Jr., but stopped short of the top. This time around, she pushed herself and finally accomplished her personal goal. “I hiked it when I was 12, with my dad and two sisters, and I didn’t make it to the top,” she said of her first effort at reaching the peak. “But, it’s always been at the back of my mind to get there.” Fortunately, another opportunity arose, and with careful planning, the crew comprised mainly of Lands staff decided to challenge themselves for the long climb. “It was a huge accomplishment in my life,” she said once she realized she had fulfilled her dream. “It’s a one-of-a-kind experience. It made me feel an appreciation for our land, our people. There’s a huge history there and I got to be a part of it. I would like to take my kids up there one day, hopefully, for them to experience that.” The four other Blood individuals who trekked to the peak of the mountain, or in close proximity to the peak, included Martin Curly Rider, noxious weed control officer, Charlene Day Chief, receptionist, Tyler Wells and Tia Fox.

With its slow, but steady erosion on the west face, the Chief Mountain is becoming more difficult to climb each year. In 1992, a major section of the mountain tumbled to the ground below and made access to the base of the Chief more demanding. Those wanting to reach the Chief now had to crawl under, and climb over, broken trees and work their way around large boulders and jagged rocks, whereas, in the past, prior to the slide, access to the base was much more easily reached. Today, the Chief Mountain is still considered sacred and it is a place where many Blackfoot people find their

strength both physically and spiritually. It is not unusual for the Blackfoot people to fast at, or near, the Chief Mountain or to make offerings for their people. One of the legends surrounding the Chief Mountain involves the wife of a Blackfoot Chief who jumped off Chief Mountain with her child after her husband was killed in battle. Today, one can still see the Chief’s wife and child on the side of the mountain if you look closely enough.

Long considered a sacred place which offers sanctuary for the Blackfoot, climbing the mountain often tests the abilities, skills and strength of those willing to make the spirited journey to the summit. Martin Curly Rider said his daily physical routine of running long distances helped him reach the top. “I run every day and climbed the Chief because I wanted to do it while I still could,” he explained of his journey. “It’s a place where very few made it. It’s something that’s right up there with all the things I’ve accomplished. My children, now that I’ve climbed it, maybe one day, they’ll go up there too.”



*Kansie Fox fulfilled her goal of climbing to the top.*



*Martin Curly Rider used his endurance as a runner to reach the peak.*

Story by Tom Russell

# TRADITIONAL BLACKFOOT HEADDRESS MAKING DRAMATIC COMEBACK HOME



*The Chiefs of the Blackfoot Confederacy with traditional straight-up headdress which they received in ceremony June 24, 2009, during conference at St. Mary, Montana. l-r, Siksika Chief Leroy Good Eagle, Kainai Chief Charles Weasel Head, Amskapi Pikaani Chairman Willie Sharp, Pikaani Chief Reggie Crow Shoe.*

The Blackfoot straight-up headdress, once feared to have gone extinct except for a few ceremonial exceptions, has been enjoying a strong comeback in recent times. Once worn by great leaders and fierce warriors, its distinct straight-up design was very striking. Other tribes across North America acknowledged this magnificent regalia and in many cases associated it exclusively with the Blackfoot Nation.

This changed in the late 18th century when Sitting Bull was soliciting support from other Plains tribes in his on-going battle with the U.S Cavalry. According to the Blood elders, Sitting Bull made his visit to Chief Red Crow prior to his battle with General Custer, bringing with him gifts that would influence his decision. The Sioux style headdress was one of those gifts which also included the big drum, the powwow whip and the crow belt--all articles associated with the present day powwows. Sitting Bull also left his name with the Bloods, presently in use by the Wells' family. Despite the great effort to convince Red Crow to join him, it was not to be. The vast herds of buffalo, which were the mainstay of the Bloods, had all but vanished due to the fur trade and starvation was looming among the nations. Red Crow feared that his people would be cut-off from their government rations and inevitably bring starvation if he chose to join the Lakota in their battles with

the U.S Cavalry--he declined to join.

The gifts that Sitting Bull brought remained and were quickly embraced by the Blackfoot Nation and, as a result, the traditional straight-up headdress was becoming less common. Many Blackfoot headdresses were sold to the settlers and government officials, in some cases, in exchange for food and other essentials in order to stave off starvation. By the advent of the 20th century, there were very few remaining straight-up headdresses. Only those worn for ceremonial purposes remained. Instead, during the early part of the 20th century, the Sioux style headdress became very common and preferred over the earlier one. By 1950, the Sioux headdress had become accepted as Blackfoot regalia, as can be observed in the photographs taken during that period.

In the dark era of Indian Residential Schools, many Blood Tribe members were never taught the origins of much of their culture and, consequently, many present-day elders believe the original Blackfoot headdress was worn only by women. This is quickly disputed by other more knowledgeable elders.

In recent times, younger Blackfoot elders have been reviving the straight-up headdress and it is presently regaining its prominence over the Sioux headdress. This was

evident at the recent Blackfoot Confederacy Conference in Montana where all the Chiefs of the Blackfoot were given the traditional headdress in an elaborate ceremonial transfer that accompanies the giving of such an article. Individuals who have achieved respect by their deeds or gained recognition as leaders are entitled to wear these headdresses.

The art of making headdresses has also been handed down through the ages and the artisans who craft these magnificent pieces of regalia are dwindling to a few. The tailfeathers of the bald and golden eagles are used exclusively and it is adorned with weasel pelts. White horsehair is used at the tips of each feather. There are few variations and usually only on the beaded strip that covers the forehead of the wearer. Many of these headdresses are highly valued.



*The two headdresses, pictured here, compare the traditional Blackfoot headdress and the Sioux-style headdress. The traditional Blackfoot headdress is quickly gaining prominence.*



Story by Rick Tailfeathers

# BLOOD HOCKEY PLAYERS LACE UP AGAINST SOME OF EUROPE'S FINEST YOUNG TALENTS

Playing hockey overseas is an opportunity for many players to prove their skills and abilities on an international level. This summer, a hockey club comprised of players from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, travelled to the Czech Republic to compete against the talented and speedy Europeans on their huge ice surfaces. With six First Nations' players on the Team Canada Polar Bears hockey club, their tournament schedule had them playing six games in the hopes of making it to the championship rounds in the Czech Republic Challenge Cup tournament.

Andrew Rabbit Jr., son of Andrew Sr. and Micheline Rabbit, was thrilled to travel to Europe to compete against top-caliber players from countries including Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. "I was scouted at the Alberta Native Provincials and was invited to try out for the Polar Bears team," said the enthused Rabbit. "I had to travel to Edmonton to practice with the team, and I started running, lifting weights and skating as much as I could." With the help of his parents, family and relatives, Andrew began raising the funds to make the trip with his teammates. During the spring and early summer, the Rabbit family hosted bake sales and other activities and eventually reached their goal of acquiring the funds needed to travel overseas.

Rabbit Jr. said the flight was a little intense for the first-time flyer. "It felt strange. I was really nervous," he said as the plane taxied down the runway and became airborne. "I was kinda scared."

Once the Rabbit family touched down in the Czech Republic, they participated in tours and then got down to their preparations for the tournament. "We played two exhibition games and then played six games in the tournament," said Rabbit Jr. "We came in fifth in the tournament because we won three games and lost three."

The Team Canada Polar Bears played two exhibition games versus teams from the Czech Republic losing 3-2 to H C Ceske Budejovice and tying Letci Letnany 1-1. They then began their tournament with a 4-0 loss to H C Kometo Brno and then won 6-3 over the HC Kobra Praha squad. In their third game, the Polar Bears lost 7-1 to the slick Austria Select club, and lost their next game against HC Plzen of the Czech Republic by a score of 6-1. The Polar Bears then faced H C Pobrady from Slovakia and



*The Polar Bears played against some of the top teams in Europe during their tournament in the Czech Republic this summer.*

soundly defeated them 7-0. The Polar Bear club completed their tournament run with a 5-2 win over the same H C Pobrady team to finish the tournament in fifth place. Rabbit Jr. said the Europeans play a fast-skating brand of hockey. "The players there were fast and good," he remembered of the competition. "We could have had a good run if we had more time to practice together as a team. But, no excuses, the teams there were good."

Glenn Greyeyes, Polar Bears coach, said the team played strong but had difficulty adjusting to the officiating. "Our boys played very good hockey, but we just could not stay out of the penalty box. This was the deciding factor in the games we lost."

The Rabbit family would like to thank all those who supported them and thank the donors for their kind contributions. They also thank the Polar Bears hockey club, coaches and players for the opportunity to represent Canada in the Czech Republic Challenge Cup tournament.



*The Team Canada Polar Bears featured some of the finest young First Nations' peewee hockey players from Alberta. The six hockey players included: Andrew Rabbit Jr., Wyatt Rabbit Carrier, Emmitt Twigg, Damian Rhoads, Dylan Spilak and Khalid Tourangeau.*

# MANY FINGERS STUDIES FINE ARTS IN TORONTO CENTRE FOR THEATRE



*Justin Many Fingers*

A young charismatic Blood Tribe man has been attending the Center for Indigenous Theatre in Toronto, Ontario, for the past school term. He is returning to Toronto to complete his second year in the program. The fashion in which Many Fingers received the opportunity to study in Toronto seemed almost by chance. As a 16-year-old student attending Kainai High School, Many Fingers began his own DJ company, Soundwave Entertainment. The young entrepreneur provided DJ service for dances, weddings and other local events. Many Fingers became familiar with sound and lighting design and had been involved in a few of the Kainai High School's drama productions as the lighting and sound technician. When involved with the drama productions, Many Fingers was always behind the curtain and didn't consider acting at the time. After graduation, Many Fingers was a little unsure of what direction to take when it came to careers. "While I was studying at the high school, Olivia Tailfeathers had mentioned about a summer (theatre) program from Toronto that Troy Twigg was involved with. Someone had backed out (of the program) and Olivia had suggested my name to Troy," said Many Fingers on how the first steps towards his acting career began. Many Fingers joined the Summer School West Program, a partnership with CIT and the University of Lethbridge, a three-week intensive program that offers introductory courses in performing arts.

Many Fingers enrolled in the program with the intention to hone his lighting and sound technician skills, but that was not the case. The program focuses on the performance art rather than the technical, behind-the-scenes aspect of theatre. On first day of the program, Many Fingers had assumed that he would be working with light and sound technicians, to his surprise, he was asked to participate with the rest of the group in acting exercises. Many Fingers had second thoughts about continuing with the program but he stuck it out and completed the 3-week endeavor. Upon completion of the summer program, Rose Stella, artistic director/principle of Centre of Indigenous Theatre, offered him a spot at the theatre school. After some arrangements for funding and a talk with his parents Marvin and Trina Many Fingers, he was on his way to Toronto.

Many Fingers admits to having second thoughts of attending the school when he arrived in Toronto, luckily he adjusted to his new surroundings and excelled at the school. Many Fingers had the chance to work with Tamara Podemski and other aboriginal talent in a music video shoot for 'Sit By My Fire,' which is a collaboration by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. The song became the anthem for the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards that took place this year. Many Fingers also took part in Young Voices program by Native Earth Performing Arts which is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the creating, developing and producing of professional artistic expression of the Aboriginal experience in Canada. Many Fingers participated in the Weesageechak Festival devoted to showcasing and developing new works of Aboriginal theatre and dance. While at the festival, Many Fingers was approached by Lorne Cardinal from the television show, Corner Gas, who seemed interested in Many Fingers' work. The budding Blood actor said it was a real confidence booster; Many Fingers had wanted to explore the dance aspect of theatre after taking dance classes in the first semester of the theatre program. He became involved with a dance camp called Shifting Currents Finding Balance that took place in Banff this past spring. "I was working with a group from here and a group from Sudbury, and it was facilitated by Troy

Twigg and another dancer from Sudbury. We did this whole collaboration, bringing anything we had together. We went outside and exchanged energy with the rocks and the trees and brought it back into the studio. We wrote down what we experienced and we came up with a dance piece that was 22 minutes long." The main goal of the group was to bring the dance production to Jamaica for a World Indigenous Theatre Conference in August, but because of complications beyond the group's control, they were unable to attend. The group however, had the chance to perform the production at the Northern Lights Festival--a music festival in Sudbury Ontario.

Many Fingers is currently working on a play about his home, the Blood reserve, in hopes of giving exposure to the Blackfoot culture which he says is developing into a musical. He also wants to cast as many Blackfoot actors as he can. The young actor is also focusing on his screenwriting abilities and is currently writing a screen play based on the Blackfoot and Cree. In addition to his acting, dancing, playwriting and screenplay work, Justin is also looking at a possible modeling career. After graduation from CIT, Many Fingers would like to enroll in The School of Toronto Dance theatre where he can expand and explore his knowledge of dance and theatre.

With having so many things on his plate, Many Fingers still manages to stay grounded with the help of his family and friends and appreciates the support he receives from the Blood Tribe. Justin wishes to acknowledge Olivia Tailfeathers for the initial push into this career path, Troy Twigg, Justin's family and parents, Trina and Marvin for supporting his decision even though it had been hard for them as well. Many Fingers hopes to bring what he has learned back to the reserve and teach people here to hopefully expand the growing number of performance artists on the reserve.

# DEPARTMENT FEATURE: FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES



*The Family & Community Support Services is housed in the Human Resources facility.*

A number of communities and members of the Blood Tribe continue to do well as a result of the efforts of the staff and administration of the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS). With a broad range of services and supports offered, FCSS strives to meet the needs and demands of our people through

its supportive and innovative programs. Under the guidance of Director Bruce Iron Shirt, the FCSS department offers many programs which range from community-based

initiatives to meeting the needs of the elderly, the children and those less fortunate. Among the programs offered include the Adult In-Home Care program, the Day Care centers, Home Care Aides (personal care attendants), Moses Lake Homeless Shelter, the Soup Kitchen, Kainai Food Bank and the Community Garden project. Also included in the FCSS department respon-

sibilities are the Bottle Depot, the RHAP program which builds ramps for the elders and people with disabilities, the Handibus Service which transports our elders and person's with disabilities to their destinations and the Home Makers program.

One of the longest operating programs of FCSS is the Adult In-Home Care (AIHC) program. This service is designed to assist those elders or persons with disabilities the ability to remain at their homes as opposed to leaving their places of comfort to live in a more communal-based setting. The AIHC meet

with each of their consumers to perform daily household duties such as light house-keeping, dusting and ensuring the house is clean and safe. Once a year, the house is subject to a major cleaning that include cleaning the walls and windows and other sanitary duties. If the elder or person with a disability requires a ramp to move freely in-and-out of their house, then an applica-

tion for a ramp is performed and, once it is approved, the FCSS Handimen construct the ramp which meets all safety standards and requirements.

The Day Care centers operated by the FCSS are the Kainaiokaksi Day Care at Stand Off, the Ninastako Day Care at St. Paul's and the St. Mary's Day Care in the community of St. Mary's. Each of the day care centers are staffed with trained professionals who are endorsed with level 1, 2 and 3 certificates. Each of the day care centers are governed and licensed through the Province of Alberta. The age groups for enrolment into one of the day care centers range from seven months to six years. The children's social, physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and creative needs are met through a variety of teachings and exercises. The children are also involved in cultural activities which include a Blackfoot language component to assist in developing each child's understanding and comprehension of our first language.

The Family & Community Support Services is a versatile department and is designed to meet the needs of the Blood people who require services and supports to assist them in their daily lives.

Anyone interested in additional information on any of the programs or special projects offered by the Family & Community Support Services, or if you are interested in volunteering your time to assist in any of the projects, can call the friendly staff at 403.737.2888.

The Mandate of the Family & Community Support Services is:

The Blood Tribe Family & Community Support Services will continue to work in cooperation with community members through programs that will improve family services to enhance the quality of life for the Blood Tribe members.

The Family & Community Support Services will continue working with the community in assisting and empowering its members to become proud and self-sufficient based on the principles of Kainayssini.



*FCSS Director Bruce Iron Shirt.*



# ALBERTA CHIEFS ELECT NEW REGIONAL LEADER



*Mr. George Stanley of the Frog Lake First Nation was elected as the Alberta Regional Chief to the Assembly of First Nations.*

In the end it came down to the third ballot for a Treaty 6 leader to be elected as the Alberta Regional Chief to the Assembly of First Nations, but a Treaty Seven leader came close to being re-elected.

A total of 40 Chiefs and leaders assembled in Edmonton for the annual sitting to elect a 2009 Alberta Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chief.

Jason Good Striker of the Blood Tribe, a former Alberta Regional Chief was just edged out of the second ballot when he received 12 votes to the eventual winner George Stanley of the Frog Lake First Nation.

“It was how far I could go and really the chiefs have spoken and they voted for George Stanley,” Good Striker said moments after being eliminated from the election race.



*National AFN Chief Shawn Atleo and Blood Chief Charles Weasel Head.*

ministers,” Good Striker said. “The trick is going to be getting involved right away and putting the issues at the forefront so that we’re not one of those regimes that’s going to be looked at, at the end.”

Heading into the third ballot, Rose Laboucan, Chief of the Drift Pile First Nation, led in votes and was the clear frontrunner. It looked like history was in the making and Alberta would see its first female regional chief for the AFN. But, as George Calliou, CEO of Treaty 8 announced the final results, George Stanley, who was tied for second with Good Striker in the first ballot, was elected as the new AFN Alberta Regional Chief. With 21 votes, Stanley outdistanced Laboucan’s 16 votes in the third ballot.

“I would like to thank the Chiefs for making that commitment and voting for me,” Stanley said in his victory speech. “To all the Alberta Chiefs I want to tell you that you are the true warriors for facing all the issues when you go back home and I am ready to work together with Chief Atleo, and present all the Alberta Chiefs’ mandates and work with them.”

In her gracious speech, Chief Rose Laboucan told the women in the audience that they need to challenge the provisions that are going to make a difference and change. She also went on to say that Canada is ready for that change.

“I would like to thank those Chiefs who voted for me even in the final round for having an open mind and I pray that this was not gender-biased,” Laboucan said. “So I wish our newly elected Chief all the best in representing all Chiefs of Alberta through Treaty 6, 7 and 8, and make a difference.”

Mr. George Stanley comes from a long line of Chiefs and leaders. His ancestral history is deeply embedded in the Treaty dating back prior to the signing of Treaty No. 6. During Stanley’s tenure as Chief of Frog Lake, the Nation took an assertive role towards the development of a governance structure driven by the membership. Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 represent 48 First Nation/Bands and over 100,000 First Nation members within the Province of Alberta.

Good Striker said leaders of the AFN have a challenging road ahead of them. The challenge is convincing all members of the current conservative government to listen to their issues.

“Right now we only actively have talked to a handful of

# RED CROW COMMUNITY COLLEGE PURSUES IMPORTANT HUMAN RESOURCE INVENTORY



*Vanessa Weasel Fat, HRI coordinator, and Vince Wells, HRI assistant, are busy gathering and compiling the Human Resource Inventory information on behalf of the Red Crow Community College.*

With an increasing number of people furthering their education in post-secondary institutions and in the trade fields, keeping track of these human resources is no easy task. In an effort to identify specific areas of skill each graduate of the post-secondary and trades institutions has to offer, the Red Crow Community College implemented a human resource inventory to assist in gathering and compiling statistics vital for planning and funding purposes.

Vanessa Weasel Fat, Kainai human resource inventory project coordinator, says the compilation of information gathered from the surveys will benefit Tribal planning in a number of areas. "The Human Resource Inventory project is going to track all of our training needs, all of our statistics in what we have in education, and who needs training within departments and what resources we have in the community," she says of the work currently being performed in categorizing the vital information. "We're essentially trying to capture everyone's credentials."

All the information gathered will be entered into a database which will be stored for reference if an organization or department is seeking specific skills on an individual or group basis. "We want to be able to use that information that we will have, because, as

it stands, there currently isn't any type of database anyone can turn to, for example, to say how many heavy equipment operators we have, how many teachers, doctors, lawyers we have, or how many of our staff require training," says Weasel Fat. "That's what the information gathered is meant for." The surveys were distributed in May with a target of 1400 responses expected. A small group of summer students went door-to-door and to places where people gather to collect information for the random survey. People between the ages of 16-to-60 were surveyed and the information currently collected is being entered into a secured database. Weasel Fat says once the information from the surveys is entered, those department or entities who may require individuals who have the criteria for certain employment opportunities can access the database to employ those individuals who have the training to meet the employers needs. "This database will be accessible to the Blood Tribe Administration, entities and anyone on the reserve who may want to access it will go through Red Crow Community College because they are the ones who will be maintaining the database and up-dating it," she explains. "It will benefit everyone who has participated in the entire project."

Weasel Fat says it would ideal to capture

information from everyone to be included in the database and hopes a system can be arranged cooperatively between the Red Crow College, BTEB, entities and the Blood Tribe Administration to compile human resource information from everyone as a method of planning careers or identifying target groups to perform specific duties. Also, with a complete database, the Tribe can use the information to our advantage for funding purposes in many different areas. Anyone interested in completing a survey can contact Vanessa Weasel Fat at 403.737.2400.



Story by Tom Russell

# RED CROW COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFERS WIDE SPAN OF PROGRAMS



*The Red Crow Community College is situated in the St. Mary's Community between Stand Off and Cardston.*

In March of 1995, Red Crow Community College became the first accredited Tribal College in Canada. The Red Crow Community College (RCCC) offers a variety of programs to Blood Tribe members wishing to progress further into the world of academia. The mission of 'Mi'kai's'to,' Red Crow Community College, is to meet the cultural, educational and training needs for Kainai and beyond. The college will provide leadership through its programs and services to achieve self-realization and self-determination based on Kainaiysinni. The programs offered include: high school upgrading, post-secondary, vocational and technical programs.

Niitsitapi Educational Assistant Training Program will prepare graduates to assist teachers in the preparation, development and implementation of appropriate instructional programs and methods within educational settings. The 39 credit educational assistant training program will provide a solid foundation of theoretical knowledge integrated with Nitsitapi Blackfoot Ways of Knowing and the combination of practical strategies to maximize individual learning opportunities for children with exceptionalities.

Licensed Aboriginal Practical Nurse (LPN) Diploma Program

Our Aboriginal culture values spirituality and traditional methods of healing. Students with a commitment or affiliation to an Aboriginal community will be prepared for a career providing high quality nursing in a variety of care settings including hospitals,

health centres, home care, health related agencies and the community. Practical nurses work cooperatively with members of the health team in the promotion, maintenance and restoration of wellness.

Students are advised that the LPN program is extremely demanding. The program is divided into five semesters including work experience component. Each semester provides classroom and simulated nursing laboratory learning sessions at the campus.

In addition there are clinical experiences provided in long-term care, acute care and community settings. The program runs over approximately 24 months. Steven Crying Head and Craig Day Chief, two male students currently enrolled in the program, would like to find employment on the reserve upon graduation of the LPN program. "I want to come back and help our people here, the elders and give them the care they need and deserve," says Day Chief.

Red Crow Community College established the school of Kainai Studies in 2002 as an undergraduate-level program that would explore various topics through 'Niitsitapiskska'takssin,' our Blackfoot knowledge paradigm. This program offers a unique form of instruction, delivered by faculty members who have a balance educational background that includes advanced study in the Western academy, as well as decades of involvement in 'Pommakssin,' (traditional knowledge transfer). At its inception, Kainai Studies was designed as a certificate and diploma program serving professional development, as well as

students seeking to ladder into degrees. At that time, the program offered twenty courses in topics of culture, language, history, social and economic development, governance, law, art, medicine, and ecology. Since then, the program has expanded to include a strong research component, making RCCC the first college in the nation to administer grant funds under the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Today, the Kainai Studies catalog has more than sixty-courses, and by 2010 is expecting to begin its first in-house delivery of a Bachelor of Arts degree. Trina Healy, a second year Kainai studies student was working as an interpreter at the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump before she began her studies at RCCC. Trina hopes to share and teach the traditional knowledge she acquires from the program with the younger generations in hopes of preserving our rich Kainai culture.

## **Health Sciences Transition Program**

The Health Sciences Transition Program (33 weeks) in partnership with NAIT has been designed to meet the specific and unique needs of targeted Learners to enter into a full-time post secondary health related program and geared towards the employment and educational opportunities within the local area.

*The program contains the following elements:*

- *Life Skills/Personal Development*
- *Academic Upgrading*
- *Safety Skills*
- *The Outlined Four Discipline Skills*
- *Educational Application Submission*

*For more information on the Kainai Studies Program, please visit: [www.kainaiastudies.com](http://www.kainaiastudies.com).*

*For more information on Red Crow Community College programs, please phone 403-737-2400.*

Story by Sioux Crop Eared Wolf

# HEALTH PROMOTER HOPING TO BRING BLOOD TRIBE INTO HEALTHY ROUTINE



*Jason Fox, Health Promoter*

Promoting health through proper diet and an active lifestyle is a major task for many of the service providers on the Blood reserve. For one individual, however, getting people on the fitness track is leading him into a number of creative alternatives in instilling a health-conscious mentality for those wanting to live healthy and productive lives. Jason Fox, health promoter, Blood Tribe Department of Health, has linked up with a world-wide company who design one of the most popular and major brands of running shoes in an effort to motivate people to become more active and physically fit. "I have an account with NIKE," said Fox in describing his connection with the company. "Their mindset was that, if you're going to buy NIKE, you're going to be active." In keeping an active lifestyle in mind, the promotion of health extends into many different areas including physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. "There are so many ways being physically fit can benefit our lives," he said. "Being active, and not just keeping the physical body healthy, it's also crime prevention; you keep people active and they don't have time to go out and get into trouble. There are social benefits too. There are so many ways we can benefit from physical activity." Fox said the association with NIKE will be an advantage for individuals who want to be active with footwear specifically designed for First Nations' people. NIKE, who are committed to First Nation people and their communities, have designed a form-fitting shoe which offers proper support and width requirements for First Nations' people whose feet are proportioned slightly different from non First Nations' people. The performance product, NIKE Air Native N7,

is the result of years of testing by NIKE and with selected First Nations' communities in an effort to come up with a product beneficial for the users of their product.

"The men's shoes are increased by two sizes widthwise, and the women's shoes are increased by four sizes," he said in describing the NIKE shoe alterations. "So they are a lot more accommodating widthwise for First Nations' people. They are really light and comfortable."

All First Nations' people who purchase NIKE products also contribute to the company's initiative to give back to the communities through their "Let Me Play" program. All of the profits from the sale of the NIKE shoes go back to First Nations' communities in an effort to promote sports through active and healthy lifestyles.

As the Health Promoter, Fox is busy with a number of activities in the communities on the reserve. His involvement with the diabetes walk joined many community members and school children in a walk to promote a healthy way of life. Among the other initiatives he hopes to accomplish include diabetes camps for families, greater activities for our elders and youth, crosswalk lights near the Trading Post intersection, walking trails, healthy cooking classes, healthier food and vegetable products on the reserve and more sporting activities for our people. "I am trying to provide the means to get people active," he explained of his duties and commitment. "It's mostly to get people out and enjoying life."

Anyone requesting for more informa-



tion on ordering the NIKE shoes, or are interested in participating in the healthy lifestyle activities, can contact Jason Fox at 403.737.8483.



**Nike**

*Nike's Air Native N7 runner is becoming a popular item on many First Nations' communities.*

Story by Tom Russell

# KAINAI GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT HOSTS CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S DISABILITIES



*Both Clifford Twigg and Clement Soop continue to be involved on issues facing person's with disabilities.*

Three members of the Blood Tribe were recently recognized for their contributions in advocating for persons with disabilities. Clifford Twigg, Clement 'Shorty' Soop and Jace Healy each received plaques in acknowledgement of their work in promoting improved lifestyles for people who live with a disability. The two-day conference on children with disabilities had a number of presenters share their insight with the people in attendance on issues facing people with a disability.

During the conference, many topics were discussed in small breakout groups. Among the issues brought forth included the Kainai Government child Disabilities project, child care, Greystoke Home & Support Services, Parents as Partners and Empowering your Role as a Parent Through a Blackfoot Perspective. Among the presenters at the conference were Martin and Ruby Eagle Child, Rebecca Many Grey Horses and Helen Kromm, Lori Healy, Blood Tribe Health, Clarice Beebe, BTEB, Tony Bevans, FSCD,

Carolyn Irby, Children's Care, Jacqueline Anderson-Lea, Greystoke Home & support Services and Myron Eagle Speaker, Child Disability Research. The keynote speaker was Dr. Esther Tailfeathers and Lance Tailfeathers was the master of ceremonies. Upon receiving his plaque, Clifford Twigg shared his effort in helping to organize many groups whose primary focus was to assist people with disabilities in accessing services on-and-off the Blood reserve. "In 1986, after I was injured, I began advocating for people with disabilities not only here on the reserve, but across Alberta," he said in describing his efforts. "These past few years, I have been really trying hard to continue advocating for people with disabilities, especially our children. I really empathize with them and their parents. We really need to have our children's need addressed." Clement Soop, who recently served as a member of council, was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy as a youth. He has been a supporter for people with disabilities

and is seeking to bring service providers and concerned people together in creating a group which will meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Myron Eagle Speaker, who is the Kainai Government Agreement child disability researcher, acknowledged the presenters and welcomed the people with disabilities to the conference. Eagle Speaker said information gathered from survey research will go toward the possible funding of programming for people with disabilities. "We (KGA) are going to prepare a report for our negotiators to bring this information to the federal government to access core funding for children's disabilities groups who are in need of it."

For more information on the Children's Disability Research, please contact the Kainai Government Agreement office at 403.328.6341.

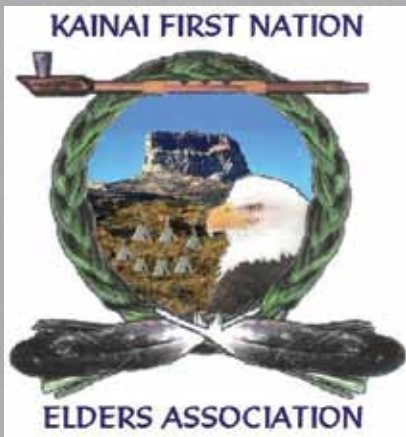


*Myron Eagle Speaker is a member of the Child Disability Research team with the Kainai Government Agreement.*



*Jace Healy recently graduated from the Kainai High School.*

Story by Tom Russell



**WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE TOWARD OUR 2009 ELDER AND YOUTH CONFERENCE**

**“BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ELDERS AND YOUTH;  
WORKING TOWARDS A BRIGHTER AND BETTER FUTURE”**

Wayna Beebe and the staff of Blood Tribe Employment & Skills Training, (BTEST)

BTEST Volunteers

Blood Tribe Chief and Council,  
Chief Charles Weasel Head, Josh Curly Rider

Blood Tribe Social Development

Blood Tribe FCSS

Kainai Community Corrections Society

St. Paul's Treatment Center

Blood Tribe Management and Office of the Senior Executive

Kainai Wellness Center

Blood Tribe Public Relations

Blood Tribe Dept of Health

Ms. Blackfoot Canada 2009 Mehgan Shouting

Cara Blood, Youth Rep for Sikohtokoki

Friendship Center

Keith Chief Moon, Principal, Aahsaopi School

Red Crow College Lethbridge Campus

Elizabeth Scout, Blood Tribe Fund-raising Coord.

Blood Tribe Police, Dean Syniak

Jason Panchuck, Canadian Armed Forces Recruiting

Dr. Cal Stewart

Carrie First Rider, Blackfoot Culture and language

Patty Fox, Native Educator

Trevor Prairie Chicken, “Kiitokii”

Thunder Chief Express

B&D Walter Trucking

Lethbridge Lodge

Ramada Inn

Lethbridge College

Exhibition Park

Melting Tallow Dancers

J.J. First Charger and Hoop dancers

Bull Horn Drum Group

# COUNCIL NOTES



## ***Council Notes Regular Council meeting September 8, 2009***

1. Finance Committee presentation and review.
2. Kainai Children's Services update to Council. Specialized parented home located in Lethbridge. Concerns of intervention of outside agency. KCS to manage home and seeking support for facility by Council. Acknowledgement by Council.
3. Board of Health introduced the Kainai Medical Services Limited Partnership and Sheryl Many Chief from the Law Firm of Maurice Law provided information on the Band Council Resolution for the Trust Indenture to Chief and Council. KMS will be providing enhanced health care services with the Cardio-Pulmonary Function Lab, Sleep Clinic and Child and Youth Clinic. Council members appointed to the Board of Health will continue to represent Council on all activities. Discussions on the proposed BCR will continue.

4. Tribal Government Department update to Council on current matters:

a. Human remains of two people believed to be of Blackfoot ancestry unearthed through natural erosion in the Fort Macleod area. Buried in early 1800s. Council to authorize re-burial and relocation to Blood reserve. Motion made to re-bury on the Blood reserve and consult with some elders on the actual site. Motion passed.

b. Traditional Land Use Study. BCR to support additional funding for continuation of study. Provincial Government funded. Council passed BCR.

c. Fort Whoop Up requesting permission for a conference group to tour trading post sites on the reserve. Permission granted on condition that the group obtains a permit from Lands, is accompanied by Blood Tribe TLOUS staff, uses routes with least impact on the environment, not to collect any surface materials and Fort Whoop Up begin a working relationship with Blood Tribe through the Tribal Government TLOUS. BCR passed.

d. Permission requested by Stats Canada to do survey on reserve as part of National Survey, re: labor, education, employment etc. More information requested. Letter from Chief and Council to be drafted requesting details on intent of study and benefit to Tribe.

## ***Council Notes Regular Council meeting September 9, 2009***

1. Blood Tribe Housing Department update to Council. Ad Hoc Committee formed to look at current issues. Council discussions on Housing concerns and difficulty in collecting rent. Policy revisions/collection. Update on Morgan Structures: presently still on hold (Morgan still active and paying commitments on lease. Permit expiration April 2010.)

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2009



## The 3rd Annual Community Futures Treaty Seven 2010 Disability Conference

Our Lives, Our Destiny

February 17th—18th, 2010 - Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary, Alberta.

The 3rd Annual Community Futures Treaty Seven Disability Conference is taking place from February 17 - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary, Alberta.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity to connect with friends, colleagues and business partners. A full program of plenary sessions and workshops focusing on capacity development and important issues promises to challenge and encourage all participants. Online registration will be active as of early September 2009.

Visit the website [www.t7edc.com](http://www.t7edc.com) for more information as it becomes available.

For more information on the Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre, please visit their website at [www.calgaryplaza.com](http://www.calgaryplaza.com).

We look forward to seeing you in Calgary, Alberta in February 2010!

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## CANDO 16th National Conference & AGM Conference Quick Facts

### Conference Activities

- ♦ Kick Off Networking Charity Golf Tournament  
October 5, 2009
- ♦ Annual General Meeting & Community Tour  
October 6, 2009
- ♦ Education Stream, ACED 180 - Project Management  
October 6 & 7, 2009
- ♦ Icebreaker Reception in conjunction with Peace Hills Trust 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Art Awards Ceremony  
October 6, 2009
- ♦ 5th Annual National Youth Panel  
October 7, 2009
- ♦ ED of the Year Award Presentations & Voting  
October 8, 2009
- ♦ President's Reception & Dinner  
October 8, 2009



Photo - Courtesy of Edmonton Tourism

### President's Reception & Dinner

- ♦ Networking Reception
- ♦ Economic Developer of the Year Awards
- ♦ Corporate Recognition & Conference Sponsorship Awards
- ♦ 2010 Conference Kick-off



2008 ED of the Year Award Winners & Recognition Recipient

### Conference Highlights

- ♦ Keynote Speakers
- ♦ Making a Difference Panel
- ♦ Trade Show
- ♦ Aboriginal Artisan Show & Sale
- ♦ Short Snappers & Interactive Workshops
- ♦ Local Cultural Entertainment

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NATIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

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**Do you have a story idea or want to promote your activity or event?  
If you do, please contact Blood Tribe Communications at 403-737-8130.  
The Blood Tribe Magazine 'Tsinikssini' is an effective way of reaching your audiences.**