

FREE

BLOOD TRIBE CHIEF AND COUNCIL REVIEW

# TSINIKSSINI

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010

## Blood Geneology

**New Program Offered By  
Children's Services  
Reconnects Children  
To Blood Families**

*ALSO...*

**Haitian Relief Efforts  
Kainai Peacemaking Program  
Kainai Community Corrections  
Baker Massacre Remembered**

**NEWS BRIEFS  
COMMUNITY EVENTS  
ELDER PROFILE  
COUNCIL NOTES**

KAINAI CONT  
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**Published by Blood Tribe Administration COMMUNICATIONS Department**

The Blood Tribe Council Review entitled 'TSINIKSSINI' is dedicated to the sharing of information for the people of the Blood Tribe. The magazine format features 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.

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## CRISIS AT

**KAINAI COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SOCIETY**

The recent funding cut to the Kainai Community Corrections Centre is causing great turmoil to those on the Blood reserve who are impacted by its unexpected closure on March 31, 2010. The announcement made by the Provincial Solicitor General on February 10, came as a shock to the KCCS organization, with little or no consultation prior to the cuts.

Along with the minimum security facility on the Blood reserve, the Solicitor General will end its contracts for community supervision on the Tsuu T'ina and Siksika First Nations and with the Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society. Total savings will be around \$1,100,000 from the Blood Tribe and \$400,000 by cutting all provincial First Nations programs.

Inmates will be moved to the Lethbridge Corrections Centre, a medium security facility, by the end of February. Approximately eleven people who work at the Stand Off facility will likely lose their jobs. The Solicitor General will keep its contracts with three probation officers on the Blood reserve.

Rick Soop, manager, KCCC, said taking the minimum security facility out of the community is detrimental to rehabilitation and reintegration of its clients back into their communities. "Our culture is about healing," explained Soop. "Our elders say we should deal with the family too. That's how our program is based. There are too many Aboriginal people in the system. We need more Aboriginal people working with the offenders." Soop said the closure was shocking for the employees, but added it is a concern for those offenders who will not have access to minimum security facilities such as the KCCC. "There are no culturally relevant programs in most of the prisons," he commented.



"They (inmates) are being put in an environment where they can learn more about crime from other inmates and offenders."

The Kainai Correctional Centre is a 24-bed facility that opened in 1990. Corrections services are offered to Blood reserve residents and Aboriginal people in surrounding areas. The primary focus of Kainai Community Corrections Society is to provide culturally sensitive and community based Corrections programs and other services for any persons affected by the criminal justice system. Emphasis is placed on community and inter-agency involvement. The services provided by KCCS include: Community Corrections, Native Court Worker Program, Crime Prevention, Elder participation and a minimum security Correctional Facility.

The program, established in November 1989, is considered to be one of the first of its kind within First Nations communities in Canada. The KCCS is an entity of the Blood Tribe and is operated under a Board of Directors on a contract agreement with the Alberta Solicitor General Department. The Native Court-Worker Program is designed to aid native people appearing before the courts in interpretation, lawyer referrals, legal aid referrals, helping natives understand the criminal justice process, elder referrals, liaison between the courts and the client, school/agency presentations and alternative sentencing referrals.

In the Courtworker program, elders assist in Provincial Court by acting as character

witnesses and advisors and are part of the Inter-agency Aisiimohki (Discipline) group. In Crime Prevention, elders are involved in various activities such as school presentations, lectures, story telling, conducting special ceremonies, spiritual involvement and working with community members and groups. The Elders Program is recognized by the clients, the courts, lawyers, the Psychologists' Association of Alberta and other agencies in the community.

Soop said they are receiving some support from members of the tribe and from many agencies and said they will lobby to keep KCCS from closing its doors. "They (province) cut all the Native programs in Alberta," he said. "There was no consultation. Support is being received from Chief & Council, the Blood Tribe Administration and other agencies on-and-off the reserve including petitions and support letters. Many people are contacting us to express their concerns and expressing their anger regarding this unilateral action to close the centre."

In their efforts to gain support KCCS has requested all letters of support and comments can be forwarded to a list of contacts posted on their website. [www.kccs.ca](http://www.kccs.ca)

They are also taking support messages on their Facebook page.

**by Rick Tailfeathers and Tom Russell**

# PROGRAM OFFERED BY CHILDREN'S SERVICES RECONNECTS CHILDREN TO BLOOD FAMILIES



*Dan Mistaken Chief enjoys his duties as he meets with many children and their families. Mistaken Chief is often seen visiting with many elders in acquiring vital historical information useful in better helping children know their families.*

A program developed through a joint venture between the Kainai Children's Services, Southwest Child and Family Services Lethbridge Region and the Province of Alberta, is reconnecting family and extended family to children who have been in the child welfare system for many years. The Family Connections program, under the guidance of Coordinator Dan Mistaken Chief, was initiated in early 2007 and has approximately 48 clients to date.

As part of the program, Mistaken Chief has developed a unique method of instilling a sense of cultural and traditional identity for its participants. "The mandate is to reconnect children with their families," he says. "The children need to know who they are and where they come from. Once I get a referral, I begin to make contacts with family members of the child and I get the groundwork started."

Among the duties Mistaken Chief performs

include confirming Band registration, having a Blackfoot naming ceremony, expanding existing genograms, organizing family gatherings, researching family histories and recording stories of elders who know the history of the children. "All the children really open up to us after we give them a traditional name," he says. "The elders are always telling me your (Blackfoot) name awakens your spirit, it gives you your identity. So that's what we're trying to do, we give them their identity so that they know they are special. We do these naming ceremonies at gatherings like our Sundance so that everyone knows this child's name."

One of the unique aspects of the Family Connections program is the development of a family tree for each of the children. Mistaken Chief says this gives each child a visual understanding of their families and extended families in giving them a sense of belonging. "I make the children take owner-

ship of the research, so that they feel a part of the process," he says in beginning to develop the family histories of each of the children. "They begin to learn more about themselves, their families and who their relatives are. It helps the family of the child also. It's an eye-opening experience for a family to really see their history."

Mistaken Chief says the genograms developed by outside agencies often do not reflect a more in-depth outline of a child's family history than the program he has developed. Once he has brought the child and their family together, and after their family trees have been developed, he assists family members organize family gatherings as a way to establish a sense of togetherness and interaction. "The family gathering is where my involvement ends. I observe who the child gravitates to and those are the people we get the caseworkers together to begin a dialogue in the hopes that they make take the child," he says. "Not all these cases are successful, but we do have many success stories."

Gathering information on each child and their history brings Mistaken Chief into many homes and gathering places in acquiring, for instance, Blackfoot names of the child's parents and grandparents, collecting stories of family member accomplishments, and getting family members and relatives acquainted with the child. He also works with the many agencies involved in the welfare of children and remains hopeful his program is making a difference in the lives of the children and families he connects with. "I record stories that are positive in nature so that the children know they have role models in the community; I have helped register a number of children into our membership, so that they can enjoy the same benefits we do; we have had 38 naming ceremonies for these children, and I am working on 62 family trees," he says in describing some of the work involved in the Family Connections program. "I would like the people to understand that this program is not just about the children, it's about bringing families back together, so that we don't have children going into child welfare."

*For more information on the Family Connections program, please contact Dan Mistaken Chief at 403.737.2900 or 403.308.8530.*

**by Tom Russell**

# BLOOD ELDER KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

## Bruce

It is comforting to see familiar faces during many occasions or functions here on the Blood reserve. One individual who is often called upon to share his knowledge, wisdom and talents with the people is elder Bruce Wolf Child. During many ceremonies, powwows, events or gatherings, Wolf Child is always among his people sharing his laughter and good nature in making people feel at ease.

As a youngster growing up among his elders, Wolf Child recalled a time when his grandfather told him to go

outside to play while the elders who came to visit could share stories. One of the elders then told the young Bruce to stay. The old man then explained that in order for our traditional ways to be carried on, that young people had to be involved in all aspects of our lives—even sitting in and listening while elders shared stories as they visited with others.

“My grandfather told me to go outside and play,” recalled Wolf Child of the time when he was allowed to listen to his elders as they shared stories. “One of the elders then told the grandfather ‘Oki, so this where you want life to stop? If your grandson leaves, he’s not going to be able to share these stories. Let him stay so that he could listen. If he begins to fool around, then he can leave.’” That day seemed to be a turning point for the young Wolf Child for the journey and traditional path he was destined to walk upon.

Growing up among elders and grandparents who shared their knowledge with him, Wolf Child soon developed the ability to listen to what he was told, and to remember the stories and teachings shared with him from many elders who have long since passed on, but remain alive through Wolf Child’s recollections. “That’s where I heard it all, the



***Bruce Wolf Child still going strong in sharing his knowledge & wisdom***

*“My dad told me not to challenge anybody, don’t brag, just sing,” he remembers of his dad’s words and advice. “He said if you start bragging, the Creator could take away your good voice. He said use it right. Make people happy. So that’s all I do—make people happy.”*

## Wolf Child

wide-range of stories I heard. The way I heard them is the way I’m going to tell them,” he said of the stories he was fortunate to hear. “I have the ultimate respect for our way of life; so, by listening, understanding, acknowledging, that’s how you’ll know.”

At a very young age, Wolf Child said he learned how to sing. “I sat at the drum when I was eleven,” he said. “When I was fourteen, I was at a powwow and one of the drum groups couldn’t remember the Headdress song, so my dad called me. I sat there and sang the song quietly

for them and then when I was getting up to leave, my two uncles I sat beside each grabbed my legs and squeezed them hard. They told me, your dad sings, why can’t you sing? You’re not going away, you’re going to finish. So, that’s where I started.”

His love of singing has taken him across the country, singing for the many people who attend the powwows and celebrations. He remains, however, true to the teachings of his dad, the late Albert Wolf Child. “My dad told me not to challenge anybody, don’t brag, just sing,” he remembers of his dad’s words and advice. “He said if you start bragging, the Creator could take away your good voice. He said use it right. Make people happy. So that’s all I do—make people happy.”

With his knowledge, wisdom and understanding, Wolf Child is a tremendous resource who never hesitates to share and to teach those who approach him. He has earned his understanding of life through these same teachings.

The Blood Tribe is fortunate to have an elder who gives so freely of himself in sharing a way of life that has kept us together since time immemorial.

**by Tom Russell**

# SIKSIKA LENDS A HELPING HAND TO HAITI



*Siksika Nation's Shawn Axe and a group of concerned tribal members contacted Red Cross to offer their assistance for the survivors of Haiti. The Siksika group is busy trying to raise money to send to Haiti for those affected by the earthquake.*

Despite criticism that they should help their own community and not some far off country, a small group is trying to raise money for an estimated three million Haiti people affected by a natural disaster. Shawn Axe, along with eight others, partnered with the Red Cross Society and formed "Siksika Helping Haiti Survivors," to help to provide medical attention, clean water and food and shelter for the survivors of a 7.0 earthquake that devastated the tiny country.

"We, as native people, are caring and this is our way of showing what kind of people we are and giving back," Axe says. He reminds the group's critics of all the resources and programs they have and of how not many of the nation members utilize what the reserve has to offer.

When the news of the disaster broke, Axe says he wanted people to come together to help. After the news hour, he put his concern on his Facebook page and received feedback from friends within a minute. With the growing support, he began to brainstorm as to how he could make a difference to help those suffering across the world. Axe contacted Red Cross and informed them of his group's intention in fundraising for the survivors of Haiti.

"I wanted people to know that there is a recognized agency or organization that we can be working with so they don't think that we're just a group trying to scam money."

After signing a contract form with Red Cross, the group received banners and donation boxes which are placed in various locations within the administration. The group started off small with six members, one of whom who is only 15-years-old. The members along with Axe include: Jeffery Water Chief, Cheri Royal, Jolaine Royal, Tara Running Rabbit, Bobbi Axe, Jamie Axe, Sally Fox and her grandson and Allyssa Three Suns.

Axe remembers watching the news the day after the earthquake and realized how fortunate he was to live in a safe place.

"It was really sad to see what they were going through and yet, we're here and we're so fortunate we don't have those major disasters besides snow storms. But them to be always going through something like this, they had no homes or nothing, so if we can just come together to help them out." The fundraising group meets on a regular basis at various venues and is developing fundraising events. On Wednesday, January 27, Siksika Nation High School hosted a skate-a-thon and

raised approximately \$600 for the survivors of Haiti. The group has raised over \$800 in two weeks and they hope to raise more before their February 12 deadline in order for the government to match their funds.

Right now the group is only accepting cash, but you can make a donation online at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca), by calling toll free 1-800-418-1111, by sending the text message "RED-CROSS" to 30333 to make a one-time donation of \$5, or at any Red Cross office. Cheques should be made out to Haiti Earthquake. The money raised will go to repairing or rebuilding homes, hygiene items and food, as well as blankets for families. "Donations of food, clothing and other items are well intentioned. However, the tremendous processing and transportation costs involved in shipping these items makes them impractical and therefore donated goods are NOT accepted. Financial donations remain the best way to get the most appropriate help to the region quickly," noted a [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) posting on its website.

According to the Red Cross, the death toll in Haiti is currently at 200,000 and is expected to keep rising.

**by Candace Back Fat**

# COMMUNITY VIOLENCE --AN ONGOING CONCERN



Formerly known as the 'Task Force,' the initiative which was launched by Chief & Council nearly six years ago to deal with escalating violence in the community, has undergone some changes. Previously under the Blood Tribe Department of Health, it has been transferred to the Family and Community Support Service, a Blood Tribe department.

In a recent report given to Council, some of the activities to address issues of violence have been launched and are being given top priority by the service providers involved. The Steering Committee on Prevention of

Community Violence is now under the auspices of Community Development, but will be working under FCSS in the future. Charlie Fox has been coordinating the program and will continue to do so.

Since the original Band Council Resolution was passed in April 2004, many changes have occurred with a redirected focus on involving the communities of the Blood Tribe to help in curbing violence on the reserve. It has been reported that there were many causes for the Blood reserve's escalating violence, some that are deeply rooted in past events that have caused traumatic outcomes

for tribal members. The cultural genocide that was being practiced by government and church organizations in the past, and the results of residential school experiences, are some of the contributing factors. There are some serious concerns of addictions, substance abuse and the loss of cultural identity. The inter-generational trauma has resulted in poor socio-economic conditions, poverty and a host of modern-day problems with violence being one of them.

The initial efforts were to develop a network of community service providers to approach this in a strategic manner, and to all work together to resolve some of the issues and concerns of the community. Some of those efforts are seeing results with increased support from the agencies and departments. The strengthening of the youth activities, parent groups, foot patrol, increased community policing, community development and more crisis intervention programs are some of the positive results felt in the community. These are on-going efforts that have proven to be effective. The continued efforts to curb the community violence on the reserve are being fully supported by Chief & Council.

## ALBERTA ANNOUNCES NEW MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS



*Len Webber, Minister of Aboriginal Relations.*

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach recently, in his government's recent cabinet shuffle, announced the appointment of a new Minister of Aboriginal Relations. Len Webber was elected to his second term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the constituency of Calgary-Foothills on March 3, 2008, and was sworn in as Minister of Aboriginal Relations on January 15, 2010. Mr. Webber currently serves as a member of the Legislative Offices Committee and the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment. During his service as a Member, Mr. Webber has also served as Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, deputy government whip, parliamentary assistant for Energy and a long list of boards and committees.

Before becoming an MLA, Mr. Webber was the Vice-President and Director of Webber Academy, a nonprofit university preparatory private school in Calgary. The academy provides advanced and challenging curriculum

to about 950 above-average and academically gifted students from junior kindergarten to grade 12.

Len Webber was born in Calgary, raised in the northwest community of Brentwood, and is the son of former Calgary MLA and cabinet minister Dr. Neil Webber. He received his bachelor of commerce degree from the University of Calgary and his journeyman communications electrician certificate from SAIT. He worked as an apprentice electrician out of high school and ran his own contracting business for 10 years before starting with Webber Academy.

Mr. Webber has a history of involvement and volunteerism with community groups, and is involved in many fundraising events. He is the recipient of the Alberta Centennial Medal for his contributions to the Province of Alberta

**Stories by Rick Tailfeathers**

# DR. TAILFEATHERS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN HAITI



*Dr. Esther Tailfeathers will be among a group of people from the Blood Tribe who will be going to Haiti to offer their expertise and compassion for those devastated by the earthquake.*

The global community joins hands when it needs to, especially during times of crisis or catastrophe. On January 12, 2010, at approximately 1:53 PST, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the tiny country of Haiti. With millions of residents requiring medical attention, the world responded.

Dr. Esther Tailfeathers, with a group of concerned tribal members, have stepped up to the challenge and will be leaving for Haiti in March to assist the people affected from the earthquake. The group from the Blood Tribe will help in providing much-needed medical attention for the millions of people who require immediate assistance.

Following is an excerpt from an interview with Dr. Tailfeathers.

**Q. Can you tell us your name and describe some of your duties?**

A. I'm Dr. Tailfeathers. I work here at the clinic in Standoff and I've been here for about 10 years. I work in the emergency room in Cardston. I admit my patients to Cardston hospital and pretty much just serve the Blood Tribe.

**Q. What was your reaction when you heard of the earthquake in Haiti?**

A. In January when the earthquake in Haiti happened I wanted to go down and help. I tried calling Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders and they didn't call me back. It was about four days into the earthquake and they really needed help down there. I really wanted to go. Dr. Christensen was here helping; she does the clinic three weeks every six weeks. She was here at the time but I wasn't able to get a connection to go down. I talked to Dr. Bester in Cardston, and there was another Doctor, Dr. Playfair who wanted to go down to Haiti, so they agreed to begin the

groundbreaking trips down there. Dr. Bester went first and he's just arrived back and he's made some connections.

**Q. Will you be the only one from here going to Haiti?**

A. What we've done is we've let people know that I wanted to go and we've started some fundraising. I'm actually paying my own way down but I'm doing some fundraising to bring a team of Blood Tribe Department of Health employees, so we're bringing some EMTs, paramedics, nurses and health support staff down to Haiti. Most of them are Blood Tribe members, if they aren't, they are connected to Blood Tribe through emergency services. We have 10, almost 20 people who want to go but we're not going to have enough money to send everybody, so we're probably going to take about 10 people now.

**Q. How are you trying to raise additional funds to bring more people with you?**

A. We've already send out the message to a number of agencies to try to get some funds, some donations from them to help send our people down there. We're doing some fundraising here at the clinic; we've got some raffles going. We'll be doing some activities to help raise funds. Also, we are working with the Red Cross. Pam Heavy Head has been really instrumental in helping to get things organized and off the ground. We've also met with people from Mooka'kin, with Education, Leroy Little Bear, Narcisse Blood, Martin Heavy Head and Dorothy First Rider who have been really helpful in trying to get funds or donations from the larger companies that are on the reserve. We are trying to collect money from people on the reserve as well as off the reserve.

**Q. Do you have an idea of what type of care you and your team will provide?**

A. I've contacted some pharmaceutical representatives from Calgary. They're busy right now trying to collect the medications for us to bring down. We need antibiotics, pain medications and dressing supplies because the situation right now is that there is a need for care of infection, pneumonia, things that people have normally, because they've taken care of most of the amputations, most of the trauma. So, now it's just basically taking aftercare. That's basically infections, dealing with things that are more long term than the short-term stuff.

**Q. Are you bringing any other supplies with you beyond medical supplies?**

A. Barbara Williams-Freeman, who's one of our community health nurses here, is organizing the immunizations and personal supplies that people are supposed to take with them, because we've got to bring our own food for the 10 to 14 days when we're down there. We're going to have to pack what we are going to eat because there is very little food for the people that are there. We will be staying at a mission that has a compound that is safe, and provides water, some of the things that are needed. But, it won't be a luxury.

**Q. What do you hope to accomplish?**

A. We want to accomplish a couple of things: one, is we want to offer our services and help as much as possible in whatever way we can be helpful. I know that is not a lot, but it is something and the entire world is doing that, giving something but not a lot. Hopefully it will help the people in Haiti. When you see the devastation in the pictures, the things of what's happened to people, they need the help. The second thing is, our people do help other people, I want people to know that we are capable of helping in any situation. This is also not only something we are saying to the world, that we are able to help, but we're also saying to ourselves that we're confident enough to do something for somebody else and that's an important part of our traditional beliefs, that we help other people. Another important thing our young people need to know is that we are doing things to help other people.

**Q. If people want to volunteer, who do they contact?**

A. Have them contact Shannon First Rider at 403.737.8430, Veronica Oka-Wells at 403.737.8501, Natalie White Quills and Kyla Day Chief at 403-737-3888. They are currently involved in the fundraising efforts.

**by Sioux Crop Eared Wolf**

# ONE EARTH FARMS JOB FAIR A BIG SUCCESS

After more than a year of discussions with One Earth Farms, a large corporate farm incorporating First Nations' lands, the Blood Tribe has reached a "memorandum of understanding" to begin operations on the reserve.

In its initial stages, One Earth has begun recruitment of individuals who will train to be farmers and will eventually run the reserve's farming operations. The first phase of operations, which includes recruitment, took place at the Blood Tribe Employment and Skills Training facility in Lavern on February 17th and 18th. The response was overwhelming with over 50 applicants interested in working as farmers. The training will commence prior to the upcoming farming season and will prepare the trainees on equipment operation and the fundamentals of today's high tech farming practices.

Presently One Earth and the Blood Tribe will create at least 25 jobs for Blood Tribe members. It will also prepare our own members to begin farming our own lands starting now. One Earth Farms FN LP, has initiated various agriculturally based partnerships with First Nations across the three prairie provinces. Their joint venture with other first Nations has increased opportunities for training, increased employment and increased equity programs for other reserves.

They had approached the Blood Tribe over a year ago with a partnership proposal to engage an agriculture initiative. The Tribe has since entered into a MOU which has launched a farming partnership using approximately 26,000 acres of cultivated and irrigated tribal land presently under Blood Tribe control. There are no privately occupied lands included in this initiative. Initial financial support has been invested by Spratt Resource Corp (SRC), a Canadian based company. SRC's primary purpose is to invest, directly and indirectly, in natural resources. One Earth Farms FN LP, supported by Spratt Resources, is a large scale, fully-integrated corporate farming entity that in-



Blood members listen as Councillor Sheldon Day Chief provides information on the training initiative.

tends to have operations on world class First Nations' farmland. Spratt Resource Corp. invested \$27.5 million in One Earth Farms to establish operations, fund working capital and support its initial growth.



The trainees will be employed in a variety of farming activities which will contribute to the farming economy and industry here on the Blood reserve.



Interested tribal members looking for employment in the farming sector meet with One Earth Farm representatives during job fair.

by Rick Tailfeathers

# BLOOD TRIBE HUNT PARTY TAKES WORLD CLASS BUFFALO IN NORTHERN ALBERTA



Photo by Brent Scott

Jason Goodstriker, Blood Tribe, is seen here posing with his record-setting buffalo trophy.

Officials of the Alberta Government have acknowledged that a world class bison was taken near Zama City by Jason Goodstriker of the Blood Tribe. Lyle Fullerton of Alberta Fish and Wildlife congratulated Goodstriker and the hunt party of tribal members, Sage First Rider and Billy Wadsworth. The hunt date was November 2, 2009, and now the 'drying period' has completed for the horns to proceed through the international system of judging. The buffalo has begun to proceed through the complex judging system of the world famous Boone and Crockett Hunt Club of the United States.

The Boone and Crockett Hunt Club measures over 36 classes of horned game in North America. Founded by the late United States President Theodore Roosevelt in the late 1880's, the hunt club has kept records of all registered horned game that have past a minimum size in scoring, and have been taken in a 'fair chase' situation. Fair Chase animals are harvested in a free range scenario. Animals raised in a high fence situation are scrutinized heavily by Boone and Crockett. "Because of the 'fair chase' rule, there is less than a dozen herds of true wild buffalo left in the world," says Goodstriker. "The Hay Zama Bison herd presented a wonderful opportunity for us to hunt animals that meant so much to our people."

The Hay Zama Herd was originally preserved prairie buffalo from the Elk Island National Park. Relocated to Northern Alberta in the early 1980's, the Buffalo escaped into the wilderness and settled in the area near Hay Lake. There are three main populations of wild buffalo in the Northern Canada. There are currently in Northern British Columbia the Wood Buffalo National Park and the Hay Zama herd of Northern Alberta. The buffalo population has been monitored and surveyed throughout the last 100 years. Due to an increase in numbers, and a potential for disease, a decision was made to begin a harvest on the protected species. The Alberta Government in partnership with Dene' Tha First Nation, began a selective harvest of the animals based upon a tag and license registry.

"What made our hunt truly unique is that Blackfoot people have not been able to hunt buffalo because of their disappearance over the last 130 years. We asked our elders and the closest that they could recall is that the last buffalo hunt occurred somewhere in the early 1880's," says Goodstriker. "Billy, Sage and I have hunted over the last number of years. We hunted for our families on whatever we came upon within the Blood Indian reserve." The Blood Tribe is of the largest original surveyed reserves in Canada and has populations of white tail and mule deer, elk and moose. "When we learned of this hunt and that we had tags, we asked our families to begin traditional preparations including the ceremony to call the buffalo," says Billy Wadsworth. After making the preparations, the party set out and made the 18 hour drive to the Northern Alberta hunting grounds.

Goodstriker had friends in the Dene' Tha First Nation that would help show the hunt party through a maze of trees and oil and gas roads. On November 2, 2009, only after two hours of receiving their tags, the hunt party came upon the first of two bulls that they would take. The party began to stalk and set for their encounter. "Because we knew this was a special for our families and

our kids, we decided to bring a camera," says Sage First Rider. "I started to roll film and the guys started to hunt." The massive bull was taken on film. Within an hour, a second bull was hunted and tagged by Sage First Rider within two miles from the first one. "Hunting the buffalo was a true team effort," says Wadsworth. "We had to use almost every bit of skill and equipment we brought to complete the hunt."

Following the hunt, the butchering was completed entirely by the hunters themselves. "Due to size of the bulls, our butchering was averaging five hours per animal," says Goodstriker. "The record bull came in over 2700 lbs and the second was near 2500 lbs. We distributed the meat to all our families and the best parts were saved for the ceremony people that helped us."

Upon completion of the hunt, the party had to report samples to the Alberta Government for testing. It was then that Officer Fullerton urged the party to have the bulls measured. "We had no idea what a trophy size was," says Goodstriker. "In fact, we prepared the robes in a way we have seen common from domestic buffalo. Following the '60 day drying period,' which is mandatory in the Boone and Crockett scoring system, we were met by an official judge in Calgary." The large bull taken by Goodstriker has a 'green score' of 130 4/8. Unofficially, the bull is within the top 12 ever taken in North America all-time. It is of the top four ever taken in Canada, and currently number one in Alberta. There will be two additional rounds of scoring including official scoring and panel scoring. "Panel scoring is almost unattainable in the hunting world. To verify a world-class animal, the measuring must be brought before a panel of judges who score the top animals every three years," says Goodstriker. "The bull still has some months, if not years to go." In the meantime, the film footage of the hunt is being explored to possibly be produced and the viewing of the buffalo by the general public is also being considered.

A second hunt is being planned prior to the end of March as the party has two additional licenses to fill.

Story by Jason Good Striker

# CHILDREN DO WELL IF THEY CAN

A NETWORKING & LEARNING EVENT TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN FOSTERING RESILIENCY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



*A networking and learning workshop was recently hosted by Lance Scout, the Crime Prevention Officer with the Kainai Community Corrections. The workshop entitled 'Children Do Work Well If They Can' was well attended by a number of youth and elders, as well as agency representatives. The workshop brought together parents, youth, police officers, social workers, health-care providers, addictions counselors, recreation facilitators, educators and youth leadership groups as a method of strengthening community partnerships and to foster resiliency for our children. The children and youth participated in a group presentation and shared their abilities in a talent showcase. Lance Scout was very pleased at the turnout and hopes to continue his efforts in developing community partnerships and relationships in providing intervention programs. The programs are vital in learning from our youth as the parents and elders can hear what messages our youth are saying. The Many Shields Youth & Community Prevention Committee acknowledges all the youth and everyone who participated in the workshop.*



Photos by Myron Fox

## AAHSAOPI STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MINI OLYMPICS



Aahsaopi School organized a mini-winter Olympic event as a part of their winter festival for the students of Aahsaopi. The events commenced with a prayer, offered by Dale Low Horn. The Aahsaopi School drum group led by Patrick Black Plume and Alva Weasel Moccasin provided an honor song. The students represented the different countries and paraded their flags during the opening ceremonies.

The students took part in various events and activities which included: curling, shots-on-goal, relay skating, fireman races, scooter pull, face-painting and bouncy ball races. Mariah Mistaken Chief gave a figure skating performance during the noon hour for students, parents, teachers and guests that were in attendance.

The main organizers, Janine First Rider and Charles First Rider, worked hard to provide a fun day for the students. The school and the event's organizers were happy with the support it received from the community. The mini-Olympics coincided with the schools skating program.



## BLOOD YOUTH WINS TRIP TO WINTER OLYMPICS



*Nomi Weasel Head enjoyed being a part of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C.*

A young Blood Tribe member, Nomi Weasel Head, won a once in a lifetime trip to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. ATCO gas sponsored an essay contest, Celebrating Excellence, in which Alberta students from grades 4 to 12 were to submit an essay of 150-650 words explaining how they pursue leadership and strive for excellence in sports, arts, culture, education or community involvement. The soft-spoken 12-year-

old, grade 7 student, who attends school at Cardston Junior High, was excited to hear she had won the contest. Nomi was one of 166 students across Alberta to win a trip to the Vancouver Olympics. There was one Leadership Award to be won for both male and female in each of the 83 constituencies in the province of Alberta.

Nomi submitted a paper describing her passion for two sports she loves to take part in: cross-country running and soccer. Sports such as these require self-discipline in which the young athlete had demonstrated. She not only demonstrates self-discipline in the sports activities but also in her academic studies as well. She enjoys school; her favorite subject is science and she has perfect attendance. Nomi's proud mother, Chayla Weasel Head was overjoyed to hear of her daughter winning a trip to Vancouver. "I was really surprised that morning when we got the call that she did win this trip to the Olympics," she said. "It's a learning experience for her and she deserves to go. She never misses a day (of school)." Nomi was allowed to bring an adult companion with her to Vancouver and she brought one her role models that she looks up to--her uncle Lenny.

Nomi's reward consisted of return airfare for two to Vancouver from Calgary, a pair of tickets to a sporting event and Victory Ceremony, a souvenir package and a visit

to Alberta House in downtown Vancouver. Nomi and her uncle left for Vancouver on Monday, February 15. The pair watched a Men's preliminary round hockey game in which the United States of America defeated Switzerland. Nomi said she was looking forward to watching a hockey game and she got her chance. She also attended the Victory Ceremonies in which Canadian snowboarder Mike Robertson was awarded the silver medal in the event of snowboard cross.

Nomi enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Olympic Winter Games. She said the only downside to the trip was all the walking they had to do because of the size of the venues. "We wanted to go find the flame, but we got lost," she says of one of her adventures in Vancouver.

Nomi would like to acknowledge her family, mother Chayla, grandmother Ernestine, grandparents Edmund and Noreen Wolf Child, aunts, uncles and her siblings for their support and encouragement. She would especially like to thank her uncle Lenny for sharing this experience with her. When asked how she feels about being a role model for other youth, she simply and humbly said: "I feel good."

*Stories by Sioux Crop Eared Wolf*

# WADSWORTH EMPLOYED IN PEACEMAKING PROGRAM



*Billy Wadsworth, a multi-talented individual, who is also a well-known singer on the powwow trail, enjoys his employment as the Coordinator of the Kainai Peacemaking Program.*



*Debbie Melting Tallow, former Lands employee, provides administrative support for the Kainai Peacemaking Program.*



*Sherry Tailfeathers is the Researcher with the Kainai Peacemaking Program.*

Blood Tribe member Billy Wadsworth has been employed as the coordinator of the newly introduced Kainai Peacemaking Program on February 9, 2009, in promoting the efforts of establishing a system which deals with a number of subjects pertaining to tribal jurisdiction in the areas of peacemaking, harmonization and judicial processes.

The program's primary vision is to establish healing processes in restoring harmony and balance within the communities and to deal with justice matters including criminal and domestic law, child, youth and family law, civil law which includes small claims and also internal disputes stemming from the communities. Other aspects of the peacemaking program are designed to deal with land and housing disputes, alternative sentencing or referrals from the Courts or RCMP and tribal jurisdiction within the child, youth and family protection as impacted by the Provincial Court system.

Wadsworth, who is a recent University of Lethbridge graduate (B.A., 2005), and current Masters candidate, says the peacemaking program is still in its early stages but is

already working with the Provincial Courts in dealing with tribal members who are referred to the peacemaking program. "February 1, 2010, was our official kick off day for accepting referrals from the court. I had three referrals," he says. "When we have clients come in, the Peacemaking Program's role is to refer clients to a number of varied services ranging from treatment to ceremonial functions. Individuals are sent to appropriate people who perform traditional ceremonies such as sweat lodges, pipe ceremonies etc., these play an integral part to the KPP's unique methodology. We could request that clients do community services like chop wood for a sweat lodge or work for an elder as they see fit. If we see that there may be more assessments needed, we have access to western psychologists who could provide additional assessments. Our job is to help the clients." Wadsworth says once the client has fulfilled the requirements as voluntary participants in the peacemaking program, the coordinator appears in court with the client to share client information of the steps taken and a recommendation is then presented to

the court in dealing appropriately with the client.

With such a broad scope involved in the peacemaking process, Wadsworth says the bigger picture is still on the horizon, but plans are underway to increase its role in reaching the end result. "First, we're dealing with referrals from the courts and police. We're going to move into mediation, dispute (resolution), everything. All this is going to take time to get to that point, but right now, we're taking this in phases."

Other members of the peacemaking program are Sherry Tailfeathers, researcher, and Debbie Melting Tallow, administrative assistant.

**For more information on the Kainai Peacemaking Program, you can contact Wadsworth at 403.737.4407, or email at [billy@kainaipeacemaking.org](mailto:billy@kainaipeacemaking.org)**

**Website access:**  
[www.kainaipeacemaking.org](http://www.kainaipeacemaking.org)

**by Tom Russell**

# BAKER MASSACRE REMEMBERED BY BLACKFEET NATION MEMBERS



*Many tribal members of the Blackfoot Confederacy braved the freezing temperatures to honor the memory of those massacred by Major Eugene Baker in 1870 near present-day Shelby, Mont. Many elders offered prayers and blessings and shared words of encouragement in memory of those whose lives were taken.*

Nearly one-hundred Blackfoot people travelled to the Marias River near Shelby, Mont., to remember the 1870 slaughter of innocent men, women and children in what is known as the Baker Massacre. On January, 23, 2010, on the 140th anniversary, many members of the Blackfoot and Blackfoot First Nations huddled in the freezing temperatures to commemorate the event which marks a sad history in the relations between the U.S. government and the first inhabitants of this country.

The 1870 Bear River Massacre Commemoration Activities were hosted by the Blackfoot Community College. As part of their 18th annual event, the Blackfoot Community College invited a number of guests to share their thoughts and lectures on the aftereffects of the massacre. On January 21, 2010,

the presenters included Carol Murray, Tribal History Project Director, and Lea Whitford, Blackfoot Studies Department Chair, who shared their presentation, “Reflections; Bear River Massacre of 1870, and Learning & Teaching from Pikunii.” Robert Burns spoke on the Genealogy of Survivors, the Descendants of Heavy Runner; Ramona Big Head’s topic dealt with Using Creativity to heal from unresolved historical traumas and Charlene Burns & Emily Matt-Salois lectured on Historical Trauma and Unresolved Grief.

Big Head, who brought together a number of students from the Blood reserve and created a play based on the Baker Massacre (also known as the Heavy Runner Massacre), reflected on the day of activities at the commemoration as she thought of those who had to face the cold weather conditions as they

scrambled for survival. “As cold and snowy and windy as it was, we all felt good about taking the time out of our busy lives to remember our ancestors who died that day and also the ones who survived, but had to run away in sub-zero temperatures to the nearly 90 miles to Fort Benton or to other camps,” she said. “The Baker Massacre has become a part of me. I always mark January 23rd on my calendar. We need to keep telling this story to our children and grandchildren, so that it never becomes an obscure story in our history.”

During the commemoration, John Salois, president of the Blackfoot Community College, welcomed the Blackfoot tribal leaders and invited guests and thanked each for making the journey to mark this event with their ancestors. One of the Blackfoot drum groups sang the Heavy Runner honor song and the story of the Baker Massacre was told by a student of the Blackfoot Community College. The Crazy Dog Society then performed an initiation ceremony and everyone was then invited to share a meal.

**Note:**

*The Baker Massacre occurred in 1870 in which General Philip Sheridan ordered Major Eugene Baker of the Second US Regiment to “strike them hard” after a series of events in which a white man, who was part of a group who beat up a Blackfoot man for stealing horses, and who was later killed by Blackfoot warriors, instigated the massacre. Major Baker and the Second US Regiment slaughtered over 170 innocent Blackfoot men, women and children and took over 140 people hostage. No official investigation by the United States government ever reprimanded Baker for his role in the massacre.*



*A Blackfoot honor guard provides a salute in memory of fallen tribal members massacred 140 years ago.*

**by Tom Russell**

# Council Notes

## Regular Council meeting February 1, 2010. Council Chambers

**1. Blood Tribe Police Service** In attendance were members of BT Police Commission, Police Service members and Elders from the community. Key issues discussed were:

- a. Non-renewal of Chief of Police contract.
- b. Resignation of BT Police commission Council representative Ron Thunderchief/ and appointment of Andrew Bull Calf (present representative)
- c. Selection of interim COP, the subsequent intervention by Solicitor-General's Department blocking the appointment of interim COP.
- d. Alleged non-compliance with tripartite policing agreement.
- e. Possible withholding of funding by Province of Alberta, Solicitor-General if compliance of the agreement is breached.
- f. Development of a BT Police Commission policy regarding conflict of interest.
- g. Council supported compliance of police agreement.
- h. Present status of BT Police Commission, continues.

**2. Walsh Wilkins Creighton, Ken McLeod/ Melanie Wells.** Report on legal aspects of drafting policies and procedures (more specifically for BT Police Commission) to begin drafting policies/procedures (conflict of interest policies, following other corporate policies). Request for all Council to be involved.

**3. BT Housing updates.** Presented by Housing Director. Amendments to Housing renovations funding agreements.



## Regular Council meeting February 2, 2010. Council Chambers

**1. Blood Tribe Police Service. Discussion of police service issues.** Harley Crowshoe, Regional Manager AB & NWT Aboriginal Policing Directorate Public Safety Canada (Fed.) was invited. Conference call with Province of Alberta representative Ron Hopperle, Director 1st Nations Policing Solicitor General & Public Security was initiated.

- a. Council discussed the terms of the appointment of acting Chief of Police. Qualifications for Chief of Police need to be met, secondment of acting COP from other police service organization. Council supported assistance in finding acting COP. Job will be posted/filled through competition.
- b. Other police service matters (allegations from members regarding police brutality, complaint process, funding criteria from Province and Feds).
- c. There will be no disruption of policing on Blood reserve.

**2. Housing.** Review of housing lots available at Lavern townsite. Some community members unwilling to allow construction. Council motion 2 units to be constructed at Lavern, remaining 3 units to build elsewhere. Motion carried.

**3. Walsh Wilkins Creighton (Ken McLeod).** Update on legal cases being pursued by tribe. Big Claim court decision was stayed, but lifted for 6 months while tribe prepares litigation proposal to court. Parkland Refinery case reviewed, appeal pending on court decision.

The Blood Tribe Chief & Council, Blood Tribe Administration and people of the Blood Tribe offer our condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones.  
May our Creator watch over us during our time of need.

# NOTICES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2010



**2010 Spring Type II  
Firefighter Spring  
Meetings  
KAINAI - March 26th at  
11:00 am  
at the Blood Tribe  
Employment and Skills  
Training offices  
ALL LEADERS MUST  
ATTEND TO BE ON  
THE 2010  
ROTATION**



**OKI**

**THE KAINAI FIRST NATIONS  
ELDER'S ASSOCIATION  
IS HOSTING A ONE DAY  
ELDERS INFORMATION GATHER-  
ING SYMPOSIUM**

**THEME:  
GETTING CONNECTED  
AN ELDERS SHARING CIRCLE  
HELPING TO BRING FIRST NATIONS  
ELDERS AND SERVICES TOGETHER**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2010  
FROM 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM  
AT THE GLADSTONE HALL ON THE  
BLOOD RESERVE**

If you wish to take part in this symposium please contact Pat Frank-KFNEA Program Coordinator (403) 327-9535 or email: kfnea@yahoo.ca

The Kainai First Nations Elder Association looks forward to gathering with all tribal elders to build a strong working relationship  
**"TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A  
STRONG SUPPORT TEAM FOR  
ELDERS"**



## **Jim Goodstriker Memorial Hockey Tournament**



**March 11, 12 & 13, 2010**

**Kainai Sports Centre, Standoff AB**

**Senior Pro Division Only**



### **PRIZES**

**1st \$2000 - 2nd \$1500 - 3rd \$1000**

(Payout based on number of paid entries)

#### **Entry Fee:**

**40 + Senior Pro \$500 - first 8 paid entries accepted  
\$150 non-refundable deposit required by March 1**

**All Stars, MVP & Game Stars**

**Opening Ceremonies 7pm Friday Night**

**Admission \$5**



In 2005 a commitment was made by the friends and family of the late Jim Goodstriker to host an annual hockey and golf tournament and also sponsor merchandise to the annual Kainai Fair & Rodeo.

After four years of tremendous support from the First Nations Sports community and the many loyal sponsors and Fans. We would like to thank you as we feel that we have successfully fulfilled our goal in honouring the memory of Jim Goodstriker.

**For more info contact: Laurie Tailfeathers @ 403-737-3765 or  
Val Goodstriker @ 403-715-3083 & Darrel Goodstriker 403-360-4335  
Committee not responsible for any loss or stolen property and injury!**