

FREE

BLOOD TRIBE CHIEF AND COUNCIL REVIEW

TSINIKSSINI

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2011

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CONFERENCE

WATERTON
LAKES



ALSO...

Blood Tribe Agriculture Report
Treaties 1-11 Gathering
Kainai Government Agreement
Red Crow College Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS
COUNCILLORS
UPDATE



In this Issue...

**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.

The magazine is published by the Blood Tribe Communications department and is printed by Sundog Printing of Calgary. 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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Blackfoot Confederacy Conference	page 3
Agricultural Report	page 4
Agricultural Report	page 5
7th Annual 1-11 Treaties Gathering	page 6
Trucking School	page 7
Kainai Government Agreement	page 8
Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association	page 9
Blood Tribe Employees	page 10
Blood Tribe Skate Program	page 10
Justice Day Chief Fundraising	page 11
Disabilities Group Barbeque	page 12
Traffic Safety / Kainai Food Bank	page 13
Councillor Sheldon Day Chief Update	page 14
Red Crow College Anniversary	page 15
Notices & Up-coming Events	page 16

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COVER: Blood elders Wilton Goodstriker and Frank Weasel Head, stand solemnly with Chief Charles Weasel Head and Annabel Crop Eared Wolf at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains during the Blackfoot Confederacy gathering.

Photo by: Rick Tailfeathers

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CONFERENCE STRENGTHENS TIME-HONORED ALLIANCE



Leaders and spiritual elders from the Blackfoot Confederacy nations walk on the same ground our ancestors did. The Blackfoot Confederacy continues its strong presence in our traditional territory.



A historical event took place in the picturesque Rocky Mountains in Waterton Lakes National Park; the creation of a spiritual marker which was left by representatives of the four member tribes of the Blackfoot Confederacy--in a sense--reclaiming a bit of their territory inside the park. This event took place at the 11th annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference, hosted by the Kainai on September 28th to the 30th, 2011.

The conference agenda was a mixture of issues that were presented by each of the four confederate tribes of the Blackfoot: Piikani, Siksika, Amskapi Piikani and Kainai. Among the issues that affect them are social, economic, spiritual and political, and issues of common concern.

Host Chief Charles Weasel Head stated in his welcome address: "It is very good that we, the members of the Blackfoot, can

come together with our common concerns in this type of gathering," and he continued, "It strengthens this alliance that we have always shared with our ancestors."

Foremost in the discussions were border crossing issues experienced by all tribes within both countries when crossing the boundary. The difficulty continues to be the conflict that occurs regarding the transportation of spiritual and cultural items across the border, and in some cases, taxes levied on items exchanged in ceremonies and similar events. Presently, passports are encouraged by both border ports of entry, as well as the Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards.

In other matters, eroding water rights being experienced by all tribes was of prime concern. With a growing demand for water being experienced by urban and rural communities for agriculture and residential and commercial use, inherent aboriginal rights to water are being challenged by both Canada and U.S. governments, and concerns for the loss of the Blackfoot language were shared by all, especially by the elders who were participating at the conference. Although there is a number of language programs designed to strengthen the language

learning, there is still a looming threat of extinction.

A recent development under review by the leaders of the Blackfoot Tribes and spiritual elders is a proposal being brought forth to establish an Office of the Blackfoot Confederacy, with satellite offices on both sides of the border. Dexter Red Gun, who was delegated the task of developing a proposal by Siksika, stated, "We've talked about it a long time. We are now moving forward with this initiative and hope to launch it in the coming months."

Siksika will be hosting next year's Blackfoot Confederacy conference.



Participants gathered for opening ceremonies of the conference in Waterton Lakes.

BLOOD TRIBE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT REPORT

CHAIRMAN RON THUNDER CHIEF



The Board of Directors continues to establish ambitious plans and priorities to achieve success in ensuring the safety and security of Blood Tribe Agricultural assets.

As the Chairman, I am pleased to present to the Blood Tribe, the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991) and its affiliated entities Report on Plans and Priorities that outlines our further objectives. Keeping Blood Tribe membership updated is important. Our goal is to strengthen and preserve Blood Tribe Agricultural land, water and natural resources for vital BTAP tasks and responsibilities. My predecessors brought this one of a kind agriculture project to its completion. They should be commended for their accomplishments. The challenge for me and the Board of Directors is to ensure the project stays on track and further that our people understand how the irrigation project benefits all of us today and will benefit our people for many years to come.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS:

The Blood Tribe Forage Processing Plant:

- Review and implement the draft BTFP Processing Capacity Expansion Business Plan and Financial Proposal (2005), the Proposal has been reviewed and an expansion plan completed. Implementation is currently underway. One FC 8322 Bale Press was designed, manufactured and installed at a price of \$1,360,148 and a propose plant expansion of facility (100 feet by 60 feet) is under way with an estimated cost of \$400,000.00.

- An inventory of 10,000 metric tonnes of forage product is currently under storage and will be targeting 12,000 mt.

- Marketing will be under taken by the Blood Tribe (BTAP) as this has been an area that was dependent by outside parties which basically we get \$600,000 for pressing fees and \$200,000 storage fees (collection of 70 % yearly since 2007). The estimated revenues

from outside parties are from 11 to 15 million from years 2007 to 2010. This is part of the financial analysis done by BTAP staff.

- The completion of 4 miles road construction consisting of reshaping road and graveling utilizing BTAP personnel, Blood Tribe Public Works and Blood Tribe Truckers Association.



Mataki Farms:

- An existing lease agreement with Belly River Seeds is going to its 3rd year and expires on 2012 with one more crop year left to go. This year's harvest has been extremely good (bumper crop) with 500 acres seeded to seed potato. The storage facility has a capacity of 10,000 metric tonnes which is currently 100 % utilized. Some potatoes were transported off reserve for storage. Approximately 8 to 10 Blood Tribe Members hired throughout the season. A very successful year for Belly River Seeds Company.

- Considerable expense was injected to the infrastructure, mainly the storage facility, two houses and road construction. The funds mainly came from BTAP to assist KABC and/or Mataki Farms.



Sawkee Feedlot:

- The facility is currently vacant but the infrastructure/facility construction is under way with again utilizing BTAP dollars to assist KABC. The plan is to restart in 2013 or 2014 but the back grounding of Band Ranch calves will be utilizing the facility for 2011 until Business Plans are implemented.



Band Ranch:

- The current inventory of the Band Ranch is 170 bred cows, 60 heifers that are two years old (exposed) and 13 bulls all registered. For the 2011 fall sale run, we are preparing to sell 75 steer calves and keep 90 heifers as replacements. Total loss for 2011 is 6 calves. Plans are being prepare for expansion to a 1000 head.

Kainai Agri-Business Corporation:

- All loans have been paid in full. No cash debts are owed. The Blood Tribe Farming Initiative (BTFI) accounts payables of \$2.6 million and capital expenses mainly to John Deer (\$1.7 million) have also been paid. BTFI is also debt free.

- There are only intercompany due to and due from mainly to BTAP.

- There is no lawsuit with KABC but a quarterly review with insurance companies which is being handled by board member William Mistaken Chief.

Human Resource Development Strategy:

- Policy development has commenced on the development of BTAP and Affiliated companies. Policies and Procedures were into its third reading until a recent ruling on Federal Jurisdiction Determination from the Canada Labour Board that BTAP and its affiliated companies are now under the Provincial Labour Code. We are preparing the semi-final revision with the help from the professors and the University of Lethbridge staff and students. The Canadian Human Rights is now a matter of rights extending full human rights protection to First Nations. We are currently reviewing the document. All funds are currently incurred by BTAP.

Operation and Maintenance Strategy:

- Develop and implement an Operation & Maintenance strategy to secure federal and provincial funding to upgrade the canal system. Draft Business Cases to secure funding from the Federal and Provincial governments together with Negotiation training with the BTAP Board, COO/GM and managers completed.

Received initial funds or commitment for funding from the following:

- Received \$50,000 from Alberta Aboriginal Relations for strategic process with another \$50,000 upon completion of progress report.
- Received commitment of \$500,000 from Alberta Disaster for repair and maintenance of BTAP canals and reservoir systems.
- Received commitment of \$100,000 from Alberta Environment for the Mokowan controls systems.
- Received first year commitment of \$1.5 million from Alberta Environment to engage BT contractors to perform repair and maintenance of the Belly Diversion Canal; Year 2 commitment is \$2.5 million; Year 3 commitment of \$1.5 million.
- Received commitment of \$200,000 from Alberta Transportation for upgrades of BT access roads along irrigation canals.

Aohkii Investment Property Management:

- There are currently 6 newco companies and 6 leaseco companies. We currently have a legal opinion from Walsh Wilkins Creighton LLP and Meyers Norris Penny Auditors to possibly restructure/amalgamate to one newco and one leaseco company. This is still in progress.
- Total Land Rent for Aohkii is \$3.2 million.

One Earth Farms:

- A historical BTAP agreement was signed which included a Hay Agreement and BTAP land leases. This included a section on employment and training. They have hired and trained 30 Blood Tribe members, two Pikanni and two Siksika members. This year's harvest has been above average to excellent yields according to OEF field staff.



Aerial view of the canal irrigation system on the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project.

SUMMARY:

The Board of Directors has an inherent interest in the economic, social and ecological aspect of water availability. They are a consumptive user that relies on irrigation for economic prosperity, and have a social responsibility to ensure water provision for their current and future members. In addition, as historic and cultural stewards of the land, the Tribe has a sense of duty to respect water and the environment. Consequently, it is important to understand the current water use and forecast future demand of the reserve to better manage land use, water resources and prepare for climactic extremes.

In closing, I invite everyone to learn more about the project. As we learn together and appreciate the diversity of this project, I am certain we will agree that BTAP could be a Model toward self-sufficiency for other reserves. We can share in the pride of this project. I ask for your continued support and prayers for another successful year.



Pivots are in constant use during summer.

AFFIRMING OUR INHERENT AND TREATY RIGHTS

TSUU T'INA NATION HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL TREATIES 1-11 GATHERING



The Chiefs of Treaties 1-11 gather at treaty forum in Calgary.

Calgary, AB. - Over 1000 registered Elders, Chiefs and Delegates gathered in Calgary to affirm historic peace agreements at the 7th Annual Treaties 1-11 Gathering on September 21, 22 and 23. The assembly was hosted by the Tsuu T'ina Nation and was attended by well respected and renowned experts on Indigenous issues, Chiefs, elders and community members.

“Affirming our Inherent and Treaty Rights,” was this year’s call to action for about 140 Chiefs and their proxies from across the country as they met to discuss issues such as legislative impacts on our Inherent & Treaty Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The annual forum opened up on the Tsuu T'ina Nation at the Sarcee 7 Chiefs Sportsplex with an Elders Gathering on September 20th where over 500 Elders were in attendance to share their expertise and to hear from various speakers such as Ovide Mercredi and David Suzuki who offered their inspired messages. The Elders – who are considered respected historians, teachers, spiritual caregivers, language experts and advisors -- gathered to share their views on the living nature of Treaties such as having more involvement at all levels of implementation, education and awareness on traditional governance and recognition.

Former Assembly of First Nations National Chief Ovide Mercredi and now, National Treaties 1-11 spokesperson, talked about our collective responsibility to community and

self. “Respect is a big thing, without it we will breakdown as a people. It’s a powerful value. We need constant reminder...Treaties were made nation to nation. We are to be treated as distinct people, (governments) have no authority to make laws for us. When someone says the Indian Act is a dictatorship they’re right...What is a treaty about? The treaty is about the earth and preserving the land we live on,” said Mercredi.

Renowned scientist and environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki was also on hand to address elders on the dangers of disconnection from Mother Earth and the dire message of our planet under attack by a deadly species, “Humans are abusing the planet...humans are violating the principle. Technology and the global economy are putting great stress on our environment. We are the air...we are the water...we are fire (Sun)...we are the Earth. There is no separation. We are all connected.” Although Suzuki admitted not knowing much about treaties, he spoke at length about the importance of upholding our rights and our collective protection and stewardship of the lands through agreements held in sacred trust with the Crown and on a global level.

The 7th Annual Treaties 1-11 Gathering then moved to the Coast Plaza in Calgary on September 21st where Chiefs from all across the country participated in the Grand Entry and to begin discussions on urgent issues facing First Nations. The gathering united First Nations, who were allied as tribes with the Crown to affirm and reflect on the mutual respect and understanding of First Nations’

jurisdiction, legal institutions, and to the nation to nation relationship with the Crown.

Chiefs from Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 represent 48 First Nations/Bands and over one hundred thousand First Nation members within the Province of Alberta. Grand Chiefs from each treaty area provided opening remarks calling for unity and deeper understanding to safeguard our languages, cultures and institutions.

In his opening address, Treaty 7 Grand Chief Charles Weasel Head said that “all Canadians should be familiar with the history of our Treaties and understand the government-to-government relationship and protocols we hold sacred with the Crown. It’s a work in progress and requires diligence as we build on this understanding that Treaties were made to create opportunities for all Canadians; therefore, it is important to encourage understanding of the role that Treaties play in Canada’s history.”

The Blood Tribe Chief spoke about First Nations’ collective worldview that is rooted in family and our connection to Creator, Mother Earth and all living things. To be vigilant and continue to develop, maintain and strengthen our relationship to the land, the water and the environment and to ensure the integrity of our societies

“We look to the treaties as having their own life. Gatherings like this breathe life into our living agreements...We must look to implement jurisdiction through treaty governance, as it existed through ancient consent, because we have a rightful say in the management of our affairs. Treaty governance is an existing treaty right, to be reconciled with Canada. Treaty governance is not derived from the Crown, it is derived from our heritage and the agreements we made with the British Crown as affirmed in the constitution, the courts and international law,” said Chief Weasel Head.

Weasel Head called on Chiefs, elders and delegates for more cooperation and awareness and understanding of the Treaties – which may include initiatives like a Treaty Day and a Treaty Commission here in Alberta. “Many feel that Albertans and its leadership and officials do not understand the trea-

ties and so do not have the political will to honour the treaties.”

“When First Nations met with each other to negotiate alliances, they were viewed as mutually beneficial. These alliances established peaceful relationships. The Blackfoot called this Inistsis – a broad process of peacemaking or of forging new relationships. Formalization of the treaty was done through ceremony and the smoking of a pipe. After the pipe ceremony, the treaty would then be seen as an agreement, with Creator as witness,” said Chief Charles.

“The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also lends moral force to our call, recognizing that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is now supported by the US, Canada and all countries of the world, affirms the rights to free prior and informed consent. It’s been a long journey and the work must continue to assert our rights to self-determination and to chart our own destiny by building on the treaty relationship so that our children may have the opportunity and empowerment to advance and participate at all levels of treaty governance, consultations, policies and economics.”

Recommendations from the 2011 National Treaties 1 to 11 Gathering in Treaty No. 7 traditional territories included such resolutions as: assuming and implementing jurisdiction according to treaty; appoint a Treaty Commissioner and a representative of the Treaty Chiefs to attend the First Ministers’ Meeting held annually; development of a War Chest of the Treaty First Nations; organization of a meeting with President Obama on the border crossing issue; promotion of Education forums on sovereignty and treaties; community based information and communication technical systems; national Spiritual Gatherings; and support for Day(s) of Action.

Guided by the principles of traditional indigenous knowledge and practices, spiritual values, and respectful and sustainable use of land and water, organizers are already looking forward to 2012 and planning has begun for next year’s Treaty Gathering in Treaty No. 2 territory. To bless and help guide that work, Treaty 7 Chiefs and Elders held a ceremony to transfer the Treaty 7 Pipe in spirit and intent of our Treaties.



Brent Scout and Dr. David Suzuki.

Submitted by Brent Scout

SIX BLOOD TRIBE MEMBERS GRADUATE FROM LETHBRIDGE TRUCKING SCHOOL



The driver program graduates posed during their ceremony in Lethbridge.

The Blood Tribe now has six individuals who have earned their certification for their Class 1A driver’s license and can now operate the huge semi-tractor trailer rigs and other similar industrial vehicles. Marlene Big Sorrel Horse, former Education-and-Training Coordinator, with Inroads to Agriculture institute, and who is now employed as the Administrative Assistant with One Earth Farms alongside Shane Breaker, Employment Coordinator, Alberta region, said the opportunities for employment for the participants in the transportation industry are greater if the driving requirements are met. “The graduates can drive semi’s, eighteen-wheelers, grain trucks or buses,” she explained. “The Class 1 A is the top driver’s license anyone can get.”

The company, SK Driver Training Ltd., from Lethbridge, AB., provided the instruction for the participants using 48’ and 53’ long semi-trailers. SK Driver Training, which is a division of Transport Training Centres of Canada, Inc., combines the provincial driver training of SK Driver Training with the resources of Transport Training Centres to provide a unique training service for those seeking their Class 1A driver’s license.

Each of the participants were required to complete a medical from their doctor, had to complete a written test from a registry outlet, tested for their air-brake endorsement and were involved in a road test from a government certified examiner.

Chief Charles Weasel Head and Blood councilors Sheldon Day Chief and Josh Curly Rider were in attendance at the graduation ceremony. Chief Weasel Head congratulated the graduates and acknowledged their efforts of completing the training. “Your efforts in completing your requirements will benefit you and your families,” he said. “Be proud

of your dedication and commitment.”

Councilor Sheldon Day Chief expressed his pleasure at the graduates’ accomplishments. “Our two biggest resources are our people and our land,” he said. “With One Earth Farms, there’s a good possibility that these drivers will be employed there, as One Earth sponsored the training through Inroads to Agriculture. It’s a real sense of pride for the Tribe, and Chief & Council, to see this happen.”

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. One Earth Farms FN LP intends to build a long-term agricultural partnership with the Blood Tribe, which will improve the management and environmental sustainability of our farmland, as well as benefit our people through increased training, employment and revenue.

The graduates of the SK Driver Training were: Lambert Eagle Tail Feathers, Jim Russell, Andrew Wells, Shane Little Bear, Paul Young Pine and Colby Black Water.

Big Sorrel Horse thanked the SK Driver Training Ltd., Bruce Martin. SK Professional Driver Trainer instructor, Christine Kenmuir, Office Manager/Registration Coordinator, One Earth Farms, Inroads to Agriculture, Blood Tribe Chief & Council and the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project, for their involvement in the driver training project.

BLOOD TRIBE TO VOTE IN DECEMBER ON KAINAI GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT



Many elders are involved in the Kainai Government Agreement process.

After 11 years of negotiations between the governments of Blood Tribe, Canada and Alberta, the Kainai Bilateral Government Agreement and Kainai Tripartite Government Agreement were initialled on July 14, 2011. The Kainai Bilateral and Tripartite Government Agreements and the Blood Tribe/Kainai Governance Law will now go out to the Blood Tribe electorate for approval by way of a referendum (vote) on December 14, 2011.

In 2007, the Kainai Government Agreement was divided into two separate Agreements, the Kainai Bilateral Government Agreement and the Kainai Tripartite Government Agreement. The Kainai Bilateral Government Agreement is between the Blood Tribe and Canada. The Kainai Tripartite Government Agreement is between the Blood Tribe, Canada and Alberta with some specific provisions with respect to the relationship with Alberta in the child, youth and family area. The primary reason the Kainai Government Agreement was separated into two was to address concerns that if all of the jurisdiction and authorities were contained in one agreement, it could be seen as Alberta having a role in areas which it does not have, such as governance.

The Kainai Government Agreement is not a treaty. It will not negatively affect aboriginal or treaty rights. The Agreements are a means to implement an intergovernmental relationship negotiated by the Blood Tribe and the

Governments of Canada and Alberta.

The Agreements provide the Blood Tribe with the discretion to resume jurisdiction and authority over child, youth and family matters, including intervention and protection, family enhancement, support for children with disabilities, adoption, repatriation, inter-jurisdictional arrangements, early childhood development and protection against family violence. The majority of these matters will be provided for in a proposed Blood Tribe Family Preservation Code. The jurisdiction and authority in matters of child welfare has been with the Province and Alberta's laws and practices have not met the needs of the Blood Tribe. The programs and services provided for by the Code will be more appropriate to the culture and needs of the Blood Tribe, and will promote a better future for the Blood Tribe's children. Specifically the Blood Tribe will concentrate more on family preservation and the importance of children to the Blood Tribe. The proposed Code is taking into account and providing for the customs and traditions of the Blood Tribe in relation to these matters. The programs and services standards provided for in the Code will meet or exceed provincial standards.

The Kainai Government Agreements also acknowledge the Blood Tribe's established system of governance that is in accordance with its customs, traditions and tribal system, the principles of which are expressed in Kainayssini. Currently, the Blood Tribe is

required to carry out many of its governance activities under the Indian Act. The Blood Tribe will continue to carry out its governance activities and the Blood Tribe/Kainai Governance Law, which has been developed by the Blood Tribe, will be the governing law for the Blood Tribe. It acknowledges the customs, traditions and tribal system of the Blood Tribe, and its inherent right to govern itself and to continue to protect the interests of Blood Tribe members. It codifies the Blood Tribe's existing protocols and practices while enhancing certain authorities. The Blood Tribe will exercise its jurisdiction and authority in accordance with the Kainai Government Agreements and the Blood Tribe/Kainai Governance Law.

Blood Tribe membership, elections and financial management are recognized as areas of jurisdiction for the Blood Tribe but the substance of the Blood Tribe/Kainai Membership Code, Blood Tribe Election Code and Blood Tribe/Kainai Financial Administration Code will not change as a result of the ratification of the Agreements and the Blood Tribe/Kainai Governance Law.

Along with the Kainai Government Agreements, a Financial Arrangements Agreement was negotiated and the priority was to address and enhance existing levels of funding. The Blood Tribe will continue to remain eligible for any new program funding that may become available in the future.

The Kainai Government Agreements allow for future negotiations in respect to the other matters which would then be set in sub-agreements. The Blood Tribe Council has indicated that it is interested in negotiating in the areas of health and education, therefore there is the possibility that these could be dealt with as future processes. The Blood Tribe has undertaken some preliminary work in these two areas.

Now that negotiations have been concluded the Agreements and the Blood Tribe/Kainai Governance Law must be ratified by Blood Tribe members of voting age. Upon approval by Blood Tribe members, a quorum of Blood Tribe Council shall sign the documents. Canada and Alberta must then approve the Agreements through their own legislative procedures. Once all three parties have approved the documents, the Blood



Tribe will begin to implement the authorities provided for under these documents.

All Blood Tribe eligible voters are entitled to vote in the ratification. To be an eligible voter, a person's name must be on the voters list on the day of the ratification vote. The voters list will be based on the Blood Tribe/Kainai Membership Code and contain the names of those members who are at least 21 years of age on December 14, 2011. Place of residence (on-reserve or off-reserve) has no bearing on who can vote.

Kainai Government Agreement staff is conducting a comprehensive information sharing strategy that includes distributing various communication products and conducting community information sessions and open houses with Blood Tribe eligible voters. This strategy will target eligible voters living on and off reserve and will take place on an ongoing basis prior to the ratification vote.

An information session including all parties will be held on November 2, 2011, to inform Blood Tribe members about the Agreements and the Blood Tribe/Kainai Governance Law. The purpose of this information session (and the entire information strategy), is to enable eligible voters to make an informed decision when voting. The ratification officer will also be available at the information session to answer inquiries about the ratification process.

Information sessions will be held in the near future so that members can find out more about the upcoming referendum. Members can also access the KGA website at www.kainaiagovernment.org or by calling the KGA office at (403) 328-6341 for any questions.

INDIAN RODEO COWBOY'S ASSOCIATION FINALS PROVIDES HUGE ENTERTAINMENT FOR ITS FANS



The INFR trophy saddle and bronze sculpture were awarded to Cam Bruised Head last year.

The Indian Rodeo Cowboy's Association finals rodeo at the Kainai Memorial Agriplex on October 1st and 2nd, 2011, had some of the finest talent under one roof, vying to represent their association at the Indian National Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Following is a list of the winners of each category:

Bareback: Cam Bruised Head; Qualifier, Colten Buffalo.

Ladies Barrels: Traci Vaille, year-end; Lisa Creighton, finals.

Sr. Team Roping: Eugene Creighton, Gus Vaille, year-end; Dennis Ward, Merle Yellow Bird/Eugene Creighton, Terry Tatsey (tie).

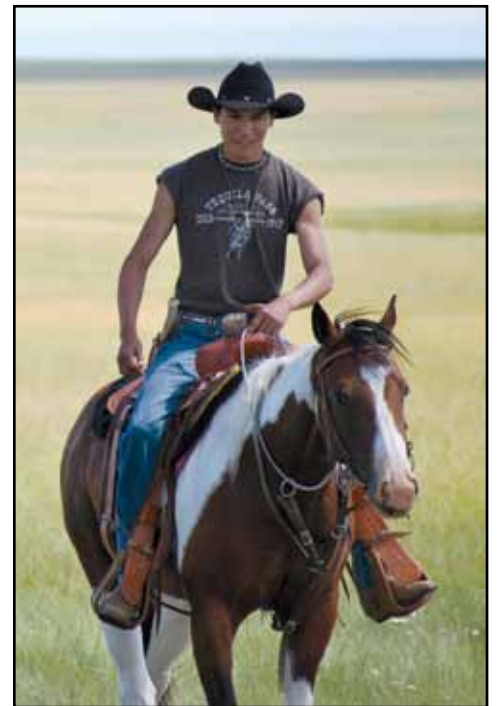
Team Roping: Jackson Louis, year-end, header; Garret Benjamin, finals, heeler; Levi Bearspaw, year-end, heeler.

Saddle Bronc: Byron Bruised Head, finals; Doug Fitzgerald, year-end.

Bull Riding: Travis Maguire, year-end; Jace Young Pine, finals.

Steer Wrestling: Brent Dodging Horse, year-end; Wright Bruised Head, qualifier.

Ladies Breakaway: Cammie Fox, year-end, Aimee Dixon, finals; Tie Down: Boyd Wesley, Bo Wells; Boy's Steer Riding: Lucky David, year-end, Casey Scout, finals; Jr. Barrels: Jayden Standing Alone, year-end & finals; Jr. Breakaway: Bailee Benjamin, year-end, Shanai Many Grey Horses, finals; Sr. Men's Breakaway: Clifford Wells, year-end, Gus Vaille, finals, Hank Shade, finals.



Young Cam Bruised Head will be back at this year's Indian National Finals Rodeo to defend his title. Many Blood cowboys have been multiple winners at the INFR including Kelvin Fox, Lewis Little Bear and Bill T. Head, to name just a few.

The Blood Tribe Chief & Council and people wish the best of luck to all the cowboys and cowgirls who made it to the INFR.

BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION THANK RETIREES WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES INTO WORK FORCE

Within every organization, there are new employees and employees who have performed their duties over the years and have earned their retirement. The Blood Tribe Administration welcomes employees into the workforce, and yet, acknowledges employees who have served the best interests of their people and are ready to enjoy leisure at their own pace.

The following list represents the employees who have retired after years of service. The Blood Tribe Administration wants to thank each of the retirees and wish them the best:

1. **Ervin First Rider**
2. **Martin Curly Rider**
3. **Andrew Twigg**
4. **Marsha Provost**
5. **Genevieve Low Horn**

The following list represents the employees who successfully competed for their employment positions within the Blood Tribe Administration. Included are their job titles and Blood Tribe Administration departments:

1. **Nathan Weasel Head, First Nations Development Fund Clerk, Management**
2. **Gilbert Black Water Jr., Training Officer, Human Resources**
3. **Tasha Heavy Runner, Accounts Receivable Clerk, Land Management**
4. **Jennifer Bull Shields, Day Care Cook, FCSS Day Care Program**
5. **Heather Wolf Child, Day Care Cook, FCSS Day Care Program**
6. **Cameron Big Throat, Co-facilitator, "Another Way" Youth Employment Initiative, Social Development**
7. **Delbert Mills, Lead Facilitator, "Another Way" Youth Employment Initiative, Social Development**
8. **Vivian White Quills, NCBRI Coordinator, Social Development**
9. **Tommy Many Fingers, Heavy Equipment Operator, Public Works**
10. **Leon Young Pine, Heavy Equipment Operator, Public Works**

All information was submitted by the Human Resource department.

BLOOD TRIBE SKATE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE OUR PEOPLE WITH LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES



Councilors Ron Thunder Chief, Sheldon Day Chief, Franklyn White Quills and Rod First Rider and BTA and entity employees involved in donation effort.

Anyone interested in public skating, but who may not have a pair of skates, will now be able to hit the ice in a pair of skates donated to a newly formed program offered by the Blood Tribe. In an effort to assist those individuals who want to skate for the mere en-

joyment and pleasure, they will now be able to have access to a pair of skates and a helmet when they want to join others on the ice. Ron Thunder Chief, Blood councilor, who was part of the drive to fundraise toward the purchase of the skating equipment, along

with the BTAP Board and management, said everyone should have the opportunity to participate in any number of activities. "We wanted something where families, adults, the youth, can become more involved in positive interests," he said. "There is public skating after school hours where they could go out and skate and have fun. Anyone can come to the skating rink and use these skates, free of charge."

The Blood Tribe Agricultural Project Board and management each donated funds toward the purchase of the equipment. Twenty-five pairs of skates and the same number of helmets were purchased for use by people interested in public skating. Once the details are worked out, such as a sign-out sheet for the skates and helmet, the public will be notified of public skating hours and access to the equipment. The skates will fit a variety of sizes and the use of helmets will be required for safety reasons.

Thunder Chief, on behalf of the Blood Tribe Economic Development Pillar, thanks everyone who contributed toward this healthy and worthwhile endeavor.

CHILD WITH DISABILITY SENDS BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED FUND-RAISING EFFORT

Justice Day Chief and family would like to send big heartfelt thanks, along with the deepest sincere gratitude, to the Blood Tribe Recreation Department and staff for hosting a fundraiser Bingo to purchase a specialized Stroller and Bike. Through their determination, hard work and volunteering, they hosted the Bingo on July 5, 2011. With the proceeds of the Bingo, they were able to purchase a Convaid Scout 12 Stroller.

The Convaid Scout tilt wheelchair is designed with built-in lumbar support and a 20 degree fixed tilt at shoulder level to encourage stability and good posture. Thanks to the disc brakes, the same type used on high-end mountain bikes, and the knobby wheels, Justice will enjoy superior performance on a variety of surfaces. A number of positioning options help Justice achieve the ideal position, and most options need not be removed when folding the chair. Its patented design provides maximum comfort and durability. The stroller affords Justice the mobility to become more involved in a number of activities and functions and is very happy for the added freedom she has.



Young Justice Day Chief is the happy recipient of specialized stroller.

The Day Chief family would like to also express a big Thank You to all the businesses who donated to make the Bingo a huge success:

Canada Brokerlink Insurance

Eagle Spirit

CSL Ford

Albert's Gas Bar

Pro Shop Cardston

Blood Tribe Management

IGA Cardston

Marcella Knife

Patricia Bruised Head

Diane Big Bull

Winston Bruised Head

Amanda Black Water

Tom Little Bear

Nathan Black Water

Leanne Eagle Bear

Zee Medical

OK Tire Lethbridge

Doug's Sports Lethbridge

Paramount Pictures

Challenge Industries Calgary

Economy Lumber Fort Macleod

Alberta Hardware

Pincher Creek Agro

Atco Gas

Family Foods Fort Macleod

A big Thank You to all the dedicated "BINGO PLAYERZ," for without your love of playing the game, no fundraisers wouldn't achieve their goal without your help. Also, to the family members who assisted with the fundraiser.

Thank you from Justice Day Chief & family



BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY DISABILITIES GROUP HOSTS BARBEQUE FEAST AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Blood elders Wayne Plume and Harrison Wolf Child lead singers during afternoon break.

There was an excellent turnout at a barbeque and get-together hosted by the Blood Tribe group representing persons with disabilities on the Blood reserve. Clement 'Shorty' Soop and Melvin Wells, along with Liz Scout, Blood Tribe fundraising officer, have been working to strengthen the Blackfoot Confederacy Disability Society with the involvement of the Pikanni and Siksika First Nations. The barbeque and activity day brought together members from Siksika who enjoyed an informal day of dancing and entertainment.

Ivan Singer, emcee of the day's activities, who has been involved with disability issues for the past twenty-five years, called upon elder John Chief Moon for the opening prayers and then introduced Harley Sitting Eagle, vice-president of the Blackfoot Confederacy handicap & disabled society, who welcomed the opportunity to greet everyone to the gathering. "Welcome everyone to our first annual barbeque and membership drive," he said. "We're trying to get the Blackfoot Confederacy Disability Society going and we are really glad you all showed up here to support us." Sitting Eagle is heavily involved with the disabled in Siksika and has been working closely with both Shorty Soop and Melvin Wells in trying to firmly establish a cohesive group in meeting the needs of person with disabilities on a much larger scale.

With limited access to services on many First Nations reserves, the Blackfoot Confederacy Disability Society is seeking a foundation from which to advocate for a service delivery system in meeting the specialized needs of our people. On-going meetings between the Blood Tribe Disability group and the Siksika Disabled Society are bringing more people together in seeking an organized structure to begin the process of organizing into a cohesive unit.

Kathleen McHugh, a spokesperson and advocate who has taken her move to establish recognition for persons with disabilities on local, national and international levels, encouraged the people who are working hard to strengthen the Blackfoot

disabilities society to keep their goals strong "I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this activity," she said. "We will continue to work with the people of the Blood Tribe to join together in organizing the Blackfoot Disabilities Society. There are many people who need our support."

A barbeque and entertainment from TW Blues Band, local rap artists featuring Carl Brave Rock and Jessie Black Water and traditional dancers from Powwow Inc., a dance troupe organized by Phillip Shouting, kept the many people entertained during the days event.

The Blackfoot Disabilities Society encourage people to participate in their meetings and fully support the activities in Siksika in beginning the process of forming a society which will offer supports for persons with disabilities.



Kathleen McHugh, Siksika disability advocate, joins in a round dance with Siksika participant.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

SEPTEMBER - BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

It's the time of year, in which children and youth are looking forward to the new school year (or not) after a two month break. The 30 km School Zones are in effect, so students and drivers need to be alert and cautious.

To our drivers, students, parents and teachers - by working together, we can improve traffic safety.

When you're approaching a school bus, remember these tips:

- Alternating flashing amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop. Do the same.
- When approaching a school bus with red lights flashing on an undivided highway - you must stop! The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights flashing is \$402 and six demerit points.
- Always watch for children crossing roads.

Prepare to slow down and stop.

In preparation for the new school year, the Blood Reserve School Bus Co-op and Kainai Board of Education, in partnership with Alberta Transportation's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch (CVEB) had Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Inspections conducted on their buses September 13 & 14, 2011 at the Kainai Skating Rink's



The annual safety inspection ensures safety of children.

parking lot.

Tammy White Quills-Knife, Regional Traffic Safety Consultant for Treaty 7, who coordinated the event was pleased at the turnout. "This partnership has been very successful for the past two years and will now be an annual event," she stated. "The purpose of the CVSA inspections is to ensure the buses are mechanical maintained and proper driver qualifications. School bus Safety is a vital component as it is the first point of contact under the education system, transporting of precious cargos--our children and grandchildren."

A total of 55 buses were inspected by CVEB Teams from Lethbridge and Coutts, and included Brake Performance Testing. Staff from the Bus Co-op, Garry Fox, Senior Bus Supervisor, Clark Tail Feathers, Head Mechanic and Marvin Tail Feathers, Safety Officer, were there to ensure the arrival and departure of buses went smoothly. The event attracted local media and Global TV attention, which according to White Quills-Knife, was good public relations for the bussing operators.

BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION AND ENTITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT CHEQUE TO HELP STOCK THE KAINAI FOODBANK



Members of the Economic Development Pillar and BTA and entity employees present cheque to Tia Fox, foodbank manager.

A cheque in the amount of \$1851.20 was donated to the Kainai Foodbank by employees of the Blood Tribe Administration and entities from a cash bingo on September 20,

2011, at the old Saipoyi school. The bingo was part of the Economic Development Pillar Open House activities. The funds raised were dedicated to help stock the shelves at



the foodbank. Blood Tribe Administration and entity employees, Norma Wolf Child, economic development, Cloanne Wells, Lands, Delores Big Swallow, Lands, and Sharon Mistaken Chief, Kainaiwa

Resources Inc., presented the cheque to Tia Fox, Kainai Foodbank manager, in the Chief & Council chambers on Tuesday, October 4, 2011.

Blood Tribe Economic Development Pillar committee members Chief Charles Weasel Head, Ron Thunder Chief, Pillar chair, Franklyn White Quills and Sheldon Day Chief were also on hand to present the cheque to a very worthy cause. Pillar member Rod First Rider extended his warm wishes to the Kainai Foodbank. The Pillar committee members acknowledged and thanked all the people who came out in support of the fundraising bingo.

Councillor Sheldon Day Chief Update

September 21, 2011



O'ki niiksookowa,

Given the current controversy and publicity around the oil and gas wells being drilled on our Reserve and as a member of your chief and council, I felt that it was time you the people knew the background and understand the facts of our tribe's current oil and gas activities:

2004-08:

- Chief and council members - Chief, Charles Weasel Head, Councillors: Dolores Day Chief, Nina Buckskin, Harley Frank, Alex Mickey Good Striker, Lambert Fox, Marcel Weasel Head, Kirby Many Fingers, Randy Bottle, Shorty (Clement) Soop, Oliver Shouting, Rod First Rider, Les Healy
- Economic Development Committee - Chairperson Harley Frank, Rod First Rider, Mickey Good Striker, Delores Day Chief
- Chief and Council approved the drilling of 82 oil wells (7 leases and 2 permits), for a total of 14 000 acres through the recommendation of the above mentioned Economic Development Committee
- The majority of the 82 wells were drilled on existing leases, some dating back to the early 1980's
- All existing producing oil wells on Blood Tribe lands are all approximately 800 to 1000 metres deep
- All belonging to the Bonavista Oil Company
- ALL EXISTING PRODUCING OIL AND GAS WELLS ON BLOOD TRIBE LANDS WERE FRACKED, a process not new in the

oil and gas industry

- Blood Tribe membership were NEVER consulted and were NOT made aware of the new 82 oil wells that were drilled and again fracked
- The irony of all the protesting of the new oil drilling activity, is being spearheaded by the very people who were involved in approving the drilling and fracking of the earlier oil and gas wells that date back to the early 1980's and the 2004 – 2008 82 oil wells, are now protesting the Murphy and Bowood "OIL LEASES," which are, in some cases, entirely different. For example:
 - Murphy and Bowood leases are for "OIL EXPLORATION ONLY, "NOT GAS".
 - All existing oil producing wells, from the early 1980's to 2008, were all fracked and are "ONLY 800 to 1000 METERS DEEP".
 - Murphy and Bowood leases and wells being drilled, are and will be triple the depth of all existing oil and gas producing wells. Murphy and Bowood wells to be drilled will be 3000 METERS DEEP". The same distance from Highway #2, coming from Stand-off, to the Old Agency turn off.

2010:

- Current chief and council have approved two new oil companies (Bowood and Murphy), as mentioned above, to explore for oil only, not for gas. Again, The Bowood and Murphy wells are and will be all over 3000 metres deep
- Careful environmental assessments showed the depths of these wells reduces negative

environmental impacts

- Finally, the same kind of drilling is being done in communities surrounding our reserve. Example: Del Bonita July, 2008:
- Kainaiwa Resources Incorporated (KRI) Manager reported oil theft to the KRI Board of Directors that includes Economic Development Committee, see above, and subsequently to BT Police. Apparently, one barrel of oil was stolen from an oil storage container (a cylinder) that was highly pressurized by gravity and required a special tool, a tool that only people in the oil hauling business have to open the spout. The incident was viewed as vandalism because no follow up was done, and the issue was dropped
- In 2009, the current KRI board learned about the theft and went to BT Police, who apparently could not find the file. Now, because of the possibility of the Statute of Limitations, too much time has passed, the case may be closed

NOTE:

As a member of the Kainiawa Resources Inc. Board of Directors, but firstly, a member of the Blood Tribe, I am concerned the information being given by the protesters to our community is misleading and based on GAS exploration and is not relevant to the Murphy and Bowood "OIL LEASES." In NO way do the Murphy and Bowood leases give them the right to explore for gas of any sort on our reserve. In addition, these two oil companies CANNOT use our fresh water resource and must truck contaminated material used in the fracking to registered stations off the reserve. Finally, the statement being made that is giving our reserve the negative status of destroying southern Alberta environment is not fair to the members of the Blood Tribe. As I have mentioned above, the same kind of oil exploration and drilling process, fracking, is currently being done in communities surrounding the Blood Reserve. If you have any questions about any of the information given in this report or any of the environmental studies, regulations, the processes and/or impacts, we encourage all Blood Tribe members to contact Kainai Resources Inc. @ 403-737-3950.

*Sheldon J. Day Chief
Blood Tribe Council*

RED CROW COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 25 YEARS AND RECOGNIZES MARULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



A grand entry signified the beginning of Red Crow Colleges' 25th anniversary celebrations.

It was an afternoon of sincere acknowledgements as the Red Crow Community College celebrated its 25th anniversary by sharing its longevity with an individual who was very instrumental from its humble beginnings and onward toward an exciting future. Marie Small Face-Marule, RCCC president, was taken by surprise as the Red Crow College staff and board shared in its anniversary festivities by acknowledging the tremendous dedication and commitment Small Face-Marule devoted to promote higher learning. "I want to thank all of you for sharing this afternoon with us," said Small Face-Marule. "I am so deeply touched. It has been my privilege to have been appointed the President of Red Crow College, and to have grown old with Red Crow College, because it has been a fulfillment of my personal dream."

"We've turned that symbol of oppression, and that tremendous harm that had been done to our people through the mission schools, to be our symbol of freedom and self-determination,"

Marie Small Face - Marule

Her career as an administrator was motivated from an observance by the late politician and former president of the National Indian Brotherhood George Manuel in the 1970's on the subject of First Nation student drop-out rates. "We were, at that time, developing Indian control of Indian education, the First National Indian Policy on Education, and we had reviewed the report of the House of Commons Committee on education written in 1971," she recalled. "They made fourteen recommendations and we decided to bring educators from across Canada together to draft our own policy, and that's how the control of Indian education came about. At that time they talked about that 60 per cent of our students dropped out by grade nine, and 90 per cent by grade 12. George and I talked about this and he said I look at those students who drop out as those who have rejected assimilation. We need a school for them that teaches them our lessons, our own history so that they have a place where they can be clear about their identity."

That conversation with Manuel motivated Small Face-Marule to begin the process of establishing a learning institution, especially in a facility (former St. Mary residential school) which carried deep emotional and historical scars. "We've turned that symbol of oppression, and that tremendous harm that had been done to our people through the mis-

sion schools, to be our symbol of freedom and self-determination. I think the whole spirit of that institution has changed to reflect more clearly, our own spirit as Kainai," she said. "I want to thank the many staff of Red Crow College and that's a testament to the commitment our people and our staff have had to their institution. I'm grateful to our colleagues in the United States (A.I.H.E.C.), our Chief & Council. It is so wonderful. We're positive. We don't dwell on the negative. We look at, maybe, that's an obstacle, but let's find our way around it. I'm deeply honored to have worked with the people I have had the opportunity to work with."

A number of guests and dignitaries shared their acknowledgements including Jim Hillier, MP, Lethbridge West, who shared his emotions on the treatment of First Nations people, and who congratulated Small Face-Marule and the Red Crow College staff and Board for 25 years of service to the Blood community. Other dignitaries included Lethbridge Mayor Rajko Dodic, Alice Takacs, constituency assistant for Greg Weadick, member of legislative assembly, Lethbridge West Riding, Dr. Vivian A Young Man, Richard Fox, BTEB superintendent, Dexter Bruised Head, Blood Tribe councilor representing Chief Charles Weasel Head, Andy Black Water and Frank Weasel Head.

The guest speakers at the anniversary feast at the Red Crow College main campus featured Chief Charles Weasel Head, Dr. Vivian Ayoungman, FNAHEC, Morris Many Fingers, KBE, Ruth Bellegarde, Pikanni Board of Education, Andy Black Water, RCCC Board, Roy Weasel Fat, VP Academics, Henry Big Throat, VP Student Services and Marie Small Face-Marule, President, RCCC. A feast and powwow closed off the 25th anniversary celebrations.



Red Crow College President Marie Small Face-Marule.

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