



PIIKANI NATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

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**POW
WOW
PHOTO
DUMP**



SAVE THE DATE:

PIIKANI NATION ANNUAL CELEBRATION & POWWOW

AUGUST 14TH-16TH 2026



From Chief Troy Bossman Knowlton

Oki Piikani,

The days are getting shorter and the leaves are starting to turn. Kids are back at school. Fall is upon us. I enjoy this season, where nature is getting ready for a break while we humans gear up for more work after a summer with some rest.

Unfortunately, this summer was marred by the incident we experienced at the arena. I know we were all saddened that so many people needed treatment after being exposed to carbon monoxide. However, it was heartwarming to see the incredible efforts of first responders not just from Piikani, but from all our surrounding communities. I felt deep gratitude for their incredible efforts and selfless willingness to help. The investigation into what happened at the arena is still ongoing, but results and solutions should be coming soon.

Sincere congratulations to Herman Many Guns who won the recent byelection. One of Piikani's knowledge keepers, Herman has been a councillor before, so we know that we will benefit from his experienced leadership. Welcome back to Council Herman.

While the details are still being negotiated, Piikani's land settlement claim is moving forward. Our team is working hard to ensure Piikani is not shortchanged. While I wish this issue was behind us, the process is a long one involving much discussion, the production of evidence, and procedural delay. Nonetheless, this remains a priority and I am confident of an outcome that will be transformative for our people. I will keep you posted on this.

I spent some time this summer, along with Chiefs from across Canada, speaking out loudly about my concern over Canada's Bill C-5. Bill C-5 would allow the federal government to fast-track some infrastructure and economic development projects like mines and pipelines. My worry is that "fast-track" could mean to proceed without

adequate and legally required consultation on the projects on or near our land. That is not acceptable. The Bill has passed, so we will be watching very closely to see what projects are considered. If the Federal government proceeds on any project without following the required regulatory process, including proper consultation, then we will fight them. Bills like these come and go, but our Treaty Right are forever.

We're working with our partner Hillcore Group on various infrastructure projects now, and initiatives for the future. They are professionals, and our work with them has been of mutual benefit. You will start to see those projects soon.

Our work with the Provincial government on the twinning of Highway 3 is ongoing. Planning studies have been completed, and the province still commits to proceeding with the build.

I hope you have all had a chance to see the new housing being built. While there is more to come, at least 25 units have been approved, with half being near completion. We know that housing is a constant problem – one that your Council and I consider a very top priority. You have our commitment that we will continue to build as fast as we possibly can.

Here is exciting news – we have undertaken a feasibility study on the engineering required to build a bridge across the Old Man River here in the Nation. That bridge would bring out community closer together and transform ease of movement around the Nation. More news to come on timelines and construction details.

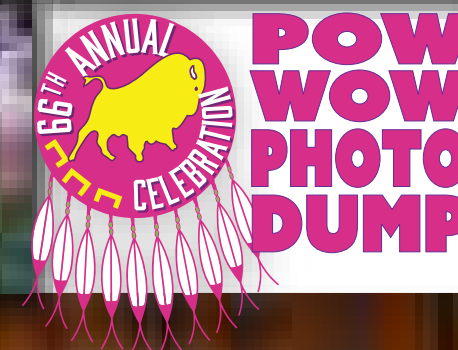
Our \$23 million irrigation project is hitting all it's benchmarks. You will remember that the project is a 3.5 kilometre waterline and right of way with an inlet pond and settling pond pump station. It connects to the CNID headgates and will dramatically improve our irrigation infrastructure. That will mean enhanced agricultural productivity for our Nation. Also, work on the rehabilitation of the CNID headgates is ongoing.

And lastly, a project I am so proud of. We have completed the planting of 300,000 trees and shrubs in the river valley. A planned combination of Cottonwood, Silverberry, Spruce, Choke Cherry and more will fill out that valley and help restore that habitat to something like it once was. Plots of sweetgrass and mint have also been planted. And that's just the start. Our goal is to plant a total of 1 million trees and shrubs in that area. It will be glorious in a few years.

Best wishes to all the students starting a new year. Thankfully, we are now only a year away from the opening of our new school. What a jewel that will be for the community. Work hard in school, kids. The success of our Nation depends on your success.

Happy fall.

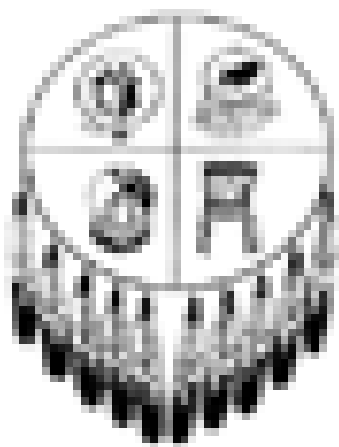
Troy Bossman Knowlton
Piikani Nation Chief











**From the Peigan Board
of Education Society
Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Crowshoe**

Oki! Hello students, parents/guardians, staff, community members, Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Welcome back to another school year! I hope

you had a safe and enjoyable summer. To our returning students, we look forward to having you in our classrooms this Fall. For new families and staff, welcome to Peigan Board of Education Society(PBOES) schools; we are honored to have you with us this school year

As we begin a new school year, PBOES is placing a strong emphasis on establishing positive relationships and creating an environment where trust and collaboration hold great importance. By treasuring the connections we build among students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, we're dedicated to forming a strong support system for everyone.

To actively support this, PBOES is planning community engagement events throughout the school year. During these gatherings, we will be seeking input from students, parents/guardians, staff, community members, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, The Board of Trustees and Board Administration are committed to

ensuring that PBOES is a great place to learn and grow.

Committed to Lifelong Learning, PBOES has the following priorities for the 2025-2026 School Year:

- New school build which encompasses 21st Century learning (skills and core competencies of collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem solving) for elementary and junior/senior high school students. Tentative opening: August 2026 School Tours will be upcoming.
- Develop in elementary, junior, and senior high students a foundational knowledge of Piikani to support pride, self-esteem, self-confidence and overall strong socio-emotional and academic successes. This will be accomplished through place/land/content-based learning opportunities.
- New Book scheduled for September 2025 launch: Piikani: A Nation In Transition (Vol. 2)

- New Piikani Nitsiipowahsin Kindergarten-Gr 12 curriculum which will be fully implemented Fall 2025.
- Prepare Piikani Students to be effective readers, writers, speakers by continuing to implement strategies developed by the Martin Family Initiative (MFI) Model School Literacy Project.
- Negotiations on Regional Education Funding Agreement will continue.
- Promote lifelong learning opportunities for adults through various learning opportunities and development of an accreditation plan for PBOES post-secondary services.
- Support and acknowledge Educational Leadership and Business Service Staff as PBOES grows its organization.

Educational Leadership:

- Ramona Big Head – Assistant Superintendent
- Cort Roszell – Principal, Piikani Outreach Academy

- Leo West – Principal, Piikani Nation Secondary School
 - Charlton Weasel Head – Principal, Napi's Playground Elementary School
- Business Services:**
- Chenoa Smith – Finance Administrator
 - Kara Potts – Director of Business Services
 - Joslin Smith – Post Secondary Coordinator

Dr. Lisa Crowshoe
Peigan Board of Education Society
Superintendent

**From the Peigan Board
of Education Society Vice
Chair Margaret Potts**

On behalf of the Peigan Board of Education Society Board of Trustees, welcome back to a new school year. We hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you to the Piikani Nation Community for entrusting your children

in Piikani Nation Schools.

To the families and staff joining the Peigan Board of Education Society for the first time, we are pleased to welcome you. I hope your first day of school was amazing and to all keep that momentum going throughout the school year and your entire educational journey.

As we embark on a new school year we look forward to a position rewarding experience for our entire organization.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Potts
Peigan Board of Education Society
Vice Chair



From the Piikani Nation Secondary School Principal Leo West

Dear PNSS Students and Families,

Welcome back to a new school year at PNSS! We are excited to see everyone returning and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and school spirit.

As we begin, I want to highlight the importance of attendance. Being present every day not only supports academic success but also strengthens connections with teachers, classmates, and our school community.

We're starting the year with some great events and activities:

- Corn Roast – Our annual corn roast will be held on the first Friday of the school year. It's a wonderful opportunity to gather, reconnect, and celebrate together.
- Fall Athletics – Golf, Cross Country, and Volleyball all begin in the first week. We encourage students to participate, meet new friends, and show PNSS pride.

Here's to a positive and successful 2025–26 school year!

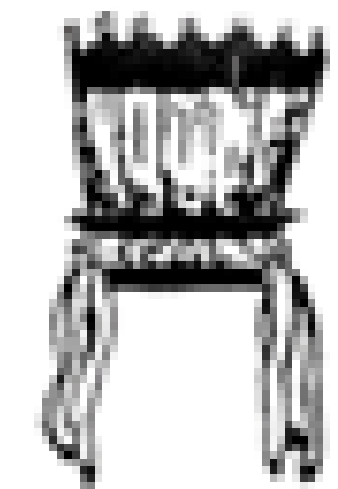
Leo West
Piikani Nation Secondary School Principal



Piikani Outreach Academy Principal Cort Roszell

As we begin our third school year at Piikani Outreach Academy and Adult Education, I am filled with hope and gratitude for how far we've come. When we first opened our doors, we served just six adult learners and two high school students. Today, we are preparing to welcome nearly 40 students—a remarkable sign of the growing belief in what education can unlock. Last year, we proudly celebrated our first two graduates, and this year, we look forward to cheering on at least 8–10 more as they cross the stage with their diplomas. While we continue to fine-tune and grow, our mission remains clear: to provide a safe, supportive, and inspiring space where Piikani learners can reach their goals. The future is bright, and I am excited to see what this year will bring for our students, staff, and community.

Cort Roszell
Piikani Outreach Academy Principal



From the Napi's Playground Elementary School Principal Charlton Weasel Head

Oki, and Welcome Back!

It is with great excitement that I welcome all of our students, families, and staff to the 2025–2026 school year at Napi's Playground Elementary School. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer, filled with family, culture, and community.

As we begin this new school year, we continue our commitment to:

- Student Success – ensuring every child has the tools and support to reach their potential.
- Cultural Pride – weaving the Piikani way of life, language, and traditions into all that we do.
- Resiliency & Well-Being – creating a safe, supportive environment where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Last year, we worked together to build strong foundations in literacy, well being and attendance. This year, we will continue to strengthen those areas while also focusing on belonging and confidence for every student.

To our staff – thank you for your dedication and passion, what you do for our children each and everyday, does not go unnoticed. To our parents and guardians – thank you for being our partners in your child's learning journey, through engagement and life long learning. And to our students – you are the heart of our school, as we continue to build trust, empower one another and I can't wait to see all that you will achieve in the upcoming school year.

Let's make 2025–2026 a year filled with learning, growth, and success. Together, we will continue to build a school community rooted in respect, culture, and excellence.

Kiitomaattsiiks – let's help one another to be successful.

Sincerely,

Charlton Weasel Head
*Napi's Playground Elementary School
Principal*



SUPII PO'O MAAKSKSIN – “IN THE SPIRIT OF PLANTING SEEDS”



INNII RESTORATION PROJECT

Lands & Environment

Update on Lands/Environment Projects 2025

We are pleased to share with the Piikani Community the completion of projects identified in our previous newsletters and provide updates on ongoing projects. The Lands/Environment Department continues to strive for projects that affect the lands and protect the environment for future generations.

Innii Restoration Project – Herd of 14 at Pens in Haylease

Chief and Council has allocated 1,500 acres of grassland to the Innii Restoration Project to restore damaged grassland due to overgrazing. The area will be fenced off and monitored by Lands/Environment.

Beaver analogs were created and developed with Cows and Fish to restore water in the haylease area. There are currently five beaver analogs on the Nation, all located on the south haylease.

Empower Change and Make a Lasting Impact

TELUS Environmental Solutions has partnered with the Piikani First Nation to restore the Oldman River watershed, home to one of North America's largest and most pristine riparian cottonwood forests. This

area is currently under threat by climate change, erosion, and industrial development.

“Piikani Nation is proud of our partnership with TELUS Environmental Solutions to restore the natural abundance of our traditional river valley, creating employment, improving sustainability, and protecting this land for our children and future generations.”

– Noreen Plain Eagle
Piikani Lands Manager

Key project impacts include:

1. Cultural preservation: Restore lands for Piikani Nation's traditional practices and heritage.
2. Biodiversity protection: Safeguard endangered species and promote ecosystem health.
3. Climate mitigation and adaptation: Reduce environmental risks and enhance carbon storage.
4. Community engagement and employment: Create employment opportunities for Piikani Nation members with sustainable economic benefits.
5. Learn more at telus.com/restoration.

Voices from Piikani Youth

This project builds on the first Piikani Stories of Resilience initiative in partnership with the Resilience Institute and the Canadian Red Cross.

The stories include youth who were eager to share their perspectives through storytelling and art. Banners will be displayed at the Piikani School, and booklets were produced for families.

Monitoring Change – Inspired by the Piikani Winter Count

This program is part of a larger project called supii poomaaksin (“in the spirit of planting seeds”), a long-term partnership to strengthen Piikani's resilience to climate change.

Through this program, knowledge holders came together to learn about monitoring from both Western science perspectives and the Blackfoot traditional way of recording history, known as the Winter Count.

Two very important parts of Piikani culture – Innii (buffalo) and Sweetgrass – are at the heart of the program. By developing monitoring techniques, Piikani Nation will be better able to make informed decisions about nature-based climate adaptation strategies.

The program also helps Nation members explore how traditional plants might help fight climate change by storing carbon in the soil.



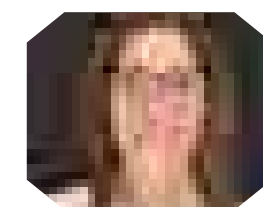
Akoka'tssini Mental Wellness is a sub- department under Aakom-Kiyii Health Services umbrella. Akoka'tssini Mental Wellness (AMW) supports the Piikani community with services and programming directly related to Mental Health and Addiction
403-965-3919

Inii Healing House IHH is a 60-day on-reserve inpatient treatment facility that provides a structured, intensive healing experience for individuals struggling with substance abuse, mental health issues, and/or trauma. IHH allows up to 10 residents to receive support within the community, often integrating culturally relevant and land-based healing practices.
403-965-3063

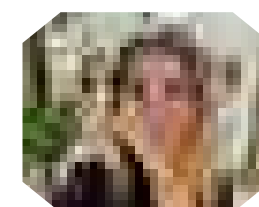
Katoyiss clan is a 24-hour emergency shelter under AMW's portfolio. This program operates under the principles of harm reduction. Participants receive a hot meal, snacks, refreshments, and have access to shower facilities and clean clothing. Staff provide referrals and transportation to recovery-oriented programming.
403-965-3284

CONTACT ANY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS AT AKOKA'TSSINI MENTAL WELLNESS TODAY.

Future initiatives at AMW include developing six medical detox beds and post-treatment living options to support our members on their healing journey



Tina Virjee
MA, Registered Psychologist
Call: 403-965-3919
AMW Office



Anaka Styba
MA, Registered Psychologist
Call: 403-715-5002
Lethbridge Office



Lindi Shade
BA, Clinical BSW, MSW, RSW
Call: 587-220-2605
Lethbridge Office



Shelley Pompana Spear Chief
Clinical MSW, RSW, EMDR
Hypnotherapist, and Somatic
Therapist
Call: 403-593-1807
Lethbridge Office



Prioritizing mental health is a true sign of strength. Connecting with a mental health therapist can foster growth, resilience, and overall well-being. Together, as a community, we can break the stigma and create open, supportive conversations. Reach out, connect, and take the first step toward a healthier mind.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY, ONE SHOT AT A TIME

Measles is a serious illness that can spread quickly, especially in close gatherings. Vaccination is the best way to keep our community safe and healthy.

Why measles vaccination matters in our community:

- **Keeps kids safe:** measles can be very dangerous for little ones.
- **Protects Elders:** vaccines help shield those most at risk.
- **Stops outbreaks:** measles spreads fast in close gatherings.
- **Supports community health:** fewer illnesses means less stress on our clinics.
- **Keeps traditions strong:** powwows, feasts, and gatherings stay safe.
- **Builds a healthier future:** protecting today means stronger generations tomorrow.

Please Call the Health Centre to book your Measles Vaccination Appointment

CARING FOR YOUR CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Your cardiovascular system is made up of your heart, blood, and blood vessels. It is responsible for pumping blood throughout your body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to your cells and carrying away waste.

Factors that can improve cardiovascular health:

- **Stay Active:** Incorporate walking, strength training, or other physical activity several times a week
- **Eat Well:** Focus on fruits, vegetables, and high-fiber foods.
- **Manage Stress:** Practice relaxation and coping techniques to keep stress in check.
- **Regular Check-Ups:** Visit your doctor yearly and monitor your blood pressure.
- **Avoid Commercial Tobacco:** Quitting commercial tobacco improves heart health (traditional tobacco use for cultural purposes is acceptable).

Where do I start?

Call AKHS to sign up for a free membership at the litasoksistawa'siop Fitness Centre. This fall, let's come together as a community to focus on our cardiovascular health!

From Child and Family Services

Calgary Stampede

- Details: 50 Piikani members were brought to the Calgary Stampede to enjoy a day full of fun activities and good food. This included wristbands for rides and discovering all the amazing events presented by the Stampede.
- Status: Done
- Location: Calgary
- Date: July 10, 2025

Okan

- Details: 8 youth participated in Piikani cultural activities for the week, engaging in ceremony and pemmican making.
- Status: Done
- Location: Okotoks
- Date: August 5–8, 2025

Whoop-Up Days

- Details: 30 families were brought to Lethbridge’s Whoop-Up Days. The event provided a day filled with fun and hospitality. Each family received free admission and wristbands. A memorable event fostering family engagement.
- Status: Done
- Location: Lethbridge
- Date: August 19, 2025

Back to School Bash

- Details: Annual Back to School Bash. Backpacks filled with school supplies, free haircuts, and more for Piikani Nation Members. Bouncy castles, games, and carnival-style fun to help students feel ready for the classroom.
- Status: Done
- Location: Piikani Crowlodge Arbour
- Date: August 29, 2025

Movie Night

- Details: Community outdoor movie night at Piikani Rodeo Grounds with a big screen under the stars. Families enjoyed free concession.
- Status: Done
- Location: Piikani Rodeo Ground
- Date: September 8, 2025

Crowlodge Park 2nd Annual Run 2025

- Details: 2k, 5k, 10k run open to all. Focus on fun and fitness, with prizes for top runners. A positive and encouraging community event.
- Status: Done
- Location: Crowlodge Park
- Date: September 10, 2025

Halloween Party

- Details: Annual Halloween Party with themed games, prizes, costume contest, and music for all ages. Celebration continues with a themed Masquerade Party. Everyone is welcome.
- Status: Done
- Location: TBD
- Date: October 25, 2025

From the Otskoipik’saki Daycare Centre Director Bev Potts

Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Floyd Provost, Manager of Piikani Public Works, and COO Corbin Provost for relocating us. Your support allowed us to continue caring for the children at the Conference Centre, where we felt truly supported and cared for.

Facilities Update

We are happy to announce that we are back in our building.

- At this time, our kitchen is not yet at full capacity.
- We are able to provide morning and afternoon snacks, as well as a light lunch if parents forget to pack one.
- Once the kitchen is fully operational, we will notify parents and guardians through Lillio, the software we use to share updates.

Special Thanks

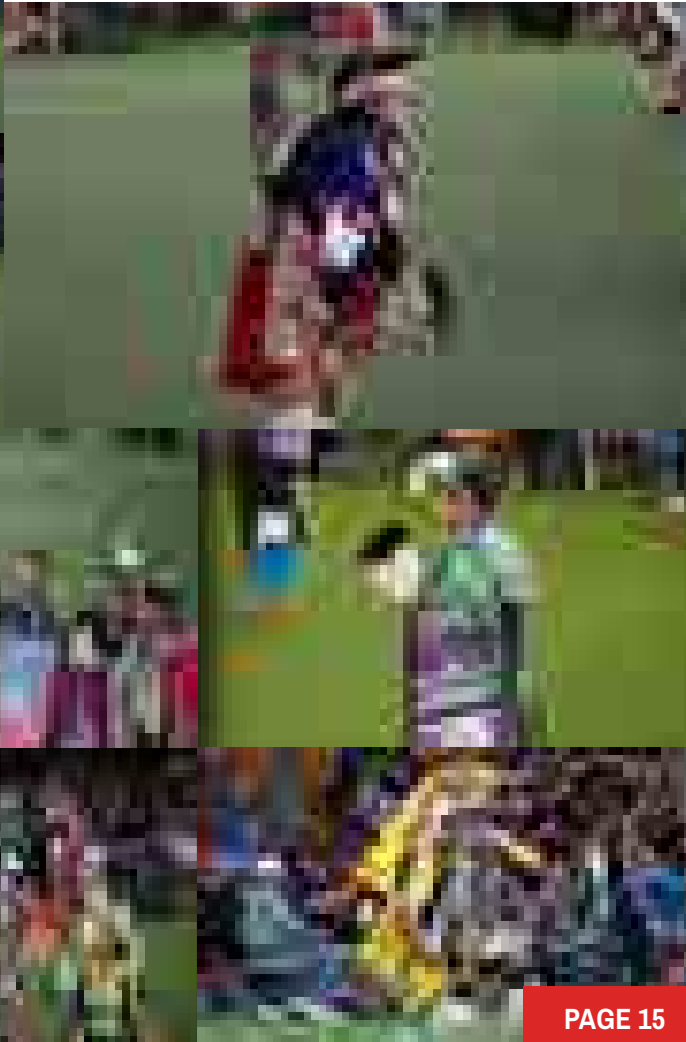
- A big thank you to PBOE for providing safe pick-up and drop-off services for our children to attend school.
- We also want to give a very special thank you to Naomi Windy Boy for her nine years of dedication to our daycare. Naomi has moved on to new endeavors, and we wish her every success. Good luck, Naomi!

Looking Ahead

Great job, everyone! Let’s make this a wonderful start to the 2025/2026 school year.

Cheers,

Bev Potts
Otskoipik’saki Daycare Centre
Director



Public Works

Due to environmental climate change Public Works is currently doing an engineering consultant report on a comprehensive stormwater management and drainage infrastructure of flood basins throughout the Piikani Nation. The stormwater and drainage assessment will focus on the townsite and associated stormwater infrastructure. The assessment will evaluate the condition and capacity drainage infrastructure patterns and identify its ability to protect buildings and other critical infrastructure during heavy rainfall and major runoff events.

The flood mapping assessment will review rural drainage throughout the Nation and complete a flood analysis of seasonal and permanent water bodies; Oldman River, creeks, streams and livestock watering storage dams. The mapping will assess the capacity of rural drainage culverts and roadway ditches to accommodate high stream flows and identified areas at imminent risk.

The Nation has faced challenges in the past related to stormwater runoff and a number of historical Oldman River floods. This is evident based on the completion of several past reports, including the following;

- 1997 Housing Flooding Assessment
- 2004 Groundwater Quality Assessment
- 2005 Townsite Planning and Drainage Study
- 2009 Dam Breach Flood Inundation Study
- 2013 Riverbank and Highway 3 Erosion Control Study
- 2013 Flood Damage Assessment
- 2015 Flood Plain Mapping
- Current Emergency Operations Plan

These past reports and studies will be identified and utilized in the Flood Mapping project scheduled for completion by March 31, 2026. The completed document will be incorporated into the Community Development Plan, facilitated by the Lands Department, also further enhancement of the Emergency Operations Plan.



HIGHWAY 30 AT SCOTTS COULEE



TOWNSITE SPRING RUNOFF



**PEIGAN
CROWLODGE
ELDERS
WEEKLY
MEETINGS**

invitation to elders:

TUESDAYS 10AM
OPEN TO ALL COMMUNITY
ELDERS 55+ YEARS
Mary Anne McDougall Memorial Elder Center

*****lunch provided*****

