



Soksistomsin

Healthy Body

Oki Welcome

Siksika Health Services is guided by the traditional value of “healing each other together”, and provides a wide range of quality health and wellbeing services to all Nation members and surrounding communities.

Our Soksistomsin newsletter is designed to increase community awareness and deepen understanding of health and wellness service programs available on Siksika Nation.



Priorities



Service
Provision



Organizational
Sustainability



Partnerships
& Collaborations



Facilities &
Infrastructure

Board of Directors

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Vision

Quality health and wellness
for Siksikawa.

Mission

To improve and promote Siksika
quality of life through safe,
accountable and efficient
health service delivery based
on the needs of Siksika Nation
members.

Service Provision

Siksika Nation Community Health Plan

Vision: Develop a community driven health plan that identifies and prioritizes health and wellness needs and guides future funding.

Key Updates

- \$200,000 in federal funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) approved (2025-2026).
- Community surveys to include on- and off reserve members, including members in Strathmore and Calgary.
- Elders' engagement to be arranged.

Why This Matters

- Ensures services reflect community voices and needs.
- Supports long term planning and funding sustainability for Siksika members and families.

Cancer Screening and Prevention

Vision: Increase screening for early detection and prevention to reduce cancer incidence and mortality for Siksika members.

Key Updates

- \$997,850 in provincial funding approved (2025-2028).
- Hiring underway for project lead, support staff hired.
- Focus on screening for common cancers and infections linked to cancer.

Why This Matters

- Earlier diagnosis saves lives.
- Promotes wellness and prevention across all ages.

Community Outreach: STBBI

Vision: Promote community wellness through education, testing, and support for individuals affected by Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections (STBBI).

Key Updates

- \$785,652 in federal funding (ISC) approved (2025-2027).
- Mobile outreach vehicle for community visits to provide testing, education and supports.

Why This Matters

- Reduces stigma, promotes opportunity to ask for help in a safe and confidential space.
- Increases access to prevention, education and direct care.
- Strengthens community health and support systems available for these infections.

Palliative End of Life Care

Vision: Provide culturally safe care at end of life and support families through grief.

Key Updates

- Program available through Home Care.
- Grief and Loss Support sessions reach up to 30 participants per session. Support sessions every two weeks.

Why This Matters

- Supports families and respects traditional values and dignity during a time of grief and loss.



Kidney Care and Dialysis

Vision: Provide kidney care on Nation, starting with assisted peritoneal dialysis and planning for Siksika Health, owned and operated, hemodialysis unit.

Key Updates

- Support received from Alberta Kidney Care.
- Assisted peritoneal dialysis planning begins Spring 2026.
- Future hemodialysis unit proposed to be located in Continuing Care Centre.

Why This Matters

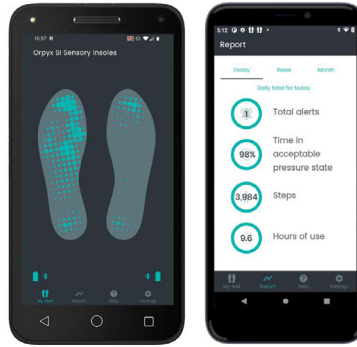
- Reduces need for travel long distances for treatment i.e., Calgary.
- Supports community members to receive life sustaining care at home.

FEET Program – Foot Health for People with Diabetes

Vision: Prevent and reduce the occurrence and recurrence of diabetic foot ulcers for Siksika members with Type 2 Diabetes.

Key Updates

- SHS working with Orpyx Medical Technologies and GMAK Consulting since 2022.
- Monthly gatherings for education.
- Special shoes and insoles can sense pressure in the foot to reduce sores or ulcers.
- A nurse checks in weekly with participants, and reaches out as required to support and answer questions.



Why This Matters

- Diabetes affects many of our Nation members. Approximately 34% of individuals living with diabetes are at risk of developing a diabetic foot ulcer.
- Helps those with diabetes stay healthy, avoid serious foot problems, and keep moving.
- Brings the community together through learning, culture, and support.

Siksika Patient Navigation

Vision: Support Nation members in accessing care and navigating health systems.

Key Updates

- \$431,519 in provincial funding (2025-2028).
- Patient Navigator hired October 2025 – Evangelina Haigh-Baptiste.
- Planning for a Navigation Hub to provide access to resource information on health services.



Eva Haigh-Baptiste, Siksika Patient Navigator

Why This Matters

- Helps members find the care they need more easily with support from trusted Siksika Health staff.
- Improves communication between services and access to health and wellness information.

Blackfoot Hospital Knowledge

Vision: Learn from the history of the Blackfoot Hospital to guide modern health planning.

Key Updates

- Currently gathering historical knowledge, including oral history and stories of lived experience.
- Elders engagement session held October 2025.



Why This Matters

- Respects community memory and healing. The stories of Elders keep the history of Siksika Nation alive and help shape better care for the future.
- Ensures health planning is guided by Siksika history and teachings.



Outdoor Nature Program

Vision: Improve wellness through connection to land, culture, and physical activity.

Key Updates

- \$7,000 in funding from Arc'teryx through to June 2026.
- Planning for an impact report underway.

Why This Matters

- Strengthens land based healing and wellness.

Traditional Wellness The Four Pillars Society

Vision: Learning and growth of Siksikaitsitapi language, culture, history, and healthy living.

Key Updates

- In 2023, the Four Pillars Society, a not-for-profit group, asked for project ideas to help manage and share settlement money from the Government of Canada.
- This money will support a four-year work plan. The work will start in January 2026.

Why This Matters

- Siksika culture, strength, and support help people heal from the harms of colonization and residential schools. This helps make families and the whole community stronger.

Organizational Sustainability

Renewed & Re-imagined Siksika Health Services Funding Agreement

Vision: To have a funding agreement that fully supports the health needs of Siksika Nation members.

Key Updates

- In 2018, Siksika Health Services began talks with the Government of Canada to create a new funding agreement.
- Siksika Nation members are invited to participate in Community Health Planning in the coming weeks, scheduled for completion by March 2026. It will list Siksika's most important health/ wellness needs & priorities.

Why This Matters

- The Siksika population is growing and aging. Health needs are changing, so a new funding agreement is needed.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Cancer Care Alberta (CCA)

Vision: Siksika members experiencing cancer will feel supported and connected regarding their care.

Key Updates

- SHS started working with Cancer Care Alberta in 2022.
- When the new Calgary Cancer Centre was being built, Siksika Health gave advice to help make the space safe, welcoming, and supportive for the community. This included the land acknowledgement, naming of Indigenous spaces, and planning for ceremonies.
- CCA has joined Siksika Health Fairs to meet community members.
- In 2023, SHS helped CCA create an action plan called [Walking Together to Strengthen Indigenous Cancer Care in Alberta – Our North Star to Action](#).
- In October 2024, SHS toured the new Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre before it opened.
- SHS helped plan the opening celebration, which honoured Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai Health Services.
- In November 2025, CCA and SHS met again to talk about how Siksika Nation members experience cancer care, and how cultural teachings and ceremony can be included. They also talked about new ways to work together.

Why This Matters

- Cancer care for Siksika Nation members needs to include culture, history, and spirituality.



Siksika Youth Sport Injury and Concussion Prevention Research

Vision: Siksika youth sports will be safer by using injury-prevention ideas led by the community.

Key Updates

- SHS has worked with the Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre (SIPRC) at the University of Calgary for several years.
- In 2023, SIPRC, led by Dr. Carolyn Emery, and SHS signed a research agreement to study sports and recreation injuries for Siksika high school students.
- The first part of the research is now done, and Dr. Emery's team is preparing a report.
- This was a respectful and successful first research project between SIPRC and SHS.
- This work also connects to a national concussion research project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Siksika Health is a confirmed partner.

Why This Matters

- The research helps us understand how and why youth get injured in sports. It will guide safer sport programs, better care, and strong, community-led prevention plans.

Facilities and Infrastructure



Health Campus Master Plan

Vision: Build a plan to guide the growth of health services and facilities for the next 20 years within the Siksika Health Campus.

Key Updates

- Elders and health staff input completed to help guide the plan.
- Interim report submitted November 2025.
- Final plan expected spring 2026.
- Area boundary coordinates to be confirmed with Siksika Land Management.
- Will guide future infrastructure / building projects and funding requests.
- \$148,500 in grant funding approved through Calgary Foundation for the master plan.

Why This Matters

- Ensures services grow with community needs.
- Supports planning that reflects community values, priorities, and long-term vision.

Continuing Care Centre

Vision: Create a culturally safe, community based continuing care centre for Elders and community members requiring long term care and supportive living.

Key Updates

- 34 spaces planned: 20 Long Term care, 14 Supportive Living through provincial funding.
- To be built next to Siksika Health and Wellness Centre.
- September 2025, Elders met with the design team to share their ideas and guidance.
- Design work is underway and will continue through December 2025
- Construction expected to begin June 2026 and complete late 2027.

Why This Matters

- Care can be received close to home – ensuring Elders remain within their community surrounded by family, language, and culture.



Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR)

Vision: Build a new Head Start Centre to support early learning rooted in Siksika Way of Life.

Key Updates

- Preconstruction services request for proposal (RFP) underway.
- Planning and design expected to advance in 2026.
- Land designation to be confirmed.

Why This Matters

- Strengthens early childhood development providing children a strong beginning while connecting them to culture, language, health, family, and learning.
- Supports families and young children close to home.



Chartered Surgical Facility (CSF)

Vision: Develop Siksika-owned surgical centre to increase provincial capacity with access to procedures and create workforce opportunities for Nation members.

Key Updates

- Feasibility work completed.
- Business plan to be completed.
- Location to be determined.
- Partnership discussions ongoing.
- Response to provincial request for proposal (RFP) for surgical services, to be determined.

Why This Matters

- Supports future health service delivery.
- Builds health service workforce pathways for Nation members.

Siksika Nation Playgrounds

Vision: Siksika Nation playgrounds are a community connection for children and families.

Key Updates

- In 2021 a report was done to represent 13 playgrounds on the Nation.
- In 2025 assessments done on each of the playgrounds to guide future planning.
- Neighbourhood playgrounds in Cluny, Crowfoot NTN, Shouldice, and Southcamp to receive repairs.
- Future planning of playgrounds in Siksika Nation underway.

Why This Matters

- Playgrounds provide active play, early learning for children, and socialization for families and community.

Closing Message

Each of these projects reflects the strength and guidance of Siksika Nation members and Elders. Our voices continue to shape the future of health and wellness for Siksika Nation.

Ongoing updates will be shared through Siksika Health Services' official communications platforms: community gatherings, newsletters, website, social media, etc.

For more information about Siksika Health Services visit siksikahealth.com or contact info@siksikahealth.com

