



December 2018  
Volume 1, Issue 2

# Caregiver's Newsletter

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information to Caregivers of Siksika Children's Services (S.C.S). Specifically, updates provided in this newsletter will focus on the S.C.S. Placement Resources and the services provided to the caregivers.

In this newsletter, you will receive updates on staffing, events, reminders. We also want to acknowledge, and recognize all the work S.C.S. caregivers do to support our Siksika Children.

## REMINDER:

Reimbursement will be issued within a 2-3 week timeframe following receipt of expenditure claim to Strathmore office. Our finance team will do our best to expedite claims, however timeframes cannot be guaranteed.

\*\*\*Please do not expect respite/mileage the week after submitted. Follow up by contacting your Placement Resource Officer.\*\*\*

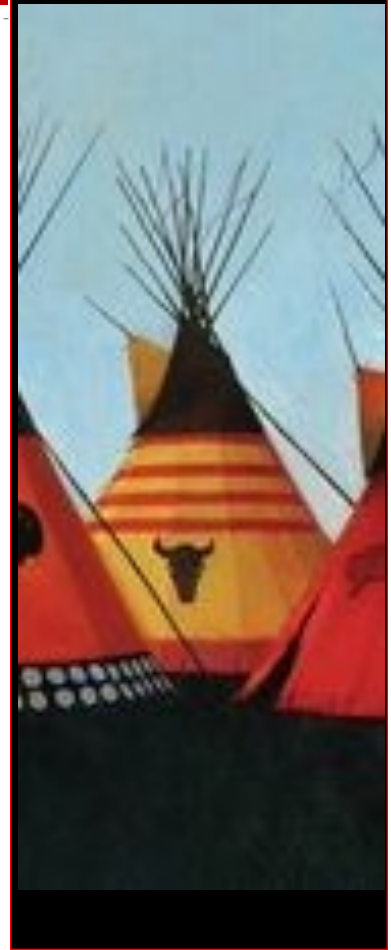
## CAREGIVER MEETING:

January 16 @ Strathmore Office

11:30 am –1:30 pm lunch will be provided

Agenda Items: Caregiver Mentoring, Caregiver Training, Special Event/s Planning, Caregiver Committee and Clothing Exchange

Please RSVP



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ Cannabis
- ◆ Drugs and Alcohol
- ◆ Sleeping Arrangements/ Luggage/AWOL
- ◆ Trudy Yellow Fly Bio



Trudy Yellow Fly  
 Oki Niistoahniikok  
 iiskoitapahkii which means  
 Forceful woman. I am  
 Blackfoot and I come from the  
 Eaglerib and Lowhorn clans  
 of the Siksika. My parents are  
 Sherman Yellowfly and  
 Sandra Blackrabbit. I'm a  
 middle child and I am a  
 mother of two sons. My past  
 work experience consists of  
 frontline work with the Youth  
 Employment Strategies  
 program, the Aboriginal  
 services of YMCA, and  
 teaching at the Old Sun  
 Community college. I came to  
 Siksika Children's services  
 summer of 2017. I enjoy  
 working with our foster  
 families and getting to know  
 our children in care. I am  
 excited to work with our  
 children so that they are  
 connected to the Siksika way  
 of life. My education  
 background includes: a  
 history degree from the  
 University of Calgary, a  
 Master's degree in Education  
 from 2016 and lastly, I am a  
 PhD student at the University  
 of Alberta. I love sharing and  
 teaching our Siksika ways of  
 living to my community; I  
 have been in the teaching/  
 education field for the last  
 10years.

## WINTER SOLSTICE DECEMBER

Traditional storytelling is reserved for the winter months. This was a practical choice given the fact that during the other season's, people were busy growing, gathering, and hunting food. It was in the winter, with the long dark evenings, the snow and wind blowing outside, that telling stories was a way to entertain and teach the children. To have a storyteller tell you a story is like receiving a gift. To be respectful, a gift of tobacco is

offered to the storyteller before the story begins. The storyteller will often take the tobacco outside and place it on the earth as an offering to the spirits of the story.

There are two celebrations of the winter solstice in Siksika.

**December 26** - Iitskinayiiks Pow Wow @ Arbor 6pm

**December 27** - Kiitoki Pow Wow @ Arbor 5pm

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*“Creating healthy life styles for all Siksika children.”*

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## PLACEMENT RESOURCES STAFF UPDATES

Anita Eagle Bear started as a Placement Resources Officer in October.

Trudy Yellowfly (Cultural Coordinator) returned November 19th.

Carol Winnipeg will return in the New Year.

## RECAP AS OF 2018

10 - CAREGIVER ORIENTATION TRAINING	3 - EVENTS
13 - CULTURAL TRAINING	18 - CORE TRAINING
6 - FIRST AID TRAINING	6 - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING
4 - CONFERENCES	4 - QUARTERLY INFO SESSIONS

## AFTER HOURS PHONE NUMBERS

- ◆ Siksika Homes: After Hours Contact: 1-800-217-4402
- ◆ Calgary Homes: Southern Alberta Crisis Intervention: 403-297-2995

Special Thank You!!!

**Siksika Children Services Staff for the great work at the Christmas Party**



## Social Media

Currently there is no set policy on the use of social media, other than caregivers may not post identifying information about children who are in care on sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. These sites are not secure, so as a caregiver, you **must** protect the child's identity. This is an issue you must discuss with the child's caseworker and your Placement Resources Officer. As to allowing children to use social media outlets, this is something that needs to be discussed with the child's caseworker. All safety issues need to be discussed – where this will occur, how it will occur and how will you monitor it.

## Official Oath

"I will not without due authorization disclose or make known any matter of anything which comes to my knowledge by reason of a caregiver in the services of the Siksika Children Services."

## Resource Number for Youth

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

What happens when you call?

First, you'll hear a message that goes, "Hi! Welcome to Kids Help Phone." You will then be asked to choose for service in either English or French. Once you get through, a counsellor will ask how they can help you. Don't sweat it if you don't know what to say. The counsellor will ask you a couple of questions to get the conversation going.

### Sleeping Arrangements

This section deals with where and how children sleep. Each child needs to have their own bed and adequate space, and the ability to be able to get out of their room, i.e. no external door locks. Children's rooms also need to have a legal size window. All beds and cribs must meet Canadian Safety standards. (i.e. NO air mattress for children.)

### Luggage

During the Holidays children may have bio family home visits. Please ensure child/ren are using proper luggage (i.e. no garbage bags) SCS will reimburse the purchase.

### AWOL (Absents Without Leave)

Child/Youth's whereabouts is unknown: Child/Youth is absent without authorization from a placement; this includes failing to return to a placement within a time judged to be reasonable given the youth's behavioral patterns, age & developmental level.

Provide IMMEDIATE notification to:

1. Caseworker (CW)
2. Notification to Police Services - record and obtain file number
3. Placement Resources Officer
4. Complete critical incident report and send to CW and PRO

Where a child is AWOL, caregivers receive the basic maintenance rate and skill fee for a maximum of five days.

## Cannabis

As a caregiver, you play a vital role in keeping the child(ren) in your care safe and in reducing the potential for harm. With the legalization of cannabis, as a caregiver, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act (CYFEA), you are required to provide a safe environment for the children in your care.

As with alcohol use, should you choose to use cannabis, it is your responsibility to be safe and consider the impact on the children in your care. This includes recognizing circumstances where alcohol or drug use are an emotional trigger for a child in your home.

## Drugs and Alcohol

Emotional, physical or sexual abuse places a child or youth at increased risk. Homes where there are lots of people coming and going increase the risk of sexual abuse for children and youth. Witnessing the use of drugs and alcohol abuse is also considered emotional abuse.

Below is a picture of the November 30th Christmas Party

Location: Strathmore Civic Centre

Thanks for joining us!



\*\*\*Please note the picture does not identify adults or children.\*\*\*

## REMINDER:

Caregivers **must** give 30 day documented notice to the Placement Resource Officer for any in **home removals**. This is to support child/ren with transitioning and to provide supports to the caregiver.

Caregivers who have less interactions with their Placement Resource Officer tend to experience **placement breakdowns**. Please stay in contact with your P.R.O. so we can provide you with the supports you need for our Siksika children.

Caregivers must give notification to the Caseworker and Placement Resource Officer if traveling outside of the province or country one month prior to travel as approval by Director must be documented via travel letter.

Siksika Children's Services  
755C Lakeside Blvd Strathmore

