

## PIIKANISSINI

Piikanissini, the way of life of the Piikani, sets out the inherent values and principles of the Akaa Piikani, the ancient Piikani people.

The Akaa Piikani were a member of the Siksikatsiitapiwa, the Blackfoot People, comprised of Kainaiwa, Siksikawa, and Piikaniwa; the Siksikatsiitapiwa marked their Blackfoot territory since time immemorial by significant Blackfoot landmarks, in the north by the North Saskatchewan River, on the east beyond the Great Sand Hills, on the south by the Yellowstone River, on the west by the Continental Divide; the said territory given to the Siksikatsiitapiwa by Istipatahyopi, the Source of Life, to coexist with all his creation; the Siksikatsiitapiwa integrated with the said territory through stories, songs and ceremonies; and as a people, collaborated to maintain a distinct language, spirituality and culture, as well as familial, economic, social and governmental relationships.

The Piikani were originally located in the Siksikatsiitapiwa territory in one geographic area, nevertheless, since the imposition of the international boundary, the Piikani have been geographically divided into two groups. The Aapatohsipiikani (North Piikani), located in Canada, and the Amsskapipiikani (South Piikani), located in the United States.

The Aapatohsipiikani, also referred to as the Piikani for the purposes of this document, wish to maintain their unique language, spirituality and culture as a people, while sustaining their family and social relationships, and traditional governmental systems.

The Aapatohsipiikani further strive to enhance their lives as a people by advancing the political interests of the Piikani, which includes protecting the treaty and aboriginal rights of the people, and promoting education programs and economic interests that benefit the people. The Piikani, in their pursuit to complete such endeavours, will further strive to ensure that the values, principles and integrity of the Piikani is preserved in the process.

The Aapatohsiipikani or Piikani, in respect of the foregoing, make the following declaration:

**WHEREAS** the Piikani, descendants of the Akaa Piikani, are a member of the Siksikatsiitapiwa;

**AND WHEREAS** the Piikani, originally utilized specific areas within the territory of the Siksikatsiitapiwa, namely, those areas marked on the north by the North High River, on the south east by the Little Bow River, on the south by the Kootney River, on the west by the Great Divide;

**AND WHEREAS** the Piikani currently occupy lands on the Peigan Indian Reserve, in particular, those lands identified by Sits Behind the Eagle Tail at Treaty No. 7 as significant areas of the Piikani as marked by Crowlodge Creek, the Old Man River and the Porcupine Tails (Hills);

**AND WHEREAS** Piikani, although faced with many challenges as a people, have continually strived to maintain their language, spirituality and culture distinct to Piikani, including their family and social relationships, and traditional governmental systems, while promoting political interests, economic interests and education programs that will enhance the lives of the Piikani people;

**AND WHEREAS** Piikani, in pursuit of all their endeavours, aspire to always uphold and incorporate the values, principles and integrity of the Piikani;

**AND WHEREAS** Piikani also continue to endeavour to maintain economic, social and governmental relationships with the members of the Siksikatsiitapiwa;

**AND WHEREAS** Piikani, recognizing that First Nation governments are one of the three orders of government within Canada, will strive to maintain a stable relationship with the other orders of government that is based on principles of mutual respect, coexistence, and information sharing, and where applicable, one that is based on principles of collaboration and cooperation.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE PIIKANI NATION, also known as the Peigan Nation, DO HEREBY DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. That the Piikani Nation will ensure the values, principles and integrity of the Piikani are upheld in the governance of the Piikani, including a commitment by the Council of the Piikani Nation, that the members of Council and any officer of the Piikani Nation will uphold the principles expressed in this declaration titled "Piikanissini" for the betterment of the Piikani Nation and all members of the Piikani Nation.
2. That the Piikani Nation will continually strive to maintain the language, spiritually and culture distinct to the Piikani, including the family and social relationships, and traditional governmental systems.
3. That the Piikani Nation will continually strive to enhance the lives of the Piikani by promoting political and economic interests, as well as education programs, that will enhance the lives of the Piikani people.
4. That the Piikani Nation will continue to protect the interests of the Piikani in those lands and territory which are integral to the Piikani people.
5. That the Piikani Nation will continue to exercise jurisdiction within the geographic boundaries of the Peigan Indian Reserve as established by treaty, and any such lands deemed to be Peigan Indian Reserve lands; and to continue to exercise extra-territorial jurisdiction for the purposes of protecting the aboriginal and treaty rights of the Piikani Nation as guaranteed by treaty with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, including any rights inherent to the Piikani Nation.
6. That the Piikani Nation will continue to endeavour to maintain economic, social and governmental relationships with the members of the Siksikatsiitapiwa.
7. That the Piikani Nation affirms that First Nation governments are one of the three orders of government within Canada; and in that respect, the

Piikani will strive to maintain a stable relationship with the other orders of government that is based on principles of mutual respect, coexistence, and information sharing, and where applicable, one that is based on principles of collaboration and cooperation.

The Piikani Nation, or Peigan Nation, as represented by the Council of the Piikani Nation, do hereby declare and ratify this document titled "PIIKANMISSINI" this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2002.

PEIGAN NATION CHIEF AND COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Peter Strikes with a Gun

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Councillor Lionel Crowshoe Crowshoe

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Councillor Brian H. Jackson

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Councillor Terry Yellow Horn

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Councillor Albertine Crowshoe Crowshoe

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Councillor Roberta J. Yellow Horn

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Councillor Corbin Provost

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Councillor Edwin Small Legs

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Councillor Daniel (Woody) Northman

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Councillor Harriet North Peigan

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Councillor Troy W. Knowlton

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Councillor Erwin Bastien

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Councillor Neil Sharp Adze