

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Siksika Board of Education Announces Nutrition Program Funding for All Schools

**Siksika, AB, August 26, 2024** – The Siksika Board of Education is proud to announce a significant initiative aimed at enhancing student well-being and academic success. The Board of Directors has committed to providing funding to support a comprehensive nutrition program across all Siksika Board of Education Schools. This program will ensure that every student has access to nutritious breakfast and lunch meals every day at no cost.

Recognizing the critical importance of nutrition in fostering an optimal learning environment, the Siksika Board of Education has taken this proactive step to address food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits among students. The initiative aligns with the Board's mission to create a supportive and equitable educational environment for all students.

#### Key Highlights of the Nutrition Program:

- **Universal Access:** Every student enrolled in Siksika Board of Education Schools will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch daily.
- **Nutritionally Balanced Meals:** The program will provide meals that meet dietary guidelines and cater to diverse dietary needs, ensuring that students receive balanced and healthy options.
- **Community Support:** Collaboration with local food suppliers and nutrition experts will ensure the sustainability and quality of the program.
- **Holistic Development:** By addressing the nutritional needs of students, the program aims to enhance their physical health, cognitive development, and overall academic performance.

Board Chair, Carlin Black Rabbit, of the Siksika Board of Education stated, "*Our school board is committed to providing the best quality education for our children in Siksika Nation, providing essential needs like a nutrition program will continue to support our mandate of, students first. We recognize the food security needs in our community and our hope is that through this program our students will be successful in their schooling. We also recognize the economic challenges that our people face, and we hope to ease some of the burdens our parents may face as well. Through this program students will be provided breakfast and lunch every day of the school year.*"

The Siksika Board of Education extends its gratitude to all shareholders, including parents, educators, Indigenous Services Canada, and community partners, for their unwavering support in making this initiative a reality. Together, we are building a brighter future for our children and our community.

For more information about the nutrition program, please contact:

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#### About Siksika Board of Education

The Siksika Board of Education is dedicated to providing a high-quality, culturally relevant education that empowers students to achieve their full potential. Through innovative programs and community partnerships, the Board strives to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students.