

SIKSIKAITSIKAPI BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY

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Siksikaitapi Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs and Chairman Resolution to join the Jay Treaty Border Alliance.

RESOLUTION # 01

AT A DULY CONVENED Chiefs and Chairman meeting held on the 27th day of Sept, 2023, the Siksikaitapi Blackfoot Confederacy passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS, the Siksikaitapi Blackfoot Confederacy represent the Blackfoot Confederacy Nations of Kainai-Blood Tribe, Siksika, Peigan-Piikani and Amaskapi Pikuni. The Siksikaitapi Blackfoot Confederacy had been established to bring the four Nations together to deal with common issues; and

WHEREAS, the mission is to collaborate, restore, protect, honor, and enhance the collective culture, language, and self-identity of the Blackfoot People; and to establish political and economic sovereignty over the Blackfoot Territory; and to address issues surrounding the colonial U.S.A. and Canada border that divides the Blackfoot people; and

WHEREAS, in 1794, the United States and Great Britain entered into the *Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation* (Jay Treaty) to resolve outstanding issues between the two countries after the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, Article III of the *Jay Treaty* recognized the right of Native Americans to travel freely across the border by land or water, stating that "*the Indians dwelling on either side of the U.S.-Canadian border, are free to pass and repass into the respective territories and countries of the two parties on the continent of America;*" and

WHEREAS, Canada does not recognize the *Jay Treaty* and does not acknowledge a "right of entry" for the U.S. born Indians, but recently enacted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDRIP Act) (SC 2021, c. 14, June 21, 2021); and

WHEREAS, Article 36 of the UNDRIP Act states that:

- i. Indigenous Peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other people across borders; and,
- ii. States, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, shall take effective measure to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right; and

WHEREAS, Article 20 of the UNDRIP Act states that:

- i. Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities; and

WHEREAS, The Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA) is a coalition of sovereign Tribal Governments established in 2015 to uphold the inherent rights recognized by the *Jay Treaty* and the UNDRIP Act; and

WHEREAS, the JTBA engages with U.S. and Canadian border agencies and governments to build and maintain effective working relationships, enhance cultural awareness of border agents, address concerns of Tribal communities, and advance legislation to improve border crossing and security issues; and

WHEREAS, the JTBA's Articles of Association and By-Laws permit Tribal Governments to join the JTBA Executive Committee for an annual membership free of \$5,000 USD, in which the Siksikaitsitapi Blackfoot Confederacy hereby pledges this amount to join the JTBA Executive Committee and hereby supports the JTBA's efforts to advocate for the inherent rights of the Blackfoot Nations; and

WHEREAS, Executive Members may participate in high-level discussions with the U.S. and Canadian federal government officials, consider and adopt resolutions to be signed by the JTBA Co-Chairs, vote on matters presented before them, and advise the JTBA Co-Chairs; and

WHEREAS, the Siksikaitsitapi Blackfoot Confederacy strongly supports the JTBA's efforts and seeks to join the JTBA's Executive Committee to advocate for our inherent rights and to promote the culture, general welfare, economic activities, and social advancement of the Blackfoot People.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chiefs or Chairman are authorized and directed to execute the resolution and provide payment to the JTBA.



Chief Troy Knowlton, Piikani Nation



Chief Ouray Crowfoot, Siksika Nation



Chief Roy Fox, Blood Tribe



Chairman Scott Kipp, Amskapi Pikuni