

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT MATTERS MOST.

INDIGENOUS SERVICES VIEWBOOK



**BE READY.**



**Lethbridge  
College**  
*Indigenous Services*



Our logo captures the essence of Lethbridge College's Indigenous education programs and support services. Representing a Blackfoot tipi cover, the logo signifies the college's dedication to providing an inclusive learning environment for all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.



Alia Across The Mountain,  
Child and Youth Care, 2018

WELCOME TO

# OHKOTOKI'AAHKKOIIYIINIIMAAAN



**Lethbridge College recognizes that it is located on traditional Blackfoot territory and it is important for our institution to honour the land and culture of the Blackfoot people.** Included in our college's goal is a commitment to *"improve the lives of learners and communities through the recognition and respect for the distinct cultures, languages, histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous people and Indigenous-centred education."*

On Oct. 19, 2017, Lethbridge College was given the Blackfoot name, *Ohkotoki'aahkkoiiyiiniimaan* (Stone Pipe), by Kainai Grandfather, Peter Weasel Moccasin.

The story of *Ohkotoki'aahkkoiiyiiniimaan*:

*Pipes are used in sacred ceremonies of the Blackfoot people to make an offering to lihtsipaatapi'op, the Source of Life. The pipe kept and keeps the Blackfoot people at peace. The offering of a pipe can occur between a person and lihtsipaatapi'op, between two people, or among two groups of people. It is a promise or a peace bond made with the honesty and integrity needed to fulfill the commitment. During the offering of the pipe, everyone involved must uphold and carry out the promises made. It is not certain where or how the first pipe of the Blackfoot people came to be. Oral stories refer to a dream*

*in which direction was given of which materials to use and where to find them. One of the places the stone used in the pipe is found is near the land where Lethbridge College sits, within the coulees and along the river bottoms that flow into the Old Man and Bow rivers.*

*In this coulee, a chunk of the ground would be dug up and then broken up on a nearby hard rock to get to the raw stone material within. Once the raw stone was revealed, it would be shaped to a likened form without any cracks. Next, the stone would be baked and painted with crushed red willow. The pipe stem would be made from ashwood, which is found in Crow territory and is similar to a chokecherry branch. In a process that requires patience, these two raw materials were then shaped into one. The stone starts out rough and becomes refined. The pipe stem must be made straight and unbreakable, for when formed correctly, it represents a straight path – a good path. Once dry, it is unbreakable. These two pieces together form the pipe, which is a connection to lihtsipaatapi'op and a promise that keeps us together.*

Whether you're a recent high school graduate or a mature student looking to re-enter college to upgrade your skills, Lethbridge College offers a "Circle of Services" to assist you in your journey of pursuing a post-secondary education.



Lethbridge College offers a variety of programs that meet the student's expectations and help foster each student's individual learning needs. With the help of the Indigenous Services, I have been able to excel in my studies and also have many positive experiences outside of the class. Taking part in the many services and activities the Indigenous Services staff offer allows you to make a mark with your time at Lethbridge College."

**Constance Day Chief - General Studies, 2013;  
NESA Bachelor of Nursing, Current Student**

# ABOUT LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

**YOUR CAREER BEGINS WITH LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE.**

## **We offer:**

- upgrading, certificates, diplomas, applied degrees and university transfer programs
- the Indigenous Career Pathways Program; a 24-credit, one-year program for Indigenous students
- small class sizes offering personalized instruction
- an on-campus daycare
- tutoring support and learning skills workshops in the Learning Café
- support for learners with disabilities through Accessibility Services
- Kodiak Athletics; teams include basketball, volleyball, soccer, futsal, indoor track and cross-country running
- Student Employment and Professional Development services, resources and assistance with career planning and the job search, including an extensive database of employers and employment opportunities
- a cafeteria and food court operated by our own Culinary Services
- furnished on-campus residences and assistance with off-campus housing



**Beyond the warm welcome, our Indigenous learners also enjoy:**

- cultural, academic and career advising from experienced and dedicated Indigenous professionals
- one-on-one and group career advising sessions
- Indigenous academic advising
- information on programs, admission requirements, registration and study skills
- *Indigenous Services Student Funding and Awards Guide* to assist with process of Indigenous funding, awards, scholarships and bursaries
- Indigenous Calendar of Events, including cultural, educational, social and sporting events
- Niitsitapi Gathering Place with computer work stations available
- access to Elders and Kaahsinnooniks





# PROGRAMS

## INDIGENOUS CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM (GENERAL STUDIES)

- one-year certificate
- 24 credit, 8-month program
- September admission

**Are you still forming a decision in regard to the career path you would like to take, but would like to get started with taking classes that transfer to college and university programs? Would you like to develop yourself and your skills while preparing for further education?** If the one thing you are certain about is it's time for you to pursue your dreams for further education, we can help. Life is a circle of influences and experiences. Lethbridge College's Indigenous Career Pathways Program offers you the chance to grow and expand your circle.

The Indigenous Career Pathways Program is designed to better prepare Indigenous students for full-time studies in their choice of one of the many programs offered at Lethbridge College. In the first semester, students develop their writing, math and information literacy skills as well as foster cultural awareness. In the second semester, students will have the option to explore a number of post-secondary diploma programs. Students who successfully complete the program will be awarded a Lethbridge College certificate and will qualify students for admission into other Lethbridge College programs.

### **Program area courses include:**

Agricultural Sciences, Business Administration, Child and Youth Care, Computer Information Technology, Early Childhood Education, General Studies, Digital Communications and Media, Multimedia Production, Criminal Justice – Policing and Correctional Studies.

It is strongly recommended that students contact the Career and Academic Advisor – Indigenous Focus, as early as January, to prepare for and assist with application information. For any questions regarding the program, contact [indigenous@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:indigenous@lethbridgecollege.ca).

# CIRCLE OF SERVICES

Lethbridge College offers a **“Circle of Services”** to assist our Indigenous learners and help them be successful on their journey of pursuing a post-secondary education.

Recruiter –  
Indigenous  
Focus

Career &  
Academic  
Advising –  
Indigenous  
Focus

Indigenous  
Campus  
Visits

Indigenous  
Services  
Student  
Welcome

Niitsitapi  
Gathering  
Place

Cultural  
Support  
Program

Indigenous  
Calendar of  
Events

Honour  
Night





**"Blackfoot Spaces: A Narrative"**  
Artist Delia Cross Child,  
Lethbridge College Alumna



Oki Niitaniko Kaaiyo Pooka, I am a graduate from Lethbridge College's Criminal Justice Policing Program. I am Blackfoot First Nation from the Blood Tribe. The Indigenous Services at Lethbridge College played a huge role in my success at the college in the amount of support they gave me. Indigenous students will find Indigenous Services become a big part of the post-secondary experience at Lethbridge College. I would like to extend my gratitude for your help."

**Robert Singer, Criminal Justice-Policing 2014**

# OUR INDIGENOUS SERVICES AND EVENTS

## NIITSITAPI GATHERING PLACE (AN1501)

*A Home Away from Home*, the Niitsitapi Gathering Place is a gathering place for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. All are welcome in the the gathering place to meet old and new friends, use the computers, study, and participate in various student activities throughout the year. The Niitsitapi Gathering Place is the home of the Coordinator of Indigenous Services and our Indigenous Cultural Support Program.

## INDIGENOUS HONOUR NIGHT

During convocation celebrations each year, Lethbridge College Indigenous Services hosts Indigenous Honour Night. The event, in conjunction with Lethbridge College Convocation, is a time for graduating students, their families, supporting agencies, college faculty and staff to come together in celebration of the accomplishments of our Indigenous graduates.

## INDIGENOUS WELCOME FOR NEW STUDENTS

Your first days at Lethbridge College are an essential component to your student success. The college's New Student Orientation provides an institutional welcome, as well as program orientations and activities. In conjunction with the new student orientation events, the Indigenous Services Student Welcome will connect you with the Indigenous Services team and the "Circle of Services" available to our students. It is Indigenous Services' goal to ensure that the first days will uncover all the services available for Indigenous students to ensure that Lethbridge College becomes a comfortable environment.

## INDIGENOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Indigenous Services has events planned for both the fall and winter semesters such as Indigenous Celebration Day, Talking Circles, Speaker Series, Taco Tuesdays, Frybread Fridays and other social events to add some fun and stress relief to student life.



Graduating from the General Studies program at Lethbridge College has provided the foundation I need to continue my educational goals. The institution has solid support services for Indigenous students. The Indigenous Lounge offered a place to study, socialize and access information relevant to my success as a student. It also gave me the opportunity to become involved and volunteer for events like FMNI Days and Taco sales."

**Vanessa Eagle Bear, General Studies 2014**



# INDIGENOUS SERVICES TEAM

## MANAGER, INDIGENOUS SERVICES

The Manager of Indigenous Services is responsible for developing and enhancing academic and support services for prospective, new and continuing Indigenous learners under the guidance of the Niitsitapi Indigenization Plan. The Manager of Indigenous Services facilitates open and respectful communication among college departments and divisions to ensure that Indigenous learners' needs are best served. The Manager of Indigenous Services continues to build on existing established relationships, as well as welcomes the opportunities to create new opportunities with school divisions, agencies and community members that will assist in the transfer and support of Indigenous learners into and through the college.

## INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Indigenous Cultural Support program provides students with access to community Elders and Kaahsinnooniks, leaders and role models. Elders and Kaahsinnooniks make regularly scheduled visits to the campus and are also available to meet individually with students. Through this program, students have an opportunity to interact with Elders and benefit from their support, traditional knowledge and guidance.

## RECRUITER, INDIGENOUS FOCUS

The Lethbridge College Recruitment office provides tours and school visits to interested prospective and current students. Our Recruiter, Indigenous Focus will visit your high school, community event, career fair and/or employment agency to help support and encourage Indigenous students to be successful in attaining a post-secondary education. Lethbridge College Indigenous Support Services and Program presentations are available upon request.

## **COORDINATOR, INDIGENOUS SERVICES**

As a first point of contact for Indigenous student supports, centered in the Niitsitapi Gathering Place (AN1501), the Coordinator, Indigenous Services provides general student advising support and assistance to Indigenous learners, works closely with college faculty and staff, and facilitates open and respectful communication between Indigenous learners and college departments and divisions so that Indigenous learners' needs are best served. The Coordinator, Indigenous Services is responsible for providing Indigenous students with referrals to student support services both on and off-campus, as well as enhancing the student experience through cultural support, events and activities.

## **CAREER AND ACADEMIC ADVISOR, INDIGENOUS FOCUS**

The Career and Academic Advisor, Indigenous Focus provides academic and career advising geared towards Indigenous learners. Through facilitated information sessions, the Career and Academic Advisor, Indigenous Focus helps prospective students explore programs, admission requirements, services and Indigenous support offered by Lethbridge College. The Career and Academic Advisor, Indigenous Focus also provides one-on-one academic advising appointments to help current students with accessing service and supports, course registration, funding, and university transfer opportunities.

# COLLEGE SERVICES

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Student Employment and Professional Development can help you plan your career path by preparation of strategies to help in your job search. Student Employment and Professional Development provides an extensive database of employers and employment opportunities, as well as graduate summaries listing skills acquired in each Lethbridge College program. An appointment with Student Employment and Professional Development allows you to access resources and assistance with career planning during your time in college leading up to graduation.

**Contact Student Employment and Professional Development:** 1.800.572.0103 ext. 4905 or 403.320.3202 ext. 4905

## RESIDENCE

Our residences are located amid manicured surroundings with views all the way to the Rocky Mountains. You'll be within walking distance of a host of off-campus services. The home-away-from-home atmosphere creates a great place to meet new, like-minded friends who have also come to Lethbridge College to pursue their dreams. For more information, please see our website at [lethbridgecollege.ca/residence](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/residence).

**Contact Residence Life:** 1.800.572.0103 ext. 7218 or 403.320.7218

## DAYCARE CENTRE

The Hands On Early Learning Centre is licensed for 40 children, aged 19 months to school-age, and operates year round. Full and part-time care is available. Students should apply early as there often is a wait list. Fee rates are available upon request and subsidies are available to qualified parents. If you would like more information about child care at Lethbridge College, please see the website at [lethbridgecollege.ca/daycare](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/daycare).

**Hands on Early Learning Centre manager:** 403.320.3430



# HOW TO APPLY

**Step 1: Submit your application online at [lethbridgecollege.ca/apply](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/apply).**

- An application fee of \$90 is needed to process the application.
- Transcripts: If you attended high school or another post-secondary in Alberta, we can request transcripts on your behalf. Applicants who have completed education outside of Alberta will need to request their transcript be sent to Lethbridge College.
- If any additional information is needed, we will contact you.

**Step 2: Apply for post-secondary funding.** Please see our “Indigenous Student Funding and Awards Guide” for the opportunities available.

**Step 3: Accept and register.** Upon receiving your offer of admission, complete and return the response, including the required deposit. You will be emailed information on how to access your schedule online.

**Step 4: Apply for scholarships and awards.** Please refer to our “Indigenous Student Funding and Awards Guide” for the many scholarship and awards available specifically to Indigenous students.





## CONTACT INDIGENOUS SERVICES

Manager, Indigenous Services: 1.800.572.0103 ext. 3242 or 403.320.3242


Coordinator, Indigenous Services: 1.800.572.0103 or 403.320.3202 ext. 5731

Career and Academic Advisor, Indigenous Focus: 1.800.572.0103 ext. 5359 or 403.320.3202 ext. 5359

Recruiter, Indigenous Focus: 1.800.572.0103 ext. 5344 or 403.320.3202 ext. 5344

Email: [indigenous@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:indigenous@lethbridgecollege.ca)

Web: [lethbridgecollege.ca/Indigenous](http://lethbridgecollege.ca/Indigenous)

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