



THE FIVE NATIONS OF TREATY 7

Each July, Treaty 7 First Nations gather at Elbow River Camp for the Calgary Stampede. Families set up teepees and camp on the grounds for the whole week, educating, teaching and demonstrating their traditional ways for guests. Here are some facts about each nation.

KAINAI

One of three nations in the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Kainai, also called the Blood Tribe, has 12,800 members and occupy approximately 1,424 square kilometres. The Kainai reserve is home to Red Crow Community College, the first tribal college in Canada. The Blood Tribe keep their members and others up to date on local news with the magazine, bloodtribe.org/tsinikssini.

In 2012, the Calgary Stampede centennial year, this sculpture was unveiled at the main entrance to commemorate and celebrate the century-long relationship between the First Nations of Treaty 7 and the Stampede. Designed to look like a half teepee, the semi-circular sculpture depicts historic iconography that represents the Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Nakoda and Tsuut'ina. The sculpture sits on the original Indian Village site, Sun Tree Park.

NAKODA (STONEY)

Nakoda (also known as Stoney) reserve is made up of three nations: Bearspaw Nakoda Nation, Chiniki Nakoda Nation and Wesley Nakoda Nation. *Nakoda* means “people” or “human.” The name “stoney” was placed on them by white settlers who observed how they cooked meals over fire-heated rocks, however, the Nakoda nations are moving away from this name, because it doesn’t properly represent them.

PIIKANI

Piikani is another of the three nations in the Blackfoot Confederacy. Members of the Piikani Nation were the first in Alberta to demand voting rights in provincial elections. They also acquired a large land mass because of adopting the rifle and horse in the 1700s. Today, the nation is 3,600 members strong.

SIKSIKA

Siksika is also part of the Blackfoot Confederacy — its name literally means “Blackfoot” (*sik* (black) and *ika* (foot), with an *s* connector). Historical figures of the Siksika Nation include Chief Crowfoot and Chief Old Sun, who were revered warriors and leaders and also key participants in the signing of Treaty 7. The Siksika reserve is home to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, an interpretive centre about the history and rich culture of the Blackfoot nation.

TSUUT’INA

The Tsuut’ina are noted cattle ranchers, making them natural participants and competitors at the Calgary Stampede. If you still have some rodeoing left in you after Stampede, Tsuut’ina hosts its annual rodeo and powwow the last weekend in July on grounds five kms east of Bragg Creek. 