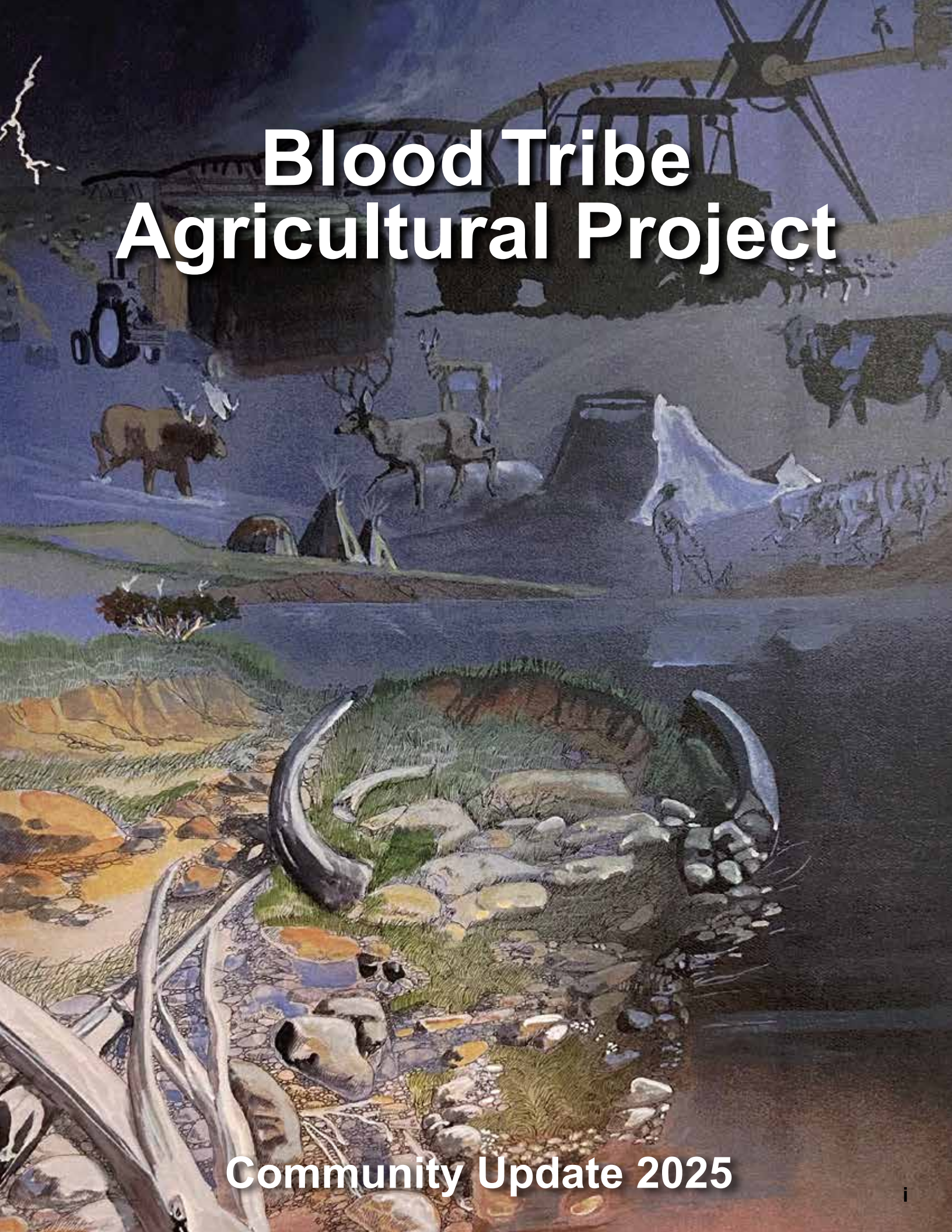




Blood Tribe Agricultural Project

Community Update 2025



MISSION STATEMENT

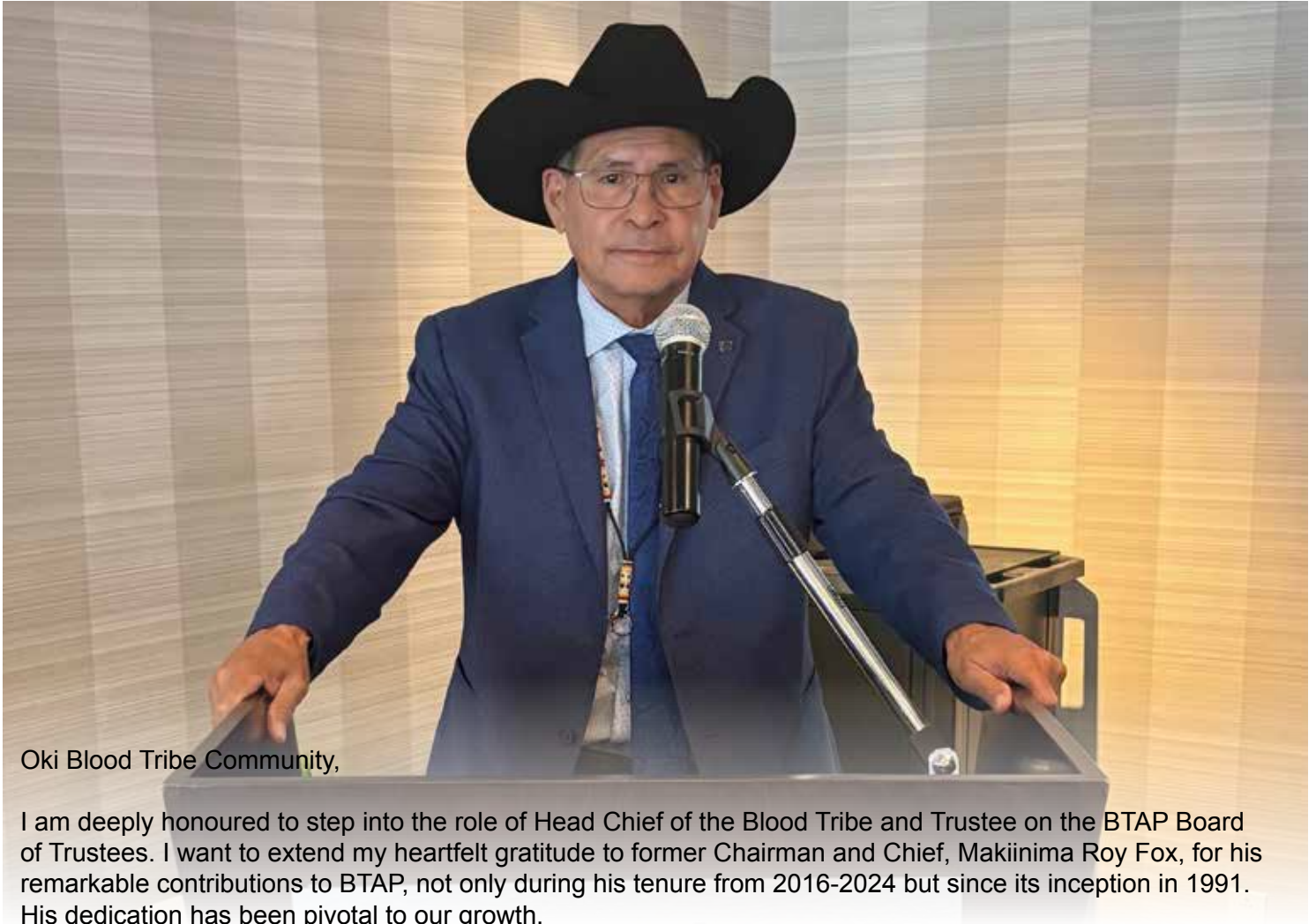
The Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991), operating as a business entity of the Blood Tribe, will operate and maintain the Irrigation System of the Blood Tribe in an efficient and profitable manner, Blood Tribe Agricultural Project will monitor and maintain the conditions of the lands entrusted to BTAP under the 1991 Headlease by securing the appropriate professional scientific expertise in Crop, Soil and Water Management.

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MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF TRAVIS PLAITED HAIR



Oki Blood Tribe Community,

I am deeply honoured to step into the role of Head Chief of the Blood Tribe and Trustee on the BTAP Board of Trustees. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to former Chairman and Chief, Makiinima Roy Fox, for his remarkable contributions to BTAP, not only during his tenure from 2016-2024 but since its inception in 1991. His dedication has been pivotal to our growth.

BTAP, established in 1991, has been a cornerstone of agricultural development on the Blood Reserve. For the past 34 years, we've forged strong alliances, created employment opportunities for Blood Tribe members in the agricultural sector, and built a globally recognized name in the value chain of agricultural business. Your support has been integral to this success, and we thank every Trustee, staff member, farmer, advisor, and business partner who has played a role.

This year, we welcome new Trustees Mike Zubach and Blood Tribe Councillor Piinaakoyim Tailfeathers, who join our current Trustees Hank Shade, Kirby Many Fingers, and Len Ring. Their expertise and dedication will undoubtedly enhance our efforts.

2025 has been another year of progress and achievement. Our irrigation projects continue to thrive, and we remain committed to expanding our operations. Providing world-class timothy hay to global markets, including Asia and the Middle East, is a testament to our excellence and ambition.

On behalf of the Council and the BTAP Board of Trustees, I thank the Blood Tribe community for your unwavering trust and support. Together, we are ensuring a prosperous future for our agricultural endeavors.

Warm regards,

Chief Travis Plaited Hair

BTAP BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025

HANK SHADE
TRUSTEE
CHAIRMAN



PIINAAKOYIM TAILFEATHERS
TRUSTEE



CHIEF TRAVIS PLAITED HAIR
TRUSTEE



MARCEL WEASEL HEAD
TRUSTEE



LEN RING
TRUSTEE



KIRBY MANY FINGERS
TRUSTEE



MIKE ZUBACH
TRUSTEE

GM REPORT LEVI BLACKWATER

Oki, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff we send greetings and best wishes to the membership. In this publication we will be providing updates on the irrigation and forage operations that are under the umbrella of the business trust.

Blood Tribe Agri-Business Trust was established in 2019 to oversee the Tribes water and land resources that were entrusted through the Business trust agreement. These lands include the Headlease lands and expansion lands of Matakia and the West end Biglease. Of the total 38,000 acres there are 143 centre pivots irrigating approximately 24,000 acres. Kainai Forage is a partnership with Indigena, the Tribe holds a 51% share. The partners have aligned their interests



and will have the infrastructure to grow, process, store and market over 100,000 metric tonnes of forage crops to world markets.



GM REPORT - CONT'D

Aohkii (2018) Ltd is the business arm of the Trust, it subleases the croplands to Kainai Forage LP (KFLP) they in turn further sublet to the growers. The sublease to KFLP is for 40 years, this is a partnership agreement with Aohkii and Indigena who holds 49% share and is the managing partner. The focus of this report is to update the operations of Aohkii which is in charge of the irrigation infrastructure, canal/reservoir maintenance, roads and drainage and pivot R&M.



The Trust has also established Aohkii Capital Reserve fund Trust, these dollars are set aside for future replacement of the irrigation infrastructure and to ensure that capital replacement costs are available for future generations. Total contribution to date is approximately \$5 million and the present value is \$6.1 million. These funds cannot be accessed until Tranche 1 in 2035 and then only for authorized payments (pivots, pumps pipelines etc). In 2036 Tranche 2 funds will begin with deposit of 60% of the 2035 contribution.

BENEFITS TO TRIBE

1. Trust is stable profitable and expanding. 2024/25 Net Income is \$2.3 million
2. Rent to the Tribe has increased from \$717,000 in 2017 to \$2,336,210 at 2025. (rent review effective April 1, 2024).
3. Dividend to Chief and Council (representing beneficiaries) in 2025 of \$211,806 (earmarked for youth and other activities). Cumulative total now \$1,741,027.
4. 20 tribal members employed.

AOHKII (2018) LTD

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TRUST

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

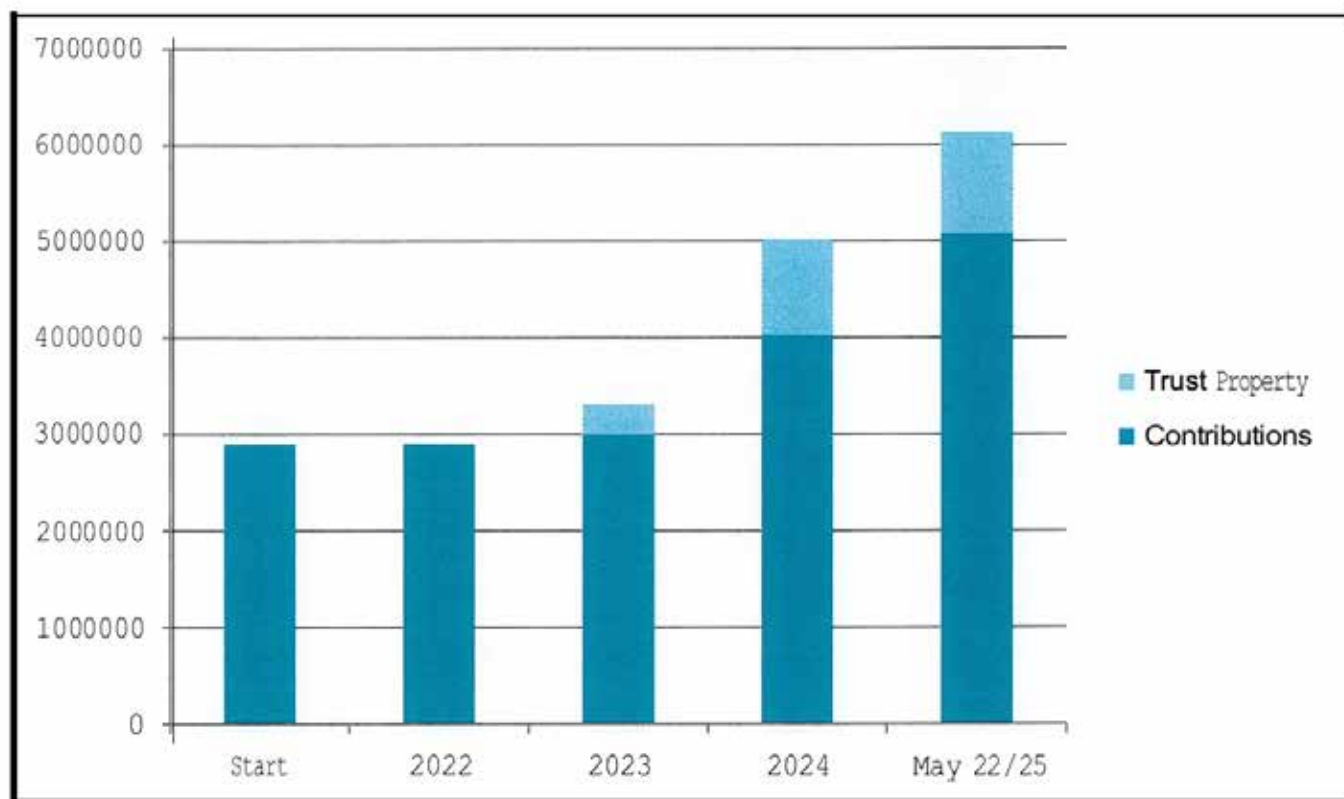
Year #	Date	Amount Received	Contributor
1	September 23, 2022	2,000,000	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
2	September 27, 2022	900,000	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
2	March 1, 2023	100,000	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
2023 Sub Total		3,000,000	
3	January 15, 2024	926,866	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
3	April 17, 2024	100,000	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
2024 Sub Total		4,026,866	
4	January 15, 2025	952,612	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
4	April 8, 2025	100,000	Aohkii (2018) Ltd.
2025 Sub Total		5,079,478	

TRANCHE 1 REPLACEMENT FUNDS:

The **opening** and **closing** values of the Trust were as follows:

	Dec 31/23	Dec 31/24	May 22/25
Cash	\$ 128,892	\$ 162,204	\$ 187,711
Fixed Income	\$ 911,764	\$ 1,414,924	\$ 1,725,647
CAD Equities	\$ 904,219	\$ 1,417,080	\$ 1,817,094
USD Equities	\$ 969,493	\$ 1,446,986	\$ 1,604,789
Global Equities	\$ 397,952	\$ 585,521	\$ 800,275
TOTAL VALUE:	\$ 3,312,320	\$ 5,026,716	\$6,135,517

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TRUST



Factoring in all contributions made to and disbursements made from the Trust, the investments have provided value of \$1,142,130 since inception through May 22, 2025.

DIVIDEND PAID TO BLOOD TRIBE

AOHKII (2018) Ltd Board of Trustees Piinaakoyim Tailfeathers, Mike Zubach, Hank Shade, Kirby Many Fingers, along with BTAP General Manager Levi Black Water, present the annual dividend payment in the amount of \$211,806 for FY 2024/25 to Chief Travis Plaited Hair.

The beneficiaries of the dividend are the Blood Tribe membership. Chief and Council have earmarked the dollars towards the youth and other activities.



MONTANA SHADE-YOUNG PINE FINANCE REPORT



OkiNikso'kowaiksi, nitanikkooNaato'iaisaapiiakii, my English is Montana Shade-Young Pine, and I have been employed with AOHKII (2018) Ltd c/o Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991), for over a year. During this time, I have assumed the role of Acting Office Manager during the absence of our Finance/Office Manager, Bailey Bruised Head, who is currently on parental leave, we eagerly anticipate her return this Fall. This position has presented both challenges and rewards, as well as enable me to utilize my education in Agriculture effectively. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to our management team, staff, and Board of Trustees for their ongoing support, guidance, and shared knowledge.

Throughout my time here at BTAP, I have taken great pride in the strategic plan of AOHKII (2018) Ltd, which is centred on an irrigation mall concept. This plan incorporates primary objectives focused on continuous expansion, operation, and maintenance of the irrigation infrastructure on the BTAP head lease lands. To support these strategic objectives, AOHKII (2018) Ltd subleases the head lease lands to agricultural entities, such as Kainai Forage. Through these subleases, AOHKII adeptly optimizes the resources of BTAP

lands and generate bi-annual rental revenue.

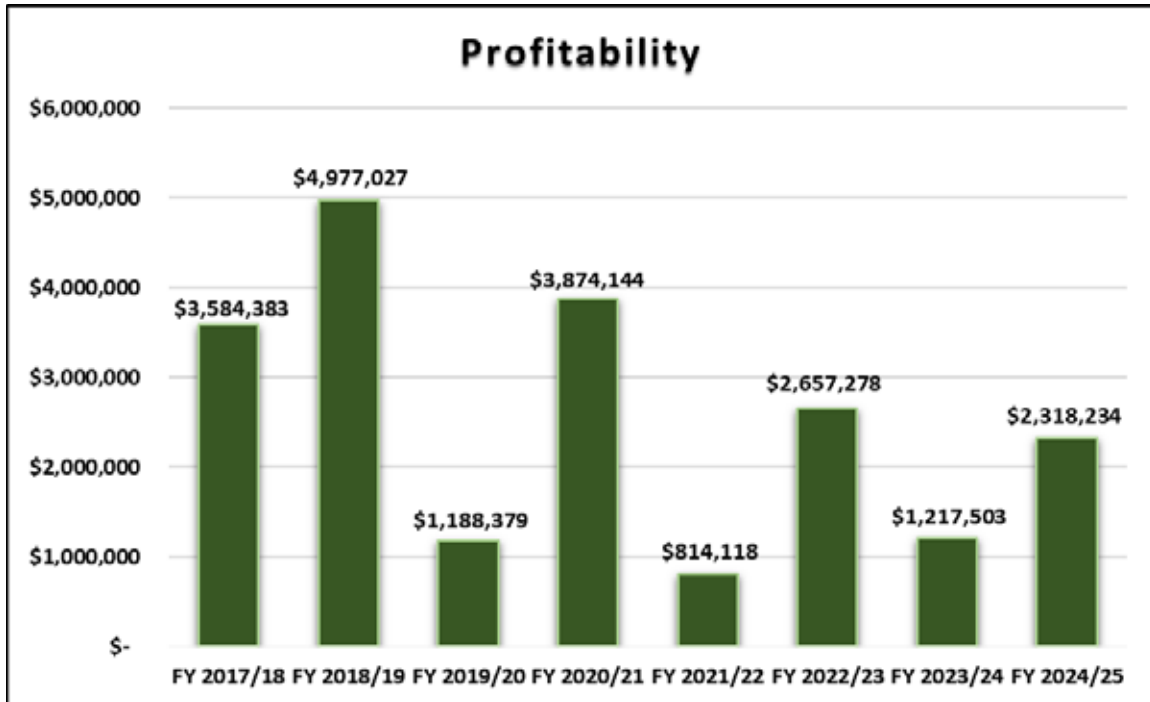
These subleases also set out the responsibilities of AOHKII (2018) Ltd, which include land provision, irrigation services (including pivot maintenance), and water application. Additionally, AOHKII oversees the management of irrigation assets, the Mokowan Ridge canal, and other water resources. By effectively managing these assets and operations, AOHKII ensures sufficient liquidity to sustain day-to-day operations and achieve the objectives set out in the strategic plan.

Financial Highlights:

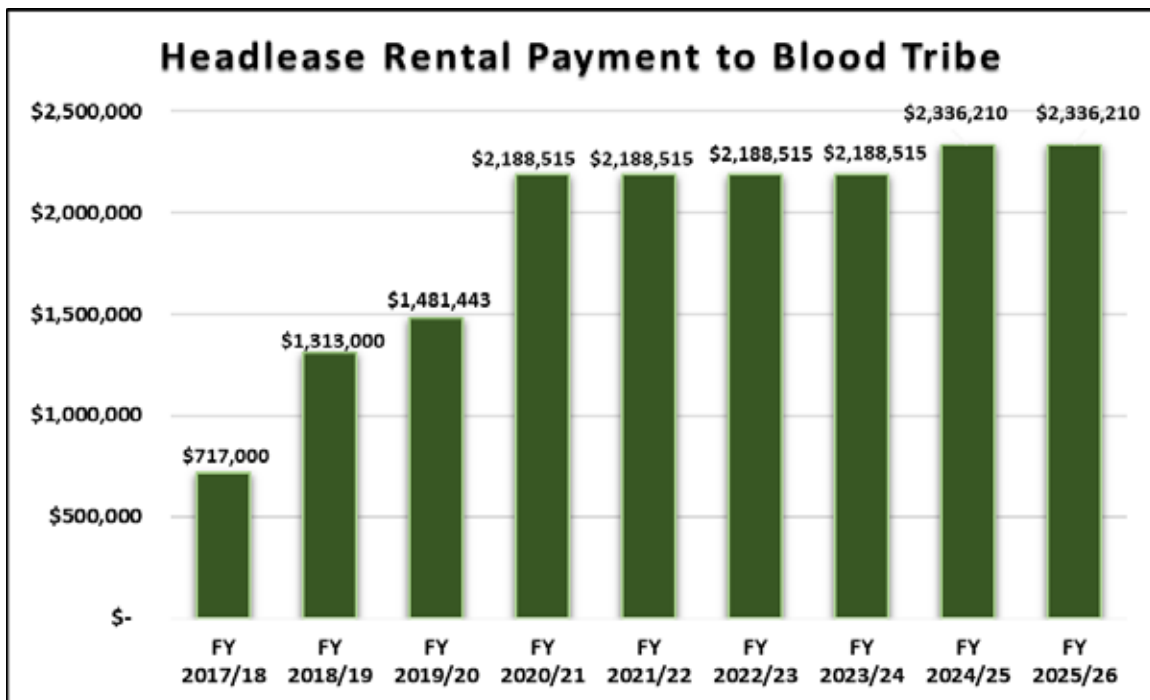
The AOHKII (2018) Ltd has developed a 10-year financial projection plan to aid in the work required for planning and budgeting. Monthly assessments are conducted by the management team to evaluate future income and expenses, with a primary emphasis on the maintenance of irrigation infrastructure and administrative costs. I am very proud to report as a result of these strategic business practices, our managers, who demonstrate passion and a strong work ethic; combined with the unwavering dedication and hard work of all our staff members, AOHKII (2018) Ltd has achieved success that has garnered attention at a world-class level.

In the Fiscal Year 2024/25, AOHKII (2018) Ltd reported a net income of \$2,318,234, with an EBITDA of \$2,851,000, representing the net income based on actual operations. Consequently, AOHKII (2018) Ltd allocated an additional \$100,000 to the Aohkii Capital Reserve Trust, which had a total value of \$6,135,517 as of May 2025. Below, you will find the profitability of BTAP since 2017.

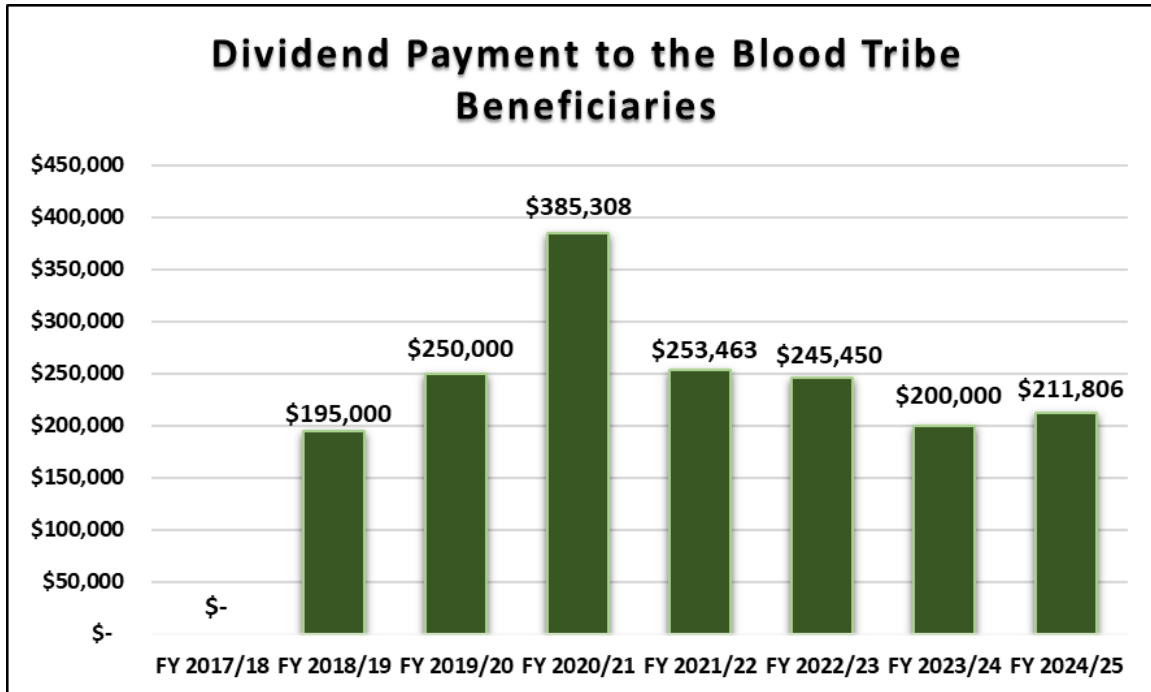
FINANCE REPORT (CONT'D)



What does this mean for the Blood Tribe?



Under the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991) head lease, BTAP is required to make an annual rental payment of \$2,336,210 for the next 5-years, this is following a Fair Market Rent Review completed in FY 23/24. The graph above shows the rental payments made each fiscal year, totaling \$17,654,924 that will be paid to the Blood Tribe as of October 2025.



An obligation of AOHKII (2018) Ltd c/o Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991) is to pay a 10% dividend payment, based on net income to the Blood Tribe Beneficiaries, represented by the Blood Tribe Chief and Council. The dividend for FY 2024/25 was paid in May 2025 in the amount of \$211,806, this brings the total of dividends paid as of this year to \$1,741,027.

As the Acting Office Manager, I am pleased to announce that, as a result of the strategic plan of AOHKII (2018) Ltd c/o Blood Tribe Agricultural Project and the dedication of our staff, a total of \$19,395,951 will have been paid to the Blood Tribe over a period of 9 years. This amount includes the head lease rent and dividend payment since FY 2016/17. For more information, please visit our website btap.ca



O&M REPORT - MARVIN MISTAKEN CHIEF



My name is Marvin Mistaken Chief, and I serve as the Operations and Maintenance Manager here at the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (BTAP). I want to take a moment to share with you some of the important work being done behind the scenes by the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) teamwork that often goes unseen but is vital to the success of this project and our shared future.

Our team is responsible for managing and maintaining a large and complex irrigation system that includes 143 center pivots, over 31 kilometers of canal, and a reservoir capable of holding 6,000 dam³ (cubic decameters) of water. These systems are essential in delivering water where and when it's needed, allowing

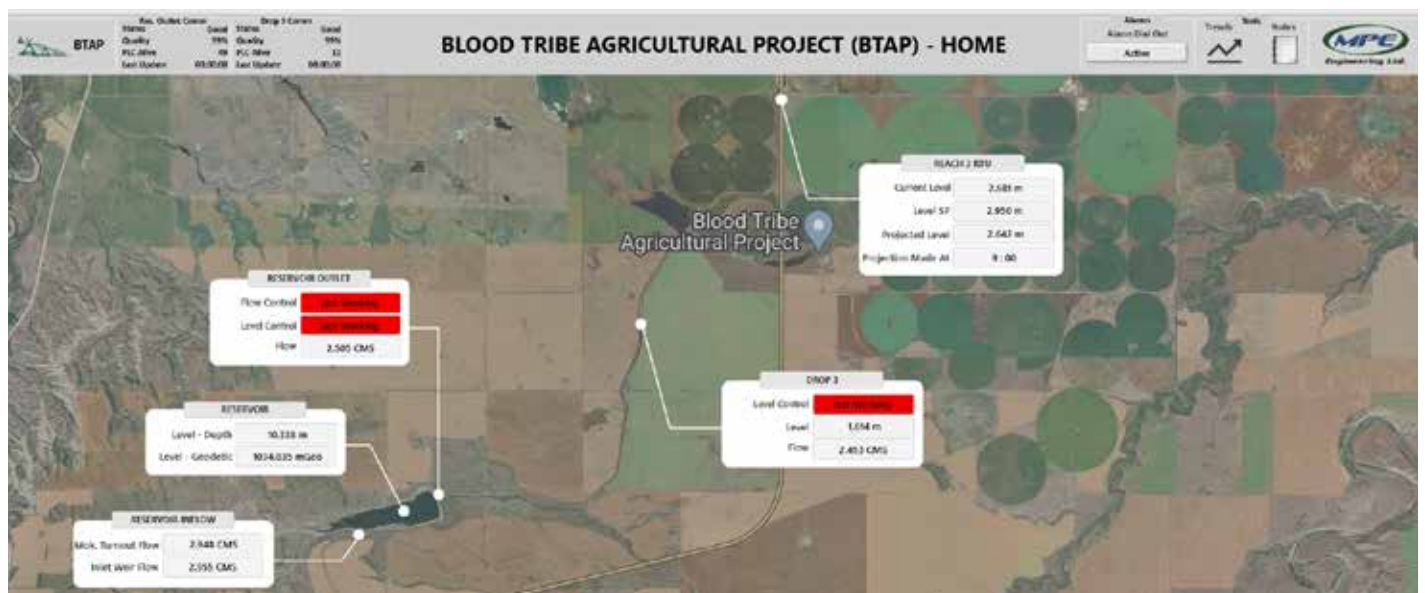
our lands to remain productive and our crops to thrive.

But this work goes far beyond simply keeping the equipment running. Our responsibilities also include meeting the standards and performance requirements laid out by AOHKII 2018 Ltd., as well ensuring we abide by internal policies ensuring we operate safely, efficiently, and in alignment with our yearly goals.

At the core of all this is our O&M team—a group of hardworking, dedicated individuals who take great pride in what they do. Whether it's early mornings out in the field, long days responding to maintenance needs, or troubleshooting unexpected issues, our team shows up ready to keep things moving. In many ways, the O&M staff are the heart of BTAP. Their commitment ensures that we reduce downtime and maximize the productivity of our land—season after season. It's not always easy work, but it's meaningful. It's about taking care of our land and building something that lasts. I'm proud to work alongside a team that shares that vision.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in what we do. We're proud to serve the Blood Tribe community and will continue to do our part to ensure BTAP remains strong, sustainable, and community-driven for years to come.

With respect,
Marvin Mistaken Chief
Operations & Maintenance Manager
Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (BTAP)



Example of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) ensuring that BTAP has sufficient water in the Mokowan reservoir and canals.

Water Source & Storage

- Source: St. Mary's Irrigation Canal – supplies water to the BTAP and other regional agricultural projects.
- Storage: Mokowan Reservoir – 3,000 dam³ (3 million m³) capacity; ensures stable water supply during peak demand.

Distribution Infrastructure

Conveyance:

- Over 33 km of canals and pipelines.
- 11 drop structures control water speed and prevent erosion.
- 7 turnouts, most with motorized, computer-controlled pumps, direct water to fields.

Pressurized Underground System:

- 5 main lateral pipelines deliver water with minimal loss.
- Feeds 125 Lindsay Zimmatic center pivots for uniform, efficient irrigation.

Control Structures:

- Gates regulate flow paths.
- Trash screens prevent debris blockages, especially after storms.

Seasonal Operations

Irrigation Season: Early May – Mid-September.

Pre-Season Maintenance:

- Pivot track grading and repairs.
- Inspection of pivots (structure, electrical, mechanical).
- Flushing and pressure testing of pipelines and pivots.

Technology & Automation

SCADA System:

- Centralized monitoring of water levels, flow, pumps, and gates.
- Automates operations and issues alerts.

FieldNET by Lindsay:

- Remote control of pivots (start/stop, scheduling, diagnostics).
- Real-time monitoring accessible via any internet-connected device.

Zendesk:

- Manages maintenance tasks and water orders.
- Provides accountability and traceability for service and user requests.

Conclusion

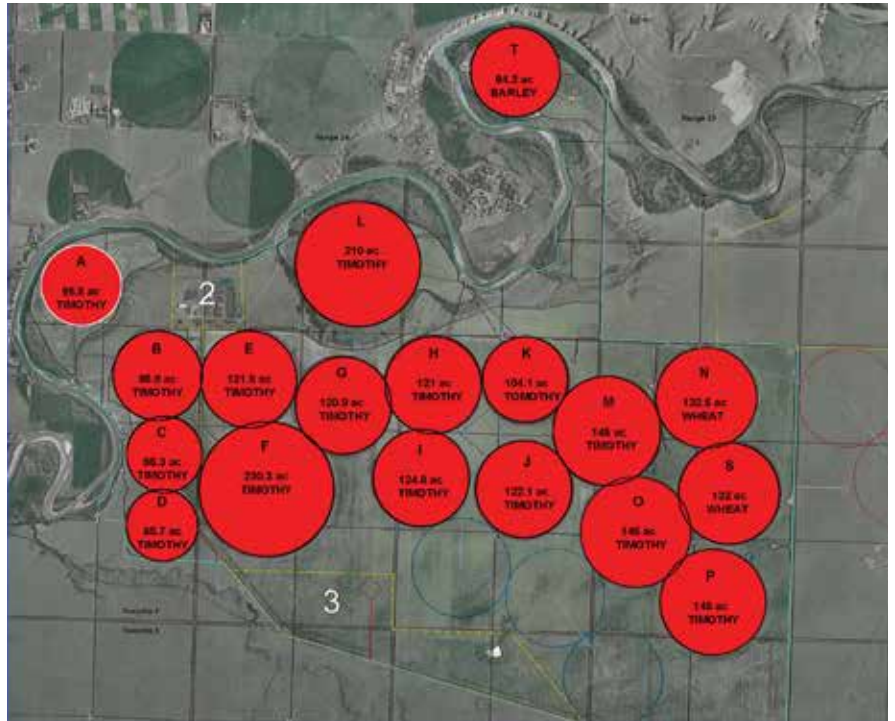
BTAP integrates modern infrastructure with advanced technology to deliver water reliably, efficiently, and sustainably across the Blood Reserve. Its systems promote precision agriculture, reduce labor, and ensure long-term operational excellence.



Mataki Farms

Mataki Farms is situated along the Belly River and covers a total area of 4,062.29 acres. This includes 2,320.08 acres of irrigated land and 1,742.21 acres of dryland. The farm is equipped with 18 center irrigation pivots to enhance agricultural production, with water supplied to these pivots from the Belly River.

The name "Mataki Farms" originates from its leasing to potato producers, who cultivated and processed their crops on-site. On April 1, 2019, an amendment was made to the Headlease agreement with Canada and the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991), which incorporated the South West Expansion area along with Mataki Farms. As a result, Mataki Farms is now included in the Headlease and is subleased to Kainai Forage and various end-users for forage production.



European Union and Canadian Federal Agricultural Representatives visit Blood Tribe and BTAP operations facilities.

On June 2, 2025, the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (BTAP) and Kainai Forage hosted a distinguished delegation of agricultural producers, agri-business representatives, and officials from the European Union and the Canadian federal government of Agriculture.

This visit provided BTAP and Kainai Forage with the opportunity to showcase their significant contributions to agricultural development, forage production, and irrigation infrastructure in the region to an international audience. The delegation was set to learn about the advanced operations of the canal and irrigation systems and technology, as well as tour the Kainai Forage processing plant and storage facilities.



Delegation takes in tour of the Kainai Forage hay processing plant.



Blood Tribe Chief & Council, BTAP and Kainai Forage staff pose with delegates from the European Union and Canadian Federal Government.



2025 Update from Kainai Forage

Kainai Forage Impact Report

Kainai Forage is proud to share with the community the success the business has achieved. Since its inception in 2019, more than \$35 million has been invested into Kainai Forage to establish and expand operations—at no cost to the Kainai/Blood Tribe. This funding has come from a combination of equity investment from our business partners, debt financing, and reinvested profits.

The company has grown significantly, evolving from a small operation exporting 14,000 metric tonnes annually to exporting nearly 21,000 metric tonnes in the first quarter of this year alone and is on track to export approximately 80,000 metric tonnes this year.

Today, Kainai Forage is the largest producer of timothy hay in North America, supplying 22 customers across Japan, Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Europe—up from 11 customers in 2019.

This growth has driven an increase in employment, expanding from a team of 10 to 70, with approximately 90% of these positions held by Blood Tribe members. These are not just entry-level roles but long-term career opportunities in global logistics, agriculture, and operations.

As the company has grown, it has reinvested all earnings back into its operations—without taking on additional equity from its partners. That strategy increases long-term value to the Blood Tribe. With the business now reaching a more stable phase of its growth cycle, Kainai Forage is prioritizing debt repayment and preparing for shareholder distributions to AOHKII and to repay its equity partner.

In addition to the annual rent paid to AOHKII/BTAP, once our equity partner recoups their initial investment, the Tribe will begin receiving the majority of future profit distributions. Based on current operations and pricing assumptions, annual profit distributions are expected to begin shortly.

This model enables the Blood Tribe to capture the full value of its lands—not just through rental income, but through long-term ownership and profit participation.

We thank Chief and Council, AOHKII/BTAP, and the community for your continued support.

Growth Highlights:	2019	2025
Rent to AOHKII/BTAP	\$4.5 million	\$6.9 million
Salaries	\$523,865	\$3.7 million
Earnings	2019-2021: negative	2022-present: positive
Stored Harvest	21,100 MT	84,000 MT (2024)





Meet the Team: Tammy Oka

Over ten years ago I started as a receptionist at the Blood Tribe Processing Plant, there were 10 full-time employees, the company was losing money, the systems needed updating, and the business was not stable.

Since the Blood Tribe partnered the business with Indigena and the company was rebranded as Kainai Forage, we have seen tremendous growth and change. That success is directly related to partnership. We have gone from 10 to 70 full-time staff, nearly 90% from our community. We have a vision, we are learning new skills, the best business practices have been implemented, and we are a team. This business would not work without each of us doing our part, but it all starts with the frontline workers who ensure the hay gets pressed and loaded for export.



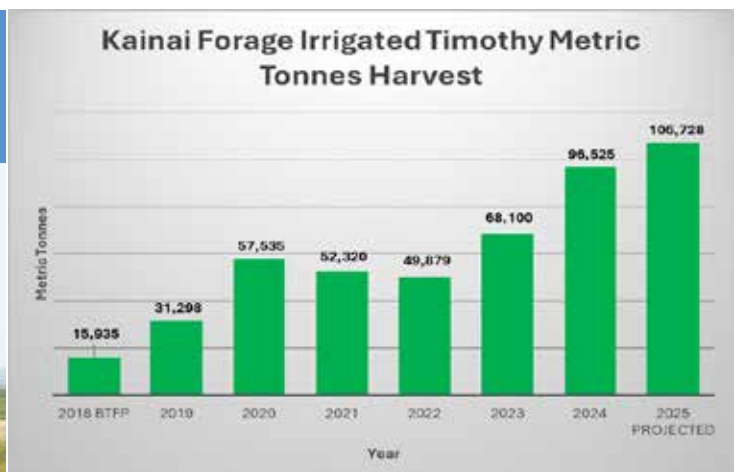
Although there has been a ton of growth in the 10 years, when I recently returned, after having to step back for health reasons, it was incredible to see how much the company had grown in just that one year. That directly speaks to how fast Kainai Forage is moving forward.

I believe it is important for our people to continue their education and to work off Reserve to understand the work ethic that is required for success. The difference now is when people want to come home, Kainai Forage offers our people a career at home in a best-in-class ag business.

Every day is a new day, every day we do our best to make this business a success for our community. It is my hope that all members of our community are proud of our business and that future generations understand we need to be proud of ourselves and it is ok to lead by example. ■

- Tammy Oka, Logistics Manager, Kainai Forage

“Every day we do our best to make this business a success for our community”





Meet the Team: Keith Hairy Bull (Ootahkohsowa 'tsis)

Kainai Forage has provided me with a career.

I still remember the summer I started with Kainai Forage. I had just finished at Red Crow College and was wondering what to do. I drove over to Kainai Forage and dropped off a resume, before I could get out of the parking lot, I was being chased down to be interviewed and was hired on the spot. Had I been wearing the right boots, I would have started that day, instead I started the next.

Over the first four or five year at Kainai Forage, my journey started with sweeping the production floors, loading bales, becoming a floor driver, a dock driver, a press operator, a retriever, and then a foreman in the old plant. As a foreman I ran my own crew, developing leadership skills and enjoyed the responsibility of helping our team achieve success. After about a year being a foreman in the old plant, I was asked to lead a team in the new plant, which I did for approximately another year, before requesting to switch to the logistics administrative side, which enabled me to learn other aspects of our business.

Ultimately, about five months ago I was approached to become a production shift supervisor and to work directly with the management team to ensure we meet our production and export targets necessary to continue to grow the business.

The doors are always open for personal success at Kainai Forage, but it takes hard work, dedication, and patience to be rewarded. Kainai Forage is an international agricultural business and to be successful it must run like one.

It is my hope that our community will understand the details of what we are achieving, not just for ourselves, but for our entire community. Every day I am proud to go to work for a great business that is on our land, irrigated by our water, harvested by our people, processed by us, and exported around the world by us.

Kainai Forage is our business, and it is a great business!

I am proof you can climb the ranks and build a career. I just need more people to join me who are determined to do the same, because if you are willing, it will happen. ■

- Keith Hairy Bull (Ootahkohsowa 'tsis), Production Shift Supervisor, Kainai Forage



***“Kainai Forage is our business
and it is a great business!”***



About the Kainai Forage Expansion

In 2019, Chief and Council understood that the Blood Tribe Forage Processing Plant business could no longer continue on the path it was on. It was unsustainable, and costing the Nation money when it should be an economic driver. Chief and Council made the bold decision to bring in Indigena Capital as a partner to enable expansion and implement a business plan that empowered the Nation to take advantage of its rights over the competition. The goal was to transform the Blood Tribe Forage Processing Plant into a business that would have best-in-class business practices, generate revenue through processing and exporting over 100,000 MT of Timothy Hay, and ultimately contribute to the socio-economic wellbeing of all Blood Tribe members.

The Kainai Forage partnership was carefully structured with the following goals:

1. Transform the business from a jobs program that was costing the Blood Tribe money every year to a profitable business that could sustain itself
2. Partner with a capital partner that can provide the growth capital and certain business expertise for the purpose of expanding the business rapidly
3. Ensure that a long-term business model maximizes the value chain of the land and resources making Kainai Forage stable and sustainable

4. Ensure Kainai Forage had the needed financial and human resources to provide for the highest levels of safety and care for its employees in the operation

5. Maintain the majority ownership of the business

Chief and Council's vision to reimagine the business, has attracted over \$35 million of investment in Kainai Forage without risking Blood Tribe funds and has led to profitability.

In addition, since the start of the expansion:

- We have built six new storage sheds
- Built a new processing plant capable of handling 100,000 MT of exports per year
- Expanded and diversified the customer base
- Increased staff from 10 to 70
- Gone from 5,000-acres in forage to over 23,000
- Reached year over year profitability in 2022

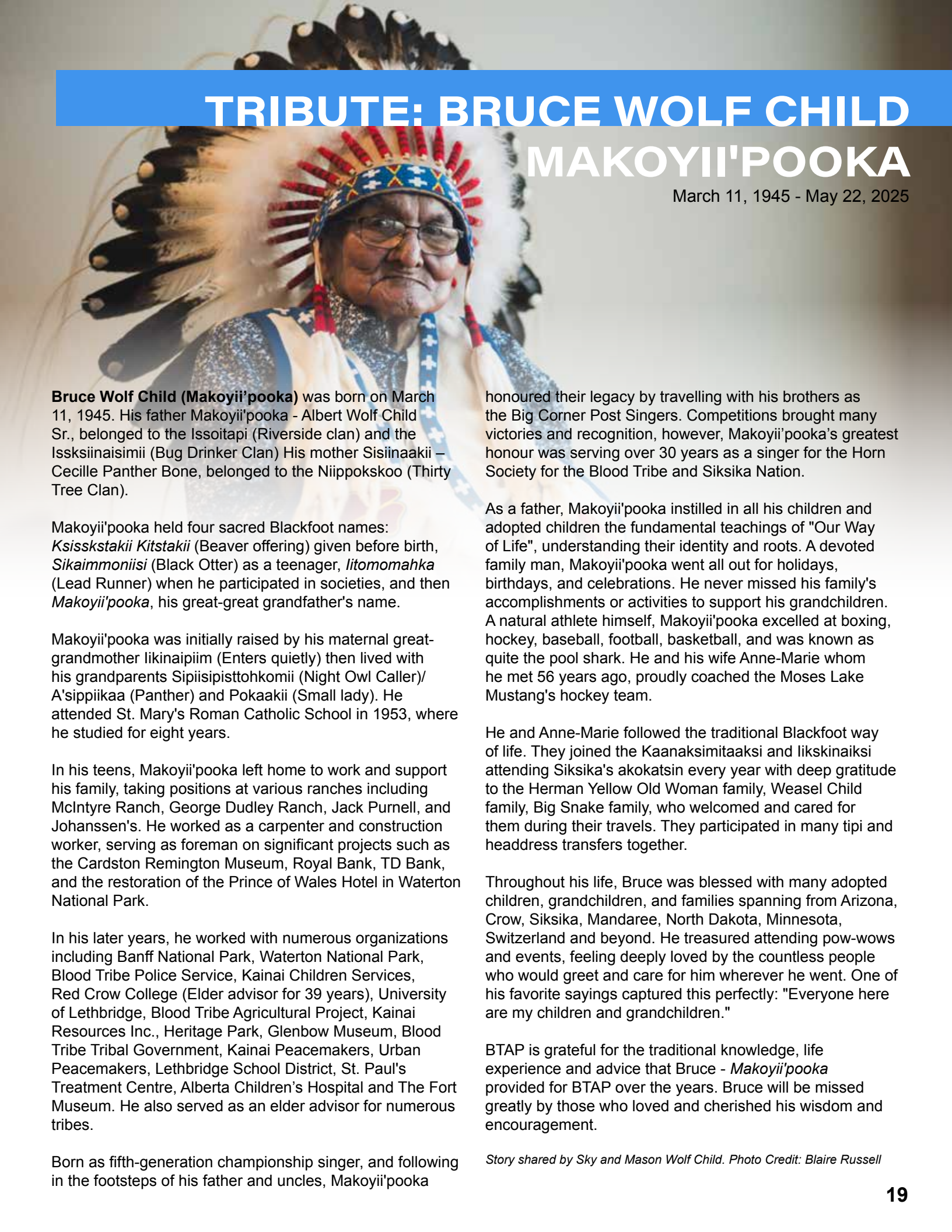
With the revamped business model, Kainai Forage is no longer at the mercy of farmers or commodity cycles, but rather, is a market maker. As a result, and thanks to the impressive growth, Kainai Forage continues to be recognized across Canada, in the United States and Internationally as a model that other Indigenous Communities can replicate to build successful commercial enterprises. ■



Kainai Forage's Team is Growing

Thanks to the success we are having growing Kainai Forage, we are continuously on the search for team members. If you are a Blood Tribe member please reach out:

careers@kainaiforage.com—403.737.3496

A portrait of an elderly man, Bruce Wolf Child, wearing traditional Blackfoot regalia. He has a large feathered headdress with red and blue decorative elements. He is wearing a blue and white patterned shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

TRIBUTE: BRUCE WOLF CHILD

MAKOYII'POOKA

March 11, 1945 - May 22, 2025

Bruce Wolf Child (Makoyii'pooka) was born on March 11, 1945. His father Makoyii'pooka - Albert Wolf Child Sr., belonged to the Issoitapi (Riverside clan) and the Issksiinaisimii (Bug Drinker Clan) His mother Sisiinaakii – Cecille Panther Bone, belonged to the Niippokskoo (Thirty Tree Clan).

Makoyii'pooka held four sacred Blackfoot names: *Ksisskstakii Kitstakii* (Beaver offering) given before birth, *Sikaimmoniisi* (Black Otter) as a teenager, *litomomahka* (Lead Runner) when he participated in societies, and then *Makoyii'pooka*, his great-great grandfather's name.

Makoyii'pooka was initially raised by his maternal great-grandmother likinaipim (Enters quietly) then lived with his grandparents Sipiisipisttohkommii (Night Owl Caller)/ A'sippiikaa (Panther) and Pokaakii (Small lady). He attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic School in 1953, where he studied for eight years.

In his teens, Makoyii'pooka left home to work and support his family, taking positions at various ranches including McIntyre Ranch, George Dudley Ranch, Jack Purnell, and Johanssen's. He worked as a carpenter and construction worker, serving as foreman on significant projects such as the Cardston Remington Museum, Royal Bank, TD Bank, and the restoration of the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton National Park.

In his later years, he worked with numerous organizations including Banff National Park, Waterton National Park, Blood Tribe Police Service, Kainai Children Services, Red Crow College (Elder advisor for 39 years), University of Lethbridge, Blood Tribe Agricultural Project, Kainai Resources Inc., Heritage Park, Glenbow Museum, Blood Tribe Tribal Government, Kainai Peacemakers, Urban Peacemakers, Lethbridge School District, St. Paul's Treatment Centre, Alberta Children's Hospital and The Fort Museum. He also served as an elder advisor for numerous tribes.

Born as fifth-generation championship singer, and following in the footsteps of his father and uncles, Makoyii'pooka

honoured their legacy by travelling with his brothers as the Big Corner Post Singers. Competitions brought many victories and recognition, however, Makoyii'pooka's greatest honour was serving over 30 years as a singer for the Horn Society for the Blood Tribe and Siksika Nation.

As a father, Makoyii'pooka instilled in all his children and adopted children the fundamental teachings of "Our Way of Life", understanding their identity and roots. A devoted family man, Makoyii'pooka went all out for holidays, birthdays, and celebrations. He never missed his family's accomplishments or activities to support his grandchildren. A natural athlete himself, Makoyii'pooka excelled at boxing, hockey, baseball, football, basketball, and was known as quite the pool shark. He and his wife Anne-Marie whom he met 56 years ago, proudly coached the Moses Lake Mustang's hockey team.

He and Anne-Marie followed the traditional Blackfoot way of life. They joined the Kaanaksimitaaksi and likskinaiksi attending Siksika's akokatsin every year with deep gratitude to the Herman Yellow Old Woman family, Weasel Child family, Big Snake family, who welcomed and cared for them during their travels. They participated in many tipi and headdress transfers together.

Throughout his life, Bruce was blessed with many adopted children, grandchildren, and families spanning from Arizona, Crow, Siksika, Mandaree, North Dakota, Minnesota, Switzerland and beyond. He treasured attending pow-wows and events, feeling deeply loved by the countless people who would greet and care for him wherever he went. One of his favorite sayings captured this perfectly: "Everyone here are my children and grandchildren."

BTAP is grateful for the traditional knowledge, life experience and advice that Bruce - *Makoyii'pooka* provided for BTAP over the years. Bruce will be missed greatly by those who loved and cherished his wisdom and encouragement.

Story shared by Sky and Mason Wolf Child. Photo Credit: Blaire Russell

PROFILE: MIKE ZUBACH



When it comes to fostering economic growth and financial literacy within Indigenous communities, few individuals stand out as strongly as Mike Zubach, CPA, CA, CAFM. As a Partner with MNP's Indigenous Services for Alberta and based in Lethbridge, Mike brings over 30 years of dedicated experience to his work with the Blood Tribe and other First Nations.

Mike's journey in financial management began with his graduation from the University of Lethbridge in 1993, where he earned a Bachelor of Management. His drive for excellence led him to attain his Chartered Accountants designation in 2004 and the Certified Aboriginal Financial Officers designation in 2005. These foundational achievements propelled him into a career marked by collaboration and understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Indigenous communities.

Mike's dedication to financial education is evident in his frequent appearances as a presenter at conferences and workshops hosted by the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (NAC). He is a sought-after lecturer across Canada, addressing topics ranging from trends in Aboriginal financial management to the critical importance of financial fluency and understanding financial statements.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mike is deeply involved in his community. He serves as a board member for the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Alberta and as Treasurer for Lethbridge's Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization. His hands-on contributions extend to sitting on the Board of Directors for a First Nation-owned business enterprise engaged in resource development, where his insights help guide sustainable and ethical practices. Recently, Mike was appointed as a trustee for the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project, further highlighting his dedication to Indigenous-led initiatives.

Through his work, Mike exemplifies the values of integrity, collaboration, and forward-thinking leadership. His passion for empowering Indigenous communities and enabling them to navigate the complexities of financial management is both inspiring and transformative. As a trusted partner and respected leader, Mike continues to pave the way for a future where Indigenous communities thrive on their own terms.

Mike's role within the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project exemplifies his ability to merge traditional knowledge with innovative strategies. He envisions utilizing modern agricultural technologies and infrastructure improvements to maximize the productivity of the Tribe's land while maintaining respect for its cultural heritage. His advocacy for additional irrigation pivots aligns with his broader commitment to sustainable agriculture, which he sees as economic growth for the Blood Tribe.

Furthermore, Mike's inclusive approach to leadership fosters collaboration among BTAP's trustees, ensuring diverse perspectives are valued in decision-making processes. He believes that the synergy between financial acumen, agricultural expertise, and Indigenous leadership is crucial for advancing the Tribe's initiatives.

Looking ahead, Mike remains steadfast in his mission to empower the Blood Tribe and through thoughtful management and strategic planning. His vision extends beyond immediate projects, aiming to assist BTAP in cultivating long-term prosperity and success.



BTAP Trustees and Staff

L to R: Piinaakoyim Tailfeathers (Trustee), Levi Black Water (Gen. Mgr.), Len Ring (Trustee), Michael Zubach (Trustee), Hank Shade (Chairman), Kirby Many Fingers (Trustee), BTAP Staff: Debbie Day Chief, Montana Shade, Crystal Oka, Robin Day Chief, Samantha Good Rider, Quincy Sun, Kristy Sweet Grass, Dwight Old Shoes, Jamison Russell, Chief Travis Plaited Hair (Trustee), Marvin Mistaken Chief, Jamie Striped Wolf, Cory Beebe.

Staff Appreciation

Gary Scout Retires



Trustee Kirby Many Fingers (left) presenting gift to Gary Scout

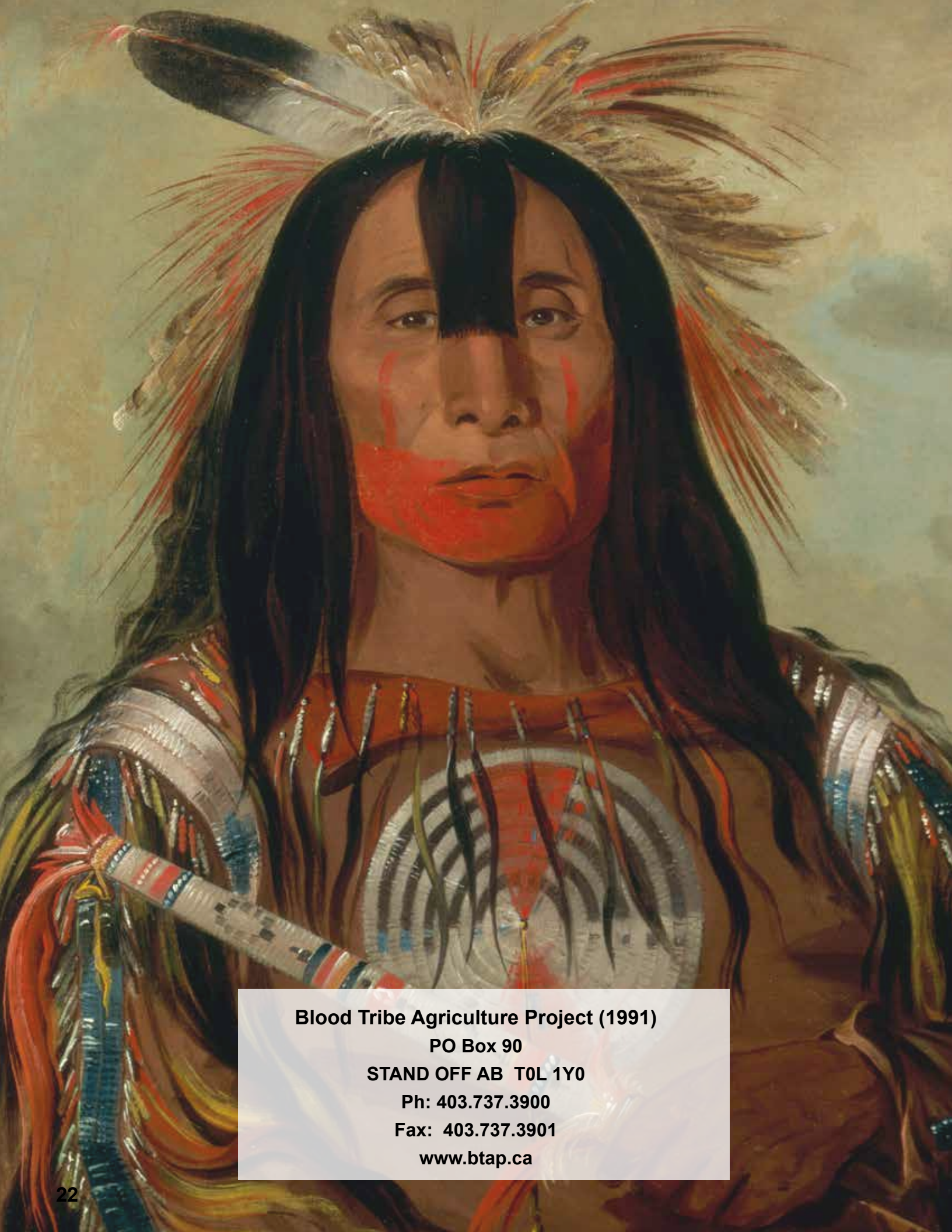
The BTAP O&M team concluded their 2024 operating season on October 31, 2024. The season was a success and provided numerous opportunities for O&M staff. We would like to express our gratitude to each and every team member for their hard work and dedication in making this season successful. Part of the occasion, BTAP honoured the retirement of long standing employee Gary Scout. We wish him well and are forever grateful for his work.

Manuel Blood; Long Time Serving Employee

Manuel Blood has dedicated many years to the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project. He started his career at the Blood Band Farm as a Farm Equipment Operator and later transitioned to Blood Tribe Forage Processing, now known as Kainai Forage, where he took on the role of a Mechanic Assistant and Equipment Operator. Currently, he is the sole Mechanic at AOHKII (2018) Ltd c/o the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (BTAP).

Throughout his time at BTAP, Manuel has experienced many transitions and has consistently proven to be a reliable team member, embodying loyalty and dedication. He is often the first to arrive and the last to leave, always willing to assist throughout the organization, which reflects his unwavering commitment and strong work ethic. Additionally, Manuel demonstrates his strong family values in the workplace by participating in staff events and uplifting team morale. You can always find him with a smile, sharing quirky jokes and making his co-workers laugh. He frequently checks in on his colleagues, asking about their weekends and whether they watched the latest sports games and rodeos. Manuel (Manny) has become more than just a co-worker; he is a friend to everyone at BTAP. We would like to recognize Manuel for his continuous dedicated service here at AOHKII (2018) Ltd c/o the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (BTAP).





Blood Tribe Agriculture Project (1991)

PO Box 90

STAND OFF AB T0L 1Y0

Ph: 403.737.3900

Fax: 403.737.3901

www.btap.ca