

July NEWSLETTER

2026



Aakom-Kiyii Health Services will ensure maintenance, delivery and enhancement of quality health services for Piikani Nation. Our vision is to empower Piikani Nation members in their health and wellness journey.



Building a Healthier *Community Together*

Aakom-Kiyii Health Services is a dynamic and essential organization dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of the Piikani Nation. We deliver a comprehensive range of health services, grounded in a commitment to culturally safe care and holistic wellness. Our team is passionate about community health, and we strive for excellence and innovation in all our programs and operations. Joining AKHS means contributing to a vital service that directly impacts the lives of community members.

If you're looking for a rewarding career where you can positively impact the lives of others, we invite you to join our growing team.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Mental Wellness Operations Manager
- Health Operations Manager
- Cultural Programming Coordinator
- Medical Transportation Driver
- Registered Nurse
- Dietitian
- Health Care Aide
- Support Staff
- System Navigators
- On-Call Crisis Worker
- Wellness Monitor



If you are interested in joining our team, please scan the QR code to visit our website to apply, or email your application to hr@akhealthservices.ca.





Inii Healing House: *Update*

We are pleased to share that our Treatment Centre is currently at full capacity, with 10 residents actively participating in their recovery journey through a combination of cultural, psychoeducational, and life skills programming.

Over the past few weeks, our residents have demonstrated commitment, growth, and resilience while engaging in a wide range of healing opportunities designed to strengthen connections to self, family, community, and culture.





A significant accomplishment has been the successful graduation of all residents from the All My Relations Program in partnership with Piikani Child and Family Services. This achievement reflects their dedication to rebuilding healthy relationships and strengthening family connections.

Residents have also completed a Horse Therapy Program, where they developed trust, communication skills, emotional awareness, and confidence through meaningful interactions with horses. In addition, they have participated in numerous Elder consultations and teachings, gaining valuable cultural knowledge, guidance, and support from respected Knowledge Keepers.





Cultural reconnection remains at the heart of our programming. Residents have taken part in cultural site visits, attended sweat lodge ceremonies and learned traditional teachings through activities such as medicine pouch making. They have also been actively involved in growing and cultivating traditional plants and medicines in our newly established greenhouse, fostering a deeper understanding of stewardship, wellness, and traditional practices.

Alongside cultural programming, residents continue to participate in psychoeducational recovery programming, focusing on addiction recovery, emotional regulation, healthy relationships, relapse prevention, and personal wellness. Daily life skills development and routine-building activities support residents in establishing healthy habits, personal responsibility, and the practical skills necessary for long-term success.

We are proud of the progress being made by each resident and grateful to the Elders, staff, community partners, and families who continue to support this healing journey. Together, we are creating a safe and culturally grounded environment where recovery, growth, and hope can flourish.

Thank you for your continued support of our residents and our treatment centre community.

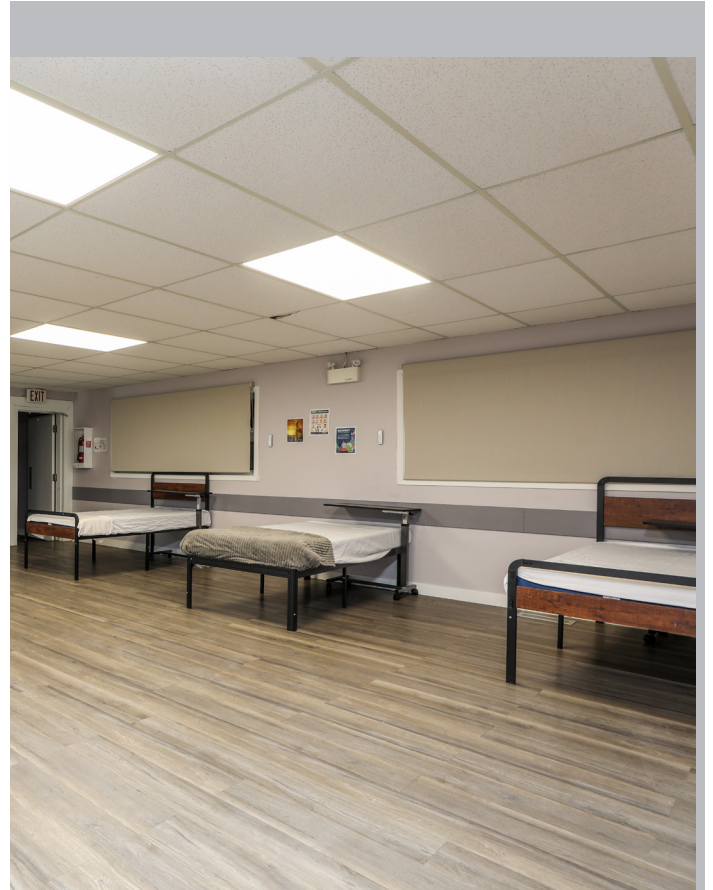
Other Updates:

Akoka'tssini Mental Wellness

As you may have already heard, Akoka'tssini Medical Detox officially celebrated its grand opening in May and is now fully operational. This new facility provides an important opportunity for nation members in our community to receive support as they begin their recovery journey.

Alongside Katoyiss Clan, our emergency shelter, Inii Healing House, our sober living facility, and our Mental Health Program, which offers access to mental health therapists, we provide a range of services to support individuals at every stage of their mental wellness and recovery journey.

Akoka'tssini Medical Detox is now accepting applications. Visit our website to apply or call 403-965-3279 for more information.



Recovery Support Group

Starting May 3, Akoka'tssini Mental Wellness started hosting biweekly recovery support group meetings on Sundays.

These meetings are for Nation members who are in recovery, considering recovery or affected by addictions.

This month the meetings will be on July 12 and 26 at 1:00pm at the Medical Detox Centre. For any questions you can call 403-965-3919.



Youth Health Awareness

On June 26, Aakom-Kiyii Health Services proudly hosted its Health Awareness for Youth event, bringing our community and partners together for a day focused around youth health.

The event was a great success, featuring a variety of interactive information booths, bingo, refreshments, and exciting door prizes. Participants had the opportunity to connect with organizations to access resources and information while enjoying activities throughout the day. Congratulations to our lucky prize winners, who took home a Nintendo Switch, an electric bike, and an iPad.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success. A special thank you goes to our community partners who dedicated their time to educating and inspiring our youth. Information booths were hosted by Primary Care Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, Conservation Officer Services, Chinook Arch, and several Aakom-Kiyii Health Services programs.

Events like these provide an important opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles, increase awareness of available supports and services, and encourage youth to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



Men's Golf Tournament



On June 30, Aakom-Kiyii Health Services hosted its Men's Golf Tournament at Lee Creek Golf Course in Cardston in recognition of Men's Health Month. The event was a complete success, bringing men in our community together for a day of golf, food, informative booths and prizes. Throughout the tournament, participants had the opportunity to visit a variety of informative health booths covering topics such as vital sign checks, hypertension, sexual health, diabetes, the Buddy Up program and several cancers common in men.

Congratulations to our prize winners:

- Closest to the pin (hole 7): JT Crow Shoe
- Closest to the pin (hole 4): Lyndon Scott
- Longest Putt: Hunter Yellow Horn
- Longest Drive: Steve Yellow Horn
- Lowest Score: Yellow Horn team shot 2 under par

While our Men's Golf Tournament has wrapped up, we're looking forward to our Women's Golf Tournament on July 21 at Lee Creek Golf Course in Cardston. To register, please contact the Health Centre and speak with Austin or Carson. The shotgun start will be at 10:00 a.m., please arrive early to check in.



Injury *Prevention Month*

Injury Prevention Month (often observed in July) is a dedicated health awareness campaign focused on reducing the incidence and severity of preventable injuries, which are a leading cause of death and disability. It highlights safety education to tackle risk-taking behaviors and minimize accidents at home, work, and play.

Key Themes and Events:

- **National Injury Prevention Day:** A major focal point of the month is this specific designated day (July 5 in Canada and often mid-November in the United States). During this observance, prominent landmarks—including monuments and hospitals—are bathed in green light to raise public awareness.
- **Targeted Safety Focus:** The month targets the most common causes of injury-related deaths, such as motor vehicle crashes, falls, accidental poisonings, and drownings.
- **Educational Outreach:** Organizations, trauma centers, and health units distribute life-saving tips on topics like car seat safety, pedestrian visibility, home hazard elimination, and safe gun storage.

By raising awareness, communities and health promotion departments aim to build safer environments and encourage proactive safety habits.



World Hepatitis Day

July 28, 2026

Each year on July 28, Aakom-Kiyii Health Services recognizes World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and the importance of prevention, testing, and treatment. As a health centre, we are committed to reducing the spread of Hepatitis C in our community.

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that affects the liver and is spread through blood-to-blood contact. While there is currently no vaccine to prevent Hepatitis C, treatments are available that can cure the infection. If left untreated, Hepatitis C can lead to serious liver damage, including cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Many people living with Hepatitis C do not experience symptoms, which is why regular testing is so important. When symptoms do occur, they may include fatigue, nausea, and joint or muscle pain.

Hepatitis C can be spread by sharing drug use equipment, using unsterilized equipment and unprotected sexual contact. Although less common, Hepatitis C can also be spread through toothbrushes, razors, nail clippers, and hair grooming tools.

Aakom-Kiyii Health Services has played an important role in supporting the health and well-being of the Piikani Nation community by providing accessible testing, treatment, and health education. Through the dedication of local health staff and community programs, members have been able to receive timely care, preventive screenings, and follow-up services. These efforts have helped improve early detection of health concerns, increased access to treatment, and promoted healthier lifestyles, contributing to better overall health outcomes for the Piikani First Nation population.



Upcoming Events

July 7 & 9

10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. |
Kidney Health Check | Walk-in



July 15

Youth Glow | 3 vs 3 Basketball Tournament |
More details to come



July 21

10 a.m. shotgun. | Lee Creek Golf Course
Golf for Women's Health | Must register



July 21 & 22

Midwifery Workshop Camp |
More details to come



More Events

July 29 & 30

Babysitting Course | Children's First Aid | More details to come



July & August:

Youth open gym | Tuesdays & Thursdays | 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



For more information on our upcoming events, be sure to follow Aakom-Kiyii Health Services on social media. You can find us on Instagram at @piikanihealth and on Facebook by searching Aakom-Kiyii Health Services.

If you don't use social media, you can also stay up to date by viewing our Events Calendar on our website.

If you have any questions about our upcoming events or programs, please give us a call at 403-965-3809.





Head Start



Our Head Start graduation ceremony was a beautiful milestone. We watched our youngest learners stand with pride and fill the room with laughter. They officially received their very first diplomas. We remember their first days with us. There were tears, tiny steps, and hesitation. Now, they stand as confident, curious leaders. Thank you to our dedicated families for trusting us with your children. Thank you to our exceptional staff. Your patience and love shaped these minds. It is hard saying goodbye, yet we feel immense excitement for them. Congratulations to the resilient Class of 2026!



Contact Us

-  403-965-3809
-  aakomkiyiihealthservices.com
-  Piikanihealth
-  Aakom-Kiyii Health Services