

# BLACKFOOT VALUE OF THE MONTH kimmapiiypitsinni Empathy



## NOVEMBER

### iitao'tsstoyii

(ee-doubts-stoy)

When cold weather arrives

## SAVE THE DATE

November 7th: Inuit Day

November 8th: Indigenous Veterans Day

November 11-16: Metis Week

November 11-16: Rock your Mocs

November 12: Indigenous Education Collaborative Community

November 13: Metis<sup>s</sup> Week Celebration @ Galt Museum

## thank you

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION'S INDIGENOUS EDUCATION TEAM WAS HONOURED WITH AN AWARD AT THE 2024 BUSINESS AWARDS GALA WITH THE LETHBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ON OCT. 9 AT THE COAST LETHBRIDGE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE, THE DIVISION TOOK HOME THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AWARD.

The work we do is *only* possible with you all. A heartfelt thank you for the work you have contributed to reconciliation in our division.



# NOVEMBER RESOURCES

## Inuit Day Resources



## Indigenous Veterans Day



## Métis Resources



## Rock your Mocs





### Blackfoot Warriors

The Blackfoot Nations had a reputation for being fierce warriors. As a result, these nations controlled a big part of Western Canada that stretched as far south as present-day Yellowstone in the north-central United States. Warriors travelled great distances to protect their lands so they could eliminate threats. The Blackfoot told ancestral stories of warriors who were gone for more than 10 years before they returned home. A warrior returning from battle was entitled to abundant respect and endless honour.

The Blackfoot Nations were large, powerful, and well respected. Other nations understood when they entered Blackfoot Territory that they would have to respect the Blackfoot Protocols to avoid conflict. If the Blackfoot felt threatened, they could capably defend themselves. But, being compassionate people, Blackfoot warriors did extend help to those in need.

This trait is especially evident in a record from the First World War. When Indian Agent W.J. Dilworth, who was responsible for the Blood Tribe, wrote to the Department of Indian Affairs on November 27, 1915, he said: "I have the honor to inform you that 30 Indians of this band would have enlisted had they been allowed, but subject to the wishes expressed by the Department and my own belief that the exposure in lower altitudes would develop tuberculosis, all were counselled against going ... three even ran away and enlisted and I had them dismissed. Only one Albert Mountain Horse enlisted and went to the front."

In Blackfoot culture, there is a high sacred ceremony that requires the presence of an active Blackfoot warrior who has seen combat. For the ceremony, the Blackfoot use currently serving soldiers to fulfill the role. The soldier is expected to share his or her service stories with the those who are gathered.

Miistatisomitai (Mike) Mountain Horse was born in 1887 into a family that has generations of warriors. It was a time when the traditional Blackfoot way of life was still widely practised. Miistatisomitai knew generations of his grandfathers' and grandmothers' teachings and was equipped with knowledge that provided a warrior protection in battle. Led in a spiritual life, Mountain Horse was guided by their communication. He carried to war a sacred collection of blessed items called a bundle. The bundle carried the spirits of ancient warriors.

Mike was the second of three Mountain Horse brothers to enlist in the First World War. He joined on May 23, 1916. Albert, a Cadet Instructor, was the youngest of the three and held a commission as a Lieutenant. He enlisted as a Private in 1914, was gassed at the front on three different occasions, and died of consumption in 1915 after he was invalided home. Albert died in a military hospital in Quebec. Mike's older brother Joe, an interpreter, enlisted months after Mike, in 1916. When Mike enlisted, he stated on his attestation papers that he was a carpenter.

Within Blackfoot history, the Mountain Horse brothers personify the transformation from traditional warriors to modern soldiers. Eleven recruits from the Kainai (Blood Tribe) enlisted to serve in the First World War. All had to quickly adapt their traditional teachings to modern 20th-century warfare.

Corporal Mike Mountain Horse did not truly believe the First World War was the Indigenous Peoples' fight, although he expressed two reasons for enlisting. Mountain Horse wanted to protect the well-being of the land, the people, and the Blackfoot sacred way of life. He also enlisted after he learned that his younger brother, Albert, was dying from complications of gas exposure during the Second Battle of Ypres in France. Albert was sent back to Canada as an invalid. Unfortunately, he passed away in Quebec, just days before he reached home. Mike wanted to avenge Albert's death, so he enlisted with the 191st Infantry Battalion. He was later transferred to the 50th Battalion.

Upon his return home from war, Corporal Mountain Horse was held in high esteem by the Kainai (Blood Tribe) and by local non-Indigenous people. Mike worked with Albertans when he took a job with the North West Mounted Police. This career helped Mike build his social network. According to *The Lethbridge Herald* newspaper of July 19, 1957, Mountain Horse was elected President of the first "treaty Indian branch" of the Canadian Legion. This branch was located on the lands of the Hobbema community, 88 kilometres south of Edmonton. As a result, members from each Indigenous community in Alberta travelled to this location seeking membership.

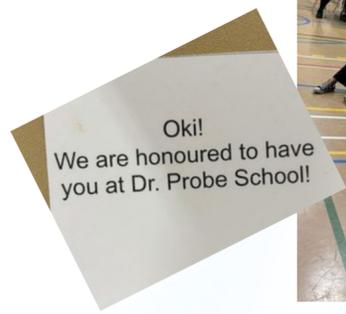
Mountain Horse, like most soldiers, was reluctant to relate the experiences he had in Europe; however, a calfskin robe featuring 12 of his war experiences was created in a modified version of Blackfoot winter count robes. One of the 12 sections of the robe depicts Corporal Mountain Horse's unit being destroyed by a bomb. He was the sole survivor.



Corporal Miistatisomitai (Mike) Mountain Horse  
1887-1964  
Orders, Decorations, and Medals  
British War Medal  
Victory Medal

# OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

West side BINGO



Northern Lights



North/South side BINGO



Indigenous Rep PL



Middle School BINGO



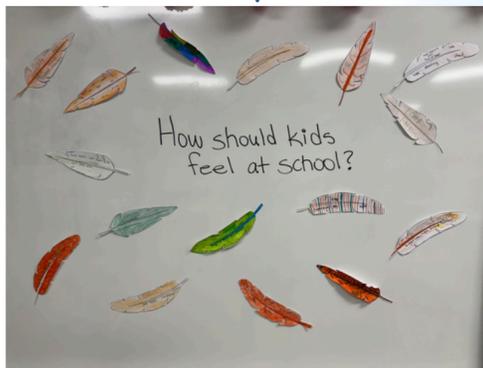
Fleetwood learned about the importance of hair.



Grade 3's @ Nicholas Sheran explore Indigenous traditions!



General Stewart does Orange Shirt Day



Grade 1's at Coalbanks learn about the Buffalo



Gilbert Paterson PL



High School BINGO @ LCI



Nicholas Sheran starts their plant learning journey

