Piikani Nation

Ikaatowapiwa Naapiitahtaan
“The Old Man River is Sacred”
Old Man River
The Piikani Nation has utilized its waters in many different ways and that has solidified asserted rights and responsibility of our waters. Water is life giving and is included in our sacred teachings and cultural beliefs.

- Pre-2002 Settlement Agreement
- Piikani Nation Water Rights Case
- 1986 Piikani Nation Water Bylaw
Piikani draws its water from the Oldman River and pumps it to the Water Treatment Plant where it is treated and pumped out for domestic use in the community.

- We require Clean and Healthy WATER.
- For the present and future generations of Piikani
In 1981 the Piikani Nation and LNID entered into this agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to supply the irrigation needs of Southern Alberta.

In 2002 this agreement was included in the Settlement Agreement between the Piikani, Provincial and Federal Governments.
Piikani Nation realizes its many sources that make up its tributaries to the Old Man River, it is the nations interest to fully utilize and maximize this reliable and natural resource for its socio-economic stability.
Piikani Post-Settlement Agreement

Within the parameters of the “Settlement Agreement” Piikani Nation has retained its “Right” to the Oldman River.

Piikani Nation Elder’s have always ensured the spiritual connection to the Oldman, Teachings that have been passed from one generation to the next.
Included within the “Settlement Agreement” between the Piikani Nation, Provincial and Federal Governments was the capacity for the Piikani Nation to develop infrastructure through a Piikani Nation “TRUST” Entity.
Piikani Nation is fully utilizing its “water rights” agreement; to include Irrigation within the “Settlement Agreement” with a water allocation of 35,000 acre feet”.

The Plan is to proceed with a “30 Pivot System” to irrigate 5000 acres of Piikani Nation Lands.
Piikani Water Issues

- Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District Permit
- Piikani Nation Water Rights Case
- Piikani Nation Water Bylaw 1986
- Piikani Nation 2002 Settlement Agreement
- Piikani Nation Water Allocation (35,000 acre feet)
- Piikani Nation F.E.I.A Studies
- Piikani Nation Water Needs Assessment (AB.)
- Piikani Nation Environmental Health
- Piikani Nation Water Treatment Plant
The Piikan Nation has not developed the infrastructure as per Settlement Agreement.
The LNID Agreement which provided much needed capital is now locked up in the Settlement Agreement.
The Settlement Agreement is fraught with legal issues.
To date the Piikani Nation has not been able to access funding for the Economic Development initiative portion of the Settlement Agreement.
Impact On The Nation

- The recreational use of the Oldman River is nonexistent.
- The Oldman River has become a canal.
- The construction of the Oldman River Dam has had a negative impact on the trees, vegetation, fish and the animals. (FEIA)
- The water needs to go through a treatment plant prior to domestic usage.
On behalf of the Piikani Nation, we thank you for this opportunity to share information on our most valuable resource "Water".