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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Blood Tribe Opens the First Indigenous Recovery Community in Alberta

Standoff, AB – The Blood Tribe Department of Health (BTDH) marked a historic milestone today with the grand opening of the Blood Tribe litakamotsiipiohsopi Recovery Community (BTIRC)— the first Indigenous Recovery Community to open in Alberta.

Admission to the BTIRC program begins April 20, 2026. The 75-bed facility integrates key aspects of the Recovery Model where residents support each other, hold one another accountable, and build healthy relationships within the community with traditional healing practices.

“Today is the realization of a dream our community has held for a long time. litakamotsiipiohsopi means ‘a place to recover,’ and we honour those who advocated tirelessly for safe, stable aftercare support on the Blood Reserve,” said *Aapao’tokaan*, Councillor Marcel Weasel Head, BTDH Board Chair. “It has been our privilege to carry that vision forward, and we are elated to see it become a reality.”

BTIRC is guided by the *Kainayssini* (the Blood Tribe Elders Declaration) and rooted in *Nipaitapiiyssinni* (way of life). BTIRC offers a holistic approach to addiction treatment, combining evidence-based practices with a supportive community environment. BTIRC utilizes the Alberta Recovery Community Model, providing a continuum of care including prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.

“Opening the litakamotsiipiohsopi Recovery Community represents a landmark moment in the growth and evolution of our organization,” said *Saakooyinaa*, Kash Shade, BTDH CEO. “Today marks the start of offering a full continuum of care for Blood Tribe members without them ever having to leave our community. We are proud of the legacy we are creating in providing high-quality and culturally grounded care available to Blood Tribe members and Albertans.”

The facility is funded by the Government of Alberta and operated by the Blood Tribe Department of Health.

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About the Blood Tribe Department of Health

The Blood Tribe Department of Health (BTDH) offers culturally competent, holistic, and accessible health and wellness services to the Blood Tribe and surrounding communities. BTDH provides a range of services and is committed to uplifting the health and well-being of its people through comprehensive and tailored health initiatives.

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