



BLACKFEET NATION

PO BOX 850 BROWNING, MONTANA 59417
(406) 338-7521 FAX (406) 338-7530

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

William "Allen" Talks About, Chairman
Patrick "Pat" Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Fred Guardipee, Secretary
Joe A. Gervais, Treasurer

PRESS RELEASE

Browning, Montana, July 21, 2005.

William "Allen" Talks About
Betty N. Cooper
Fred Guardipee
Hugh Mosroc
Earl Old Person
Patrick "Sam" Schildt, Jr.
Jay St. Goddard
James St. Goddard
Patrick "Pat" Thomas

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council passed the Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act on July 21, 2005. Beginning September 1, 2005 all public places will be smoke-free and spit tobacco-free on the Blackfeet Reservation. The Blackfeet Tobacco Act states, "(t) he passage of the Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act is dedicated to all the Blackfeet members who have died and suffer from commercial tobacco related cancers and diseases. The Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act is enacted to protect the public health of the Blackfeet Nation, now and in the future." The passage of the Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is part of many tribal health initiatives to address commercial tobacco health related diseases and deaths on the Blackfeet Reservation. The Blackfeet Nation enacted in 1989 a smoke-free and spit tobacco-free tribal buildings and programs resolution and has maintained a Blackfeet Tobacco Program since July 2000 with funding from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Further, the Blackfeet Tribal Health Department initiated in 2004 a prevention promotion plan that includes a commercial tobacco prevention and cessation strategy.

A unique component of the Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act is the acknowledgement that: "Blackfeet Cultural, spiritual and ceremonial use of tobacco is an inherent immutable component of the Blackfeet Cultural Landscape. The Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act does not ban, prohibit or restrict in any manner the traditional, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial sacred tobacco use by the Blackfeet People." Any questions or information regarding the Blackfeet Tobacco Free Act can be directed to Lori New Breast, Director of the Blackfeet Tobacco Program at (406) 338-2413 or lorilou@3rivers.net.

Authorized for release.

Patrick "Pat" Thomas, Acting Chairman, July 21, 2005