



Chief and Council

Box 60 Phone: (403) 737-3753
Standoff, Alberta T0L 1Y0 Fax: (403) 737-2336

September 25, 2023

Camilla Hampshire
Museum Manager
Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Brandninch Offices/Brandninch Place
Gandy Street
Exeter EX4 3LS

Oki Ms. Hampshire,

Re: Siksika Repatriation Request of Maoto’kii Headdress

Further to Tony Eccles’ email of September 7, 2023 and subsequent email correspondence with Annabel Crop Eared Wolf, Tribal Government Director and staff member responsible for Repatriation, we provide the following information you requested and a statement of support. Please note that we have consulted with members of the Maoto’kii from the Blood Tribe/Kainai as well as staff who have worked in the area of Repatriation for many years.

How the Bundle came into Dewdney’s possession?

Other than the information provided by RAM Museum in the September 7th email, we don’t have any record of how the Bundle may have gotten into Dewdney’s hands. Bundles often came into the possession of colonial government officials and collectors through illegal and nefarious means. There was legislation in Canada prohibiting the practice of traditional Indigenous ceremonies and active and varied efforts to stop First Nation practice of their ceremonies and divest them of their Sacred Bundles. An 1889 amendment to s.114 of the Indian Act outright banned sundances, give aways, and trade dances. Contravention of this prohibition was an indicatable offence, punishable by imprisonment.

Where does this Bundle come from?

As you have indicated the record is not clear on this. Drawing on our Motokii representative and Repatriation staff member, who consulted Elders of the Motikii Society in the identification of other Maoto’kii headdresses in previous years, she finds that this headdress looks very similar to those other Maoto;kii headdresses, which were identified by those Elders as being of Siksika origin. Based on this assessment we believe this Maoto’kii headdress to be of Siksika origin.

How will this Bundle be used?

The Motoki Society is one of the Sacred Societies that existed traditionally in Kainai and Siksika and is still active within our communities. Community members rely on the Maoto’kii Society for spiritual assistance and guidance, as well as blessing and healing that is much needed by our people in these trying times. The Sacred Bundles are integral to our religious practice, our way of life and our cultural survival and need to be home in the community.

Support for Repatriation of the Sacred Motoki Headdress/Bundle

The Blood Tribe/Kainai does not contest the request of Siksika to repatriate the Sacred Maoto;kii Headdress/Bundle and is supportive of their efforts to bring the Sacred Headdress home to Siksika.

Thank you for your support and assistance in ensuring the Sacred Bundle/ Headdress returns home, the Bundle has been away for far too long. The entire Blackfoot Confederacy community will be pleased to see the Bundle return home. Let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Makiinima
Chief Roy Fox
Blood Tribe/Kainai

- c.c. Annabel Crop Eared Wolf, Tribal Government Director - Kainai
- Dorothy First Rider, Chairperson Tribal Government Committee - Kainai
- Tony Eccles, Curator of Ethnography, RAM Museum
- Chief Ouray Crowfoot - Siksika
- Kent Ayoungman - Siksika
- Joset Melting Tallow - Siksika