

Spirit Bear's Guide to **RECONCILIATION**



Calendar

THANK YOU for supporting the child- and youth-led reconciliation based events and initiatives with your purchase of Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation Calendar 2024!

Our calendar can support all people living in Canada to take *pawsitive* actions toward reconciliation in *beary* caring and respectful ways year round. We also hope you will participate in our reconciliation campaigns and events, including Have a Heart Day, Elder*beary* Day, Bear Witness Day, Reconciling History, School is a Time for Dreams, Reconciliation *Ambearristers*, and so much more!

Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't stand tall!

**Follow us on social media and share
your actions toward reconciliation with us!**

 [@SpiritBear](#)  [@CaringSociety](#)  [CaringSociety](#)  [SpiritBearAndFriends](#)

All images in this guide are adapted from Spirit Bear's third motion picture, *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*, which will be released sometime in 2024!



IN JANUARY, I will read the book and watch the film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*. Doing this will help me write letters to elected people in government in Canada. In my letters, I will ask them to fully implement the *Spirit Bear Plan*.

I will also take time to learn about the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case for First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle.



JANUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 International Day of Education	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

On this day in 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that the Government of Canada was discriminating against First Nations children.



**HAVE A
HEART**
for First
Nations kids!

ON FEBRUARY 14, I will take part in Have a Heart Day! I will stand with First Nations kids and their families. I plan to send a Valentine's Day card or letter asking elected people in government to treat First Nations kids with love and kindness.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

On this day in 2013, the hearings began for the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case.

				1	2	3
				Black History Month Begins	Groundhog Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Isra and Mi'raj			Chinese New Year
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Have a Heart Day Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Public Holiday				Yukon Heritage Day (YK)	
25	26	27	28	29		
			Pink Shirt Day			

On this day in 2012, Shannen's Dream passed in the House of Commons.

On this day in 2007, the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission alleging that Canada was discriminating against First Nations children by providing less child welfare funding on reserves.

IN MARCH, I will participate in School is a Time for Dreams and learn more about Shannen's Dream by watching Shannen Koostachin's speech at the Attawapiskat Youth Forum in 2008. After I do this, I will write letters to elected people in government. I will write letters to elected officials asking them to ensure First Nations children and youth have the opportunity to get a good education in schools that are safe and comfy. I plan to thank my Elders on *Elderbeary* Day! I will make them thank you cards, draw them pictures, or bake them cookies to show them I care. I'm *beary* thankful for what they do for all of us!



MARCH

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2
Beginning of School is a Time for Dreams	
8	9
Maha Shivaratri International Women's Day	
15	16
22	23
World Water Day	Purim Begins
29	30
Good Friday	

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

3	4	5	6	7
World Wildlife Day				
10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings Time Begins Ramadan Starts				Pi Day
17	18	19	20	21
St. Patrick's Day		Spring Equinox	Elderberry Day	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
24	25	26	27	28
Purim Ends Palm Sunday Penumbral Lunar Eclipse	Holi			
31				
International Transgender Day of Visibility Easter				

IN APRIL, I will continue to participate in School is a Time For Dreams by reading the book and watching the film *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*. I plan to take care of the land too! Uncle Huckleberry told us in the book, *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*, that we can all do things to take care of the land. He says, "You can recycle, support fish hatcheries, prevent forest fires, and make sure not to put bad stuff on the earth or in the water. You can also learn from First Nations peoples – they know how to look after the land and the animals."



APRIL

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1 Easter Monday April Fools' Day	2	3	4	5 Lailat al-Qadr	6
7	8 Total Solar Eclipse	9 Ramadan Ends	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Ram Navami	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day Passover Begins	23	24	25	26	27
28 National Superhero Day	29	30 Ending of School is a Time for Dreams Passover Ends				

Since 2011, April 27 has been known as Shannen's Dream Day of Action.



ON MAY 10, I will participate in Bear Witness Day, which is also Spirit Bear's *beirthday*, and honour Jordan River Anderson and his family for the gift of Jordan's Principle. I will write letters to elected people in the Government of Canada, asking them to commit to the *Spirit Bear Plan*. I will also ask them to make Spirit Bear Day a recognized holiday in the province or territory I am living in! Did you know that Spirit Bear Day is a recognized holiday in the province of Manitoba? This was made possible by the *Spirit Bear Day Act*!

MAY

On this day in 1999, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada was created!

On this day in 1998, the initial meeting to discuss the creation of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society happened.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 May Day Beginning of Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams	2	3	4
5 Red Dress Day	6	7	8	9	10 Bear Witness Day Spirit Bear's Bearthday Spirit Bear Day (MB)	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Children and Youth in Care Day (ON)	15	16	17	18
19	20 Victoria Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

On this day in 2008, Shannen and her friends marched on Parliament Hill for safe and comfy schools for First Nations children and youth!



IN JUNE, I will continue to participate in Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams, and I will plant a heart garden in honour of residential school Survivors and the children who did not come home. I will make a promise toward reconciliation in response to *Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action*. I will write my promise on a paper heart and plant it in my Heart Garden.

JUNE

On this day in 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Closing Ceremony occurred. They shared their Final Report and Calls for Justice.

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1

Indigenous History Month Begins
Pride Month Begins

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Shavuot Begins

Shavuot Ends

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Father's Day

Eid al-Adha

Juneteenth (US)

National Indigenous Peoples Day
Summer Solstice

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

St. Jean Baptiste Day (QC)

Canadian Multiculturalism Day

World Pride Day

30

Ending of Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams

On this day in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Closing Ceremonies occurred and its 94 Calls to Action were shared.

IN JULY, I will honour Shannen Koostachin. I will watch Alanis Obomsawin's film *Hi-Ho Mistahey!* to learn about the life of Shannen Koostachin and her home community of Attawapiskat First Nation. I will also read the book and watch the film *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* to learn how Shannen's Dream was created.



JULY

In some places in Canada, July 1 is known as Chinese People's Railroad Day. On this day, we are all invited to honour over 17,000 Chinese workers, many of whom lost their lives building the Canadian Pacific Railway.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1 Canada Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Shannen Koostachin's Birthday	13
14	15	16	17 World Day for International Justice Muharram	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

IN AUGUST, I will learn about the traditional and ancestral homelands and territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and learn the original place names of major cities and towns across Canada. I will make sure I know the original place name of where I currently live and learn more about the origin of its name as part of my learning about Canada's history in a balanced and truthful way.



AUGUST

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2	3
4	5 Public Holiday	6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	
11	12 International Youth Day	13	14	15	16	17 Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce's Birthday	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26 Krishna Janmaashtami International Dog Day	27	28	29	30	31 International Overdose Awareness Day Alanis Obomsawin's Birthday	

IN SEPTEMBER, I will read the book *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*. After reading the book, I will participate in Reconciling History by sending a letter to Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce at Beechwood Cemetery.

I will also write letters to elected people in the government of Canada asking them to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the *Spirit Bear Plan*.



SEPTEMBER

On this day in 2013, *Hi-Ho Mistahey!*, directed by Alanis Obomsawin, premiered at the Toronto International Film festival.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 National Teddy Bear Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Fall Equinox	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Orange Shirt Day National Day for Truth and Reconciliation					

On this day in 2016, *We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice*, directed by Alanis Obomsawin, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

On this day in 2007, the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



IN OCTOBER, I will honour Jordan River Anderson. I will watch Alanis Obomsawin's film *Jordan River Anderson: The Messenger* to learn about his life. I will also read the book and watch the film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* to learn about why Jordan's Principle was created.

OCTOBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2 International Day of Non-Violence Rosh Hashanah Begins Annular Solar Eclipse	3 Navaratri Begins	4 Rosh Hashanah Ends	5 World Teachers' Day
6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 International Day of the Girl National Coming Out Day Yom Kippur Begins	12 Yom Kippur Ends Navaratri Ends
13	14 Thanksgiving Day	15	16 Sukkot Begins	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18	19
20	21	22 Jordan River Anderson's Birthday	23 Sukkot Ends	24 Simchat Torah Begins	25 Simchat Torah Ends	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween Diwali		

IN NOVEMBER, I will honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans by learning about their legacies and all that they have done for Canada. Reading *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams* will help me to do this.



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

On this day in 2010, Shannen's Dream campaign was launched by youth in Attawapiskat First Nation.

					1 All Saints' Day Dia De Los Muertos Begins	2 Dia De Los Muertos Ends
3 Daylight Savings Ends	4	5	6	7	8 National Indigenous Veterans Day	9
10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse	20 International Child Rights Day Transgender Day of Remembrance	21	22	23
24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26	27	28	29	30

On this day in 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IN DECEMBER, I will reflect on all the promises for reconciliation that I made this year.

I will commit to taking further actions to advance reconciliation in 2025. To do this, I will read *Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action* and *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*.



DECEMBER

On this day in 2007, Jordan's Principle passed unanimously in the House of Commons.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 National Cookie Day	5	6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	7
8	9	10 International Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Hanukkah Begins	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa Begins	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

On this day in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its Final Report.

THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA

works to ensure the safety and well-being of First

Nations youth and their families through educational activities that

engage individuals of all ages in reconciliation and by providing quality

resources to support First Nations communities. The Caring Society

works proudly with our partners far and wide to promote the rights of

Indigenous children.

All proceeds go to helping ensure First Nations kids can grow up safely at home, get a good education, and be healthy and proud of who they are.



First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society
fncaringociety.com