

newsletter

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Update on Compensation and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

On June 30, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Canadian government, and class action parties signed a Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on compensation for First Nations children and families impacted by Canada's discriminatory underfunding of First Nations child welfare and failure to implement Jordan's Principle properly. The Caring Society is not a party to the compensation FSA, nor are we seeking any benefit relating to the compensation.

The AFN and the Canadian government, supported by the class action parties, have asked the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal) to confirm that the FSA satisfies the Tribunal's orders on compensation. In 2019, the Tribunal ordered Canada to pay \$40,000 in human rights damages to children and their parents or caregiving grandparents affected by Canada's discrimination (2019 CHRT 39). Hearings on the motion by AFN and the Canadian government took place by webcast on September 15 and 16. After a full analysis of the FSA and related material, the Caring Society's view is that the FSA fails to uphold key parts of the 2019 Tribunal decision. Our position at the Tribunal hearings was that the FSA should be revised to ensure that each victim who is already legally entitled to \$40,000 in human rights compensation is paid by Canada. No one should be left behind.

Based on the Caring Society's analysis of the FSA, there are no guarantees protecting the \$40,000 in compensation for every victim currently entitled under the Tribunal orders. Furthermore, the FSA excludes compensation to the estates of parents who experienced discrimination. In contrast, the estates of deceased parents are eligible for compensation under the Tribunal. The FSA also raises serious questions about whether the compensation respects the needs and realities of First Nations children and youth. For example, the current provision for victims to opt out of the class action is a very short 180 days – particularly as about half of the recipients are still children.

The Tribunal has taken its decision under reserve given the important and complicated issues posed by Canada and the AFN's compensation motion.

Full details on the Caring Society's position are available at fnwitness.ca.



Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Caring Society is honoured to be partnering once more with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G) and Beechwood Cemetery for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, on September 30. Phyllis Webstad (née Jack) started Orange Shirt Day back in 2013, based on her experiences of attending a residential school. She encourages all Canadians to learn about the legacy of residential schools and to wear an orange shirt to demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation.

We invite everyone of all ages to join us in person on September 30 for a day of learning, sharing, reconciling history, and coming together to take action in the spirit of truth and reconciliation. We are honoured to host the following reconciliation-based activities:

- Public showings of CBC's *The Audience* at Beechwood Cemetery at 7 pm EST from September 28–30.
- Unveiling of a commemorative plaque at James Hope & Sons (61 Sparks St.) on September 30 at 10:30 am EST in partnership with the City of Ottawa.
- Reconciling History Walking Tours and other reconciliation-based activities at Beechwood Cemetery from 9 am to 5 pm EST on September 30.
- Downtown Ottawa Reconciling History Walking Tours from 9 am to 3 pm EST on September 30.

To learn more about what each of these reconciliation-based activities entails, as well as how you can participate virtually, please visit our website fncaringsociety.com/reconciling-history.



2022 Caring Society Gala and AGM Notice

October 20: Caring Society Gala

Organized and hosted by Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services and Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency, we are pleased to announce the 12th Annual Caring Society Gala with the theme Celebrating 23 Years of Standing with First Nation Nations Children & Families. The event will take place at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. To learn more about how you can attend, call (204) 761-6355 or e-mail fncs@docfs.org.

November 17: Annual General Meeting Notice

We are delighted to invite Membears and Board Membears to the Caring Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) taking place virtually on November 17 from 2:00–3:00 PM EST on Zoom. We will be sharing an overview of what we have been up to this past year. We will also be hosting the re-election of Board Membears. There will be time for an open floor for any Membears to share their comments or ask questions. In the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for the AGM Notice in your mail and email!

12th Annual
Caring Society

Celebrating 23 Years of Standing with First Nations Children & Families



2023 Scholarships and Awards

Nomination forms and the corresponding deadlines for the Caring Society's awards and scholarships will be live on the website this winter! For more information, please visit our awards and scholarship page at fncaringsociety.com/awards-scholarships.

Shannen's Dream Scholarship

The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is awarded to First Nations post-secondary students 30 years and under. This scholarship has a pay-it-forward component that asks the recipients of the scholarship to use their skills to contribute to their community.



Jordan's Principle Scholarship

The Jordan's Principle Scholarship is awarded to First Nations students studying at a Canadian post-secondary institution who demonstrate commitment to Indigenous children's health and community services as well as academic commitment and achievement.

Spirit Bear Award

The Spirit Bear Award is awarded each year to groups of young people who demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation and to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.



Spirit Bear Film Release Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams

Spirit Bear is heading back to the big screen! It was a *beary* busy year for the Caring Society and our partners at Spotted Fawn Productions, an Indigenous-led and community-oriented film studio led by Michif artist Amanda Strong. With the official release still to come, we are thrilled to announce the completion of Spirit Bear's second film, *Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*!



As with the first Spirit Bear film, the voice actors for *Fishing with Knowledge, Catching Dreams* are children, youth, and adults selected for their connection to the movement for culturally based equity for First Nations kids. In this film, Spirit Bear and friends won't stop until Shannen's Dream of "safe and comfy schools" comes true for every First Nations student! We look forward to sharing *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* with child and youth audiences through private screenings with schools and communities later this Fall!

For the latest information on the Spirit Bear film series, please visit fncaringsociety.com/films.

Spirit Bear's Updates

Spirit Bear Calendar

Spirit Bear is *beary* happy to announce that his sixth *Guide to Reconciliation Calendar* is here! Recently updated with a new look and feel, Spirit Bear's calendar offers concrete ways for children, youth, and families to meaningfully engage in reconciliation-based activities throughout 2023. The 2023 edition captures the importance of living out the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and serves as a reminder for people of all ages to incorporate acts of reconciliation into each and every day. You can order your copy of Spirit Bear's 2023 Guide to Reconciliation Calendar on our website's shop at fncaringsociety.com/shop soon.



Notes on the Calendar: You might notice that *School is a Time for Dreams* will no longer occur during September and October and will instead take place during March and April, with April 27 being Shannen's Dream Day of Action! We are looking forward to honouring Shannen Koostachin's legacy and *School is a Time for Dreams* in early 2023.



Spirit Bear's Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners from 2021!

Spirit Bear's Pumpkin Carving Contest!

Between October 1 and 31, Spirit Bear is hosting a Pumpkin Carving Contest. Spirit Bear invites every-*beary* to enter a bear-themed pumpkin or squash carving for a chance to win a prize! To enter, please send us a photo of your carving to [@SpiritBear](https://twitter.com/SpiritBear) on Twitter, [@SpiritBearAndFriends](https://www.instagram.com/SpiritBearAndFriends) on Instagram, or email us info@fncaringsociety.com. Spirit Bear is *beary* excited to see your carvings!

Reconciliation Ambearrister Spotlight

Sir Alexander Mackenzie (SAM) School received their Reconciliation Ambearrister in the late spring of 2019. They were so excited about the coming school year and how they might respond to reconciliation. That Fall, Elder Ernest Arcand from Alexander First Nation helped SAM School with a beautiful naming ceremony, where Elder Ernest announced the name "Asiniwacyi," which means "mountain" in Plains Cree. They were also honoured to have Celina Loyer attend the ceremony, and she presented Asiniwacyi with a Métis Sash, in SAM School's colours.

Having a Reconciliation Ambearrister has helped SAM School deepen their sense of community, even during the pandemic. Asiniwacyi has also helped them develop special relationships with Elder Ernest, and friends Celina and Sharon, who continue to support students to learn about the people and the beautiful cultures that have existed in their area since time immemorial. Asiniwacyi is a *beary* important part of SAM School, and they can't wait to see what he will learn next!



Students of SAM School with their Reconciliation Ambearrister, Asiniwacyi.

Honouring First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Veterans

During the month of November, you can join Spirit Bear in honouring First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Veterans by reading *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*. If you're located in Ottawa, you might consider visiting the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument. You can write a thank-you message to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans and plant it in your Heart Garden.



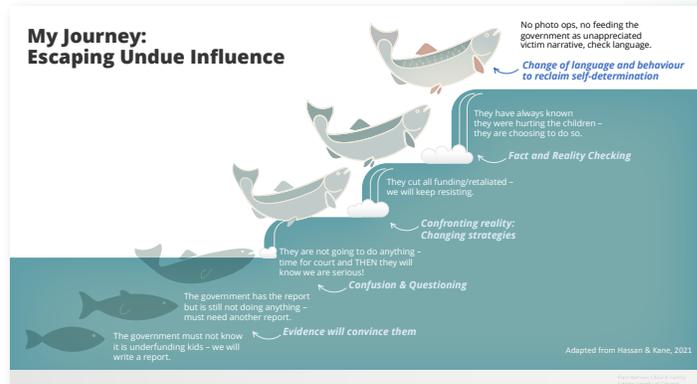


A National Crime: Is It Over?

Melisa Brittain, FNCARES

On May 18, in honour of the 100th year anniversary of the publication of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce's **The Story of a National Crime** (bit.ly/NationalCrimeReport), FNCARES hosted a webinar called, *A National Crime: Is It Over?* Speakers discussed Bryce's attempts to reveal crimes against First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in residential schools when they were happening, how the colonial mindset enables mainstream Canada to turn away from its history of genocide, and what people are doing to learn from the past, educate for the future, and hold government accountable for ongoing injustices. The webinar featured Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Dr. John Milloy, Dr. Amber Johnson, Dr. Ian Mosby, and Dr. Eva Jewell and is available on the Caring Society's YouTube Channel at bit.ly/NationalCrimeVid.

Read our information sheets on Mind Control and Colonization at bit.ly/MCInfoSheet.



From Cindy Blackstock's webinar presentation for Mind Control and Colonization – Part II.



Mind Control and Colonization

On August 10, FNCARES and the Caring Society hosted a second webinar on Mind Control and Colonization. Dr. Steven Hassan, founder of Freedom of Mind Resource Center (freedomofmind.com) and internationally recognized expert on cults, brainwashing, and authoritarian

control, joined Dr. Cindy Blackstock and Brittany Mathews from the Caring Society to discuss how undue influence gets people to do unethical things and defend them, and how mind control and undue influence work in relation to First Nations, the government of Canada, and all Canadians.

You can watch the video of the webinar on the Caring Society's YouTube Channel at bit.ly/MindControlVid.

Spirit Bear and Sunny the Reconciliation Dog

Sunny the Reconciliation Dog loves learning from Spirit Bear, and in honour of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, they will be writing a letter to Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce at Beechwood Cemetery to thank him for all he did to stand up for the health and wellbeing of



First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children who attended residential schools. You can write a letter to Dr. Bryce too by using the template at bit.ly/BryceLetter.

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society Membership Information

If you would like to join the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society as a Member under one of the following categories:

- Individual Membership: \$75
- Student Membership with ID or Elder: \$5
- Small FNCFCs Agency Membership (1-50 employees): \$500
- Large FNCFCs Agency Membership (50+ employees): \$1,000
- Small Associate Membership (Organizations with 1-50 employees): \$500
- Large Associate Membership (Organizations with 50+ employees): \$1,000

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