



First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society



2021/2022

Annual Report

Please note that this annual report reflects activities from September 2021 to August 2022.

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Honouring

Alanis Obomsawin	Google Benevity	Paypal Charitable Giving Foundation
Amanda Strong and Spotted Fawn Productions	Hadley Friedland	Project of Heart
Ampersand Inc.	Indigenous Bar Association	RBC & Fuselight Creative
Amnesty International	Heirlume Inc.	Rexall
Anderson Family, Norway	Institute of Fiscal Studies & Democracy (IFSD)	Sandy Tunwell, Accountrain Inc.
House Cree Nation	J.W. McConnell Foundation	Sarah Clarke, Clarke Child and Family Law
Andrew Koostachin, Jenny Nakogee and Family	Laurentian University	Shelby Thomas
Atkinson Foundation	Larissa States	Sign Language Interpreting Associates of Ottawa
Anne Levesque, University of Ottawa	Leah Gryfe Designs	Secretariat for Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), Australia
Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G)	LeMay Media and Consulting	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Assembly of First Nations	Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation	Sotos LLP
Barbara McIsaac, McIsaac Law	Lisa Howell, University of Ottawa	Teresa Libesman
Beechwood Cemetery	MacIntyre Communications	The Body Shop
Ben & Jerry's	Manitoba First Nations and CFS Committee	The Bryce Family
Canada Helps	Many Hands One Dream Coalition	The Collure Family, Shannen's Dream Scholarship Funders
Canadian Council for the Arts	Marquis Book Printing	The Printing House
Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions	Matt Smiley	The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), Australia
Canadian National (CN) Railway Company	Mawita'mk Society	University of Toronto Press
Canadian Union of Public Employees	McGill University	UNICEF Canada
Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services	McIntyre Media	UNIFOR
Carters Professional Corporations	Mélanie Vincent	United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW)
Catherine Donnelly Foundation	Naiomi Metallic	University of Alberta, Faculty of Education
Cheekbone Beauty	National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health	University of Ottawa, Faculty of Education
Child Welfare League of Canada	National Film Board	Victoria Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Australia
City of Ottawa	National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)	Wabanaki Council on Disability
Claudette Commanda	Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, University of Ottawa	Wahkotowin Law and Governance Lodge
David Hodges, inPath	Naiomi Metallic	Winnipeg Film Group
David Stern	Nordstrom	Yellowhead Institute
David Taylor, Conway Baxter LLP	Ontario Children's Advancement Coalition	Youth in Care Canada
David Wilson, Conway Baxter LLP	OPIN Digital Inc.	
Donate a Car	Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP	
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN)	Pam Palmater	
Freedom of Mind		

Key Accomplishments

Reconciliation in Action



In honour of Orange Shirt Day and the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Caring Society partnered with Assembly of Seven Generations, Project of Heart, and Beechwood Cemetery to host an event on September 30 in Ottawa that was attended by over 1,500 people.



Have a Heart Day was celebrated in COVID-safe ways by clubs, groups, schools, and communities across Canada.



In partnership with National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) and with the assistance of FNCARES, the Caring Society finalized its seven-part virtual series on the five Touchstones of Hope principles.



#BearWitnessDay and **#JordansPrinciple** were trending on Twitter on Bear Witness Day as individuals, groups, communities, schools, and workplaces honoured Jordan River Anderson and learned about Jordan's Principle.



We distributed over 700 packets of seeds to individuals, schools and organizations celebrating Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams. People of all ages to planted heart gardens in memory of children lost to the residential school system, to honour residential school survivors and their families, and to support the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Spirit Bear and Friends



Spirit Bear's first film, *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*, is now available with closed captions and subtitles in both English and French!



With the official release still to come, Spirit Bear is thrilled to announce that his second film in the Spirit Bear film series, *Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*, was finished in January 2022.



Over 15 new schools and community members were joined by a Reconciliation Ambearrister. Each hosted bear accompanies the group as they learn about and promote the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.



Spirit Bear has over 1,000 new Twitter followers and 800 new Instagram followers! He now has over 13,000 pawesome social media friends!



Spirit Bear *pawblished* his fourth calendar, *Spirit Bear's 2022 Guide to Reconciliation* and his learning guide in French to accompany his third book, *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams and*



Over 500 copies of Spirit Bear's books and over 1,000 calendars were donated to First Nations agencies, schools, hospitals, and other groups!



We sold over 6,500 of Spirit Bear's books and over 1,000 copies of the 2021 calendar. All proceeds support child- and youth-led reconciliation initiatives.

Big Win for the Kids



The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has issued 23 procedural and noncompliance orders since the 2016 landmark ruling, three of which were issued in 2021-2022.



On September 29, 2021 the Federal Court issued a decision upholding the Tribunal's orders on compensation for First Nations families impacted by Canada's discrimination.



In March 2022, the Tribunal ordered Canada to provide \$2,500 per First Nations person on reserve and in the Yukon for child welfare prevention services and to fund, at actual cost, post-majority supports for federally funded youth aging out of care, as well as First Nations young adults who have aged out of care up to age 26.



Over 2.04 million services and products were provided to First Nations children since July 2016 because of Jordan's Principle and the May 2017 noncompliance order.

Making New Friends



We completed over 120 virtual and in-person, COVID-safe events in 10 provinces and four countries!



The Caring Society has over 2,500 new followers on Twitter and over 2,100 new followers on Facebook. We now have more than 35,000 social media friends!



We participated in over 150 media engagements, appearing in both Canadian and international media.



Through our awards and scholarships, we were able to recognize 12 fantastic groups and individuals who are taking action to ensure equity for First Nations children.



We published four newsletters featuring over 35 articles. We distributed newsletters to over 250 First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies, Caring Society members, and educators.

About Us

Building on the interest of First Nations child and family services leaders to create a national networking organization, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (the Caring Society) was developed at the Squamish First Nation in 1998 at a national meeting of First Nations child and family service agencies. Meeting delegates agreed that a national non-profit organization was required to provide research, policy, professional development, and networking to support First Nations child and family service agencies in caring for First Nations children, youth, and families. An interim board was elected, and the plan was approved at a second national meeting at Kingsclear First Nation in 1999.

The Caring Society works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and providing quality resources to support communities. Using a reconciliation framework that addresses contemporary hardships for Indigenous families in ways that uplift all Canadians, the Caring Society champions culturally based equity for First Nations children and their families so that they can grow up safely at home, be healthy, achieve their dreams, celebrate their languages and culture and be proud of who they are. The Caring Society proudly works with our partners in Canada and around the world to promote the rights of Indigenous children.

The Caring Society Board of Directors

- Raymond Shingoose** President, Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc., Saskatchewan
- Kenn Richard** Vice-President, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, Ontario
- Judy Levi** Treasurer of the Board, New Brunswick Representative
- Elsie Flette** Board Member, Manitoba Representative
- Arlene Johnson** Board Member, Atlantic Representative
- Koren Lightning-Earle** Board Member, Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society, Alberta
- Landon Pearson** Board Member, Carleton University, Ontario
- Theresa Stevens** Board Member, Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services, Ontario
- Mary Teegee** Board Member, Carrier Sekani Family Services, British Columbia

The Caring Society Staff

- Cindy Blackstock** Executive Director
- Sarah Fredericks** Executive and Administrative Assistant
- Jennifer King** Reconciliation and Policy Coordinator
- Brittany Mathews** Reconciliation and Research Coordinator
- Sunny Mathews** Reconciliation Dog
- Madelaine McCracken** Education and Public Engagement Coordinator
- Robin McLeod** Summer Law Student
- Tammy Morgan** Finance Coordinator
- Molly Rasmussen** Reconciliation and Research Coordinator
- Daxton Rhead** Administrative Support
- Azia Seitcher** Administrative Support

The Caring Society also acknowledges the contributions of **Melisa Brittain** (FNCARES) and **Hannah Crawford** for their dedication and service to the Caring Society and First Nations children, youth, and families.

New Office

Spirit Bear has a new home! The Caring Society successfully relocated to our new office in March 2022 after spending nearly a decade at our old office.

Our new space will allow our organization to do the *impawtant* work that we do while having space to socially distance! We finally have a board room, kids' space and all the amenities needed to feel comfortable and safe. Even our Reconciliation Dog, Sunny has a place to put her paws!

Unfortunately, our move was delayed and complicated by the "freedom convoy" that disrupted much of Ottawa in February 2022. Luckily, we had so many great people helping it go as smoothly as possible given the disruptions. Special thanks to Morguard, AMJ Campbell, Zodiac, Cassidy Construction and Parallel 45!



Above: Caring Society staff.

Right: Sunny celebrates her birthday in the new Caring Society office.



Spirit Bear and Friends!

fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear

This past year, Spirit Bear has been *pawsitively* thrilled to work with his colleagues and friends to come up with reconciliation education resources and fun ways for children and families to take part in reconciliation.

Spirit Bear (*Bearrister*)

fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear

This year has certainly been a lively one for Spirit Bear! Between helping to inspire the work of his friends at the office to supporting the work to end the discrimination against First Nations kids, our favourite fuzzy friend has been busy. He loves being able to support his colleagues and friends in developing resources that children, families, and communities can take up to help enact reconciliation.

Spirit Bear was *pawsitively* thrilled to make some more new friends throughout this past year! He has gained over 1000 new friends on Twitter ([@SpiritBear](https://twitter.com/SpiritBear)) and 800 new Instagram pals ([@spiritbearandfriends](https://www.instagram.com/spiritbearandfriends)). He is so excited to have nearly 13,000 *pawesome* friends who can take part in meaningful reconciliation initiatives with him! Now, all these friends, both new and old, will be able to see even more of Spirit Bear whether through tuning into his new film, or revisiting some of his storybooks.

Spirit Bear was gifted to the Caring Society by Carrier Sekani Family Services in 2007. Since the very beginning, he has been a witness to the Tribunal case, representing 165,000 First Nations children and their families affected by the case and the thousands of other children who stand with them for fairness and justice.

Spirit Bear at the Movies

fncaringsociety.com/films

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 that the second film in the Spirit Bear film series, *Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*, was finished in January 2022. The third film, *Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*, is scheduled for completion by the end of 2022.

The Caring Society and Spotted Fawn Productions have worked together on the Spirit Bear film series since 2018. To see the films come to life with such care and artistry is incredibly meaningful to everyone involved. As with the first Spirit Bear film, the voice actors for *Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* are children, youth, and adults selected for their connection to the movement for culturally based equity for First Nations kids. Spirit Bear's second film will enter the film festival circuit later this year for an official premiere. In the interim, we look forward to sharing *Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* with child and youth audiences through private screenings with schools and communities.



Movie poster for Spirit Bear and Children Make History

About *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*

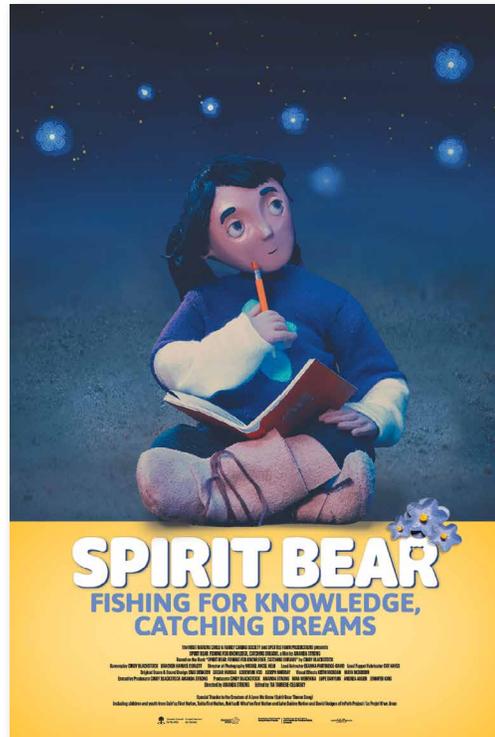
Did you know that many First Nations schools get less money than provincial schools? Shannen Koostachin, a young leader from Attawapiskat First Nation, knew this was wrong, and so does Spirit Bear. Follow Spirit Bear as he travels from Carrier Sekani territory to the unceded lands of the Algonquin Peoples, learning about traditional knowledge, the history of the residential school system, and what First Nations schools are like today. Spirit Bear and friends won't stop until Shannen's dream of "safe and comfy schools" comes true for every First Nations student! Based on the book by the same name, *Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* is the second stop motion animation in the Spirit Bear series, co-produced by Spotted Fawn Productions and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society.

Updates on *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*

Spirit Bear's first film was released in 2020 and continues to be an important resource for educators and anyone wanting to understand the case for First Nations kids at the Tribunal. The film has been accepted to ten film festivals since its release!

- Skoden Indigenous Film Festival 2022 | Vancouver BC | April 2022
- Family Day at the Bentway | Toronto ON | February 2022 (Cancelled due to Covid)
- International Festival of Winter Cinema 2022 | Edmonton AB | February 2022
- Frost Regina Winter Festival 2022 | | February 2022
- Vox Popular Media Arts Festival Online 2021 | Thunder Bay ON | September 2021
- Art on the Screens – National Indigenous Peoples Day | Mississauga ON | June 2021
- Safe at Home: Spirited Ghosts – The Animated Films of Amanda Strong | Winnipeg MB | April 2021
- Kingston Canadian Film Festival Online | Kingston ON | February 2021
- Available Light Film Festival 2021 | Whitehorse YT | February 2021
- Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) | Vancouver BC | September 2020

New this year to *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* is the important addition of French subtitles as well as English and French captions for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. These new options are available via the streaming platform [VUCAVU.com](https://www.vucavu.com), which specializes in independent content by artists from Canada. In addition, the Caring Society continues to make *Spirit Bear and Child Make History* available free of charge on days of importance throughout the year. In 2021-2022, we made the film available for Orange Shirt Day, Have a Heart Day, and Bear Witness Day. We also made the film available over the winter holidays for families to enjoy during the break.



Movie poster for *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*

Spirit Bear's Pawblishing Services

fncaringsociety.com/books-and-learning-guides

Spirit Bear, the Caring Society and friends *pawblished* some amazing reconciliation books and resources this past year. These resources address a gap in reconciliation education. There are few Canadian books for younger children linking reconciliation with social justice in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action.

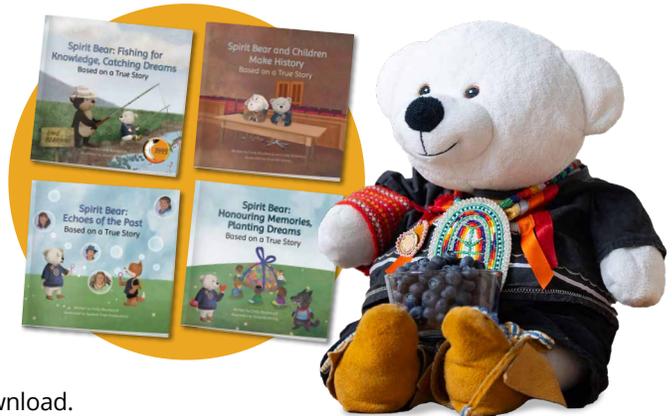
Spirit Bear's Books

Spirit Bear was delighted to have sold over 6,500 books this year from both local and national retailers, and directly from our distributor, University of Toronto Press! We have also gifted over 500 books to children, youth, families, supporters, Elders, and community *membears*.

Spirit Bear has published four picture books since 2017:

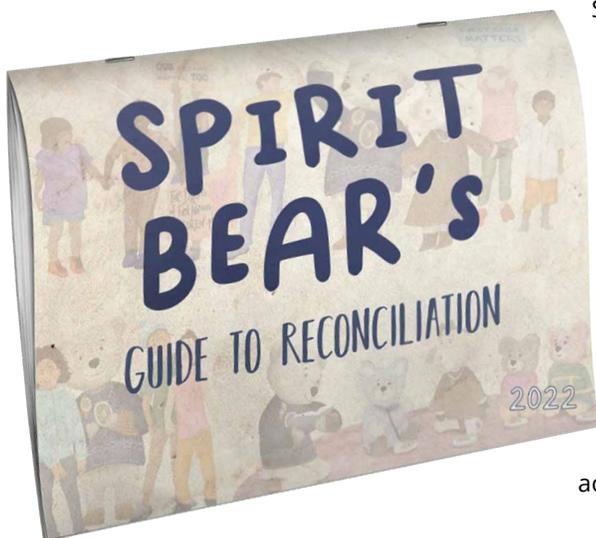
- Spirit Bear and Children Make History (1st edition 2017, 2nd edition 2020)
- Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams (2018)
- Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams (2019)
- Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past (2020)

Many of Spirit Bear's book are available to read for free on our website, in English, French and in multiple First Nations languages. The books are accompanied by learning guides to support families, educators, and communities in using Spirit Bear's books to teach equity, fairness, reconciliation, and how all children and youth can make a difference to end discrimination against First Nations kids. This year, the *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams* learning guide was translated to French and has since been *pawblished* to our website where it is free to download.



Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation: 2022 Calendar

fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/calendar



Spirit Bear was *pawblished* his fourth calendar, *Spirit Bear's 2022 Guide to Reconciliation* in June 2020. Featuring beautiful still images from Spirit Bear's first animation, the 2022 calendar featured a whole year of reconciliation-based activities and events for individuals and groups to participate in. 1000 calendars were sold and another 1000 calendars were donated to schools, groups, and community partners throughout Canada.

We created a reconciliation activity book to accompany the calendar that offers drawing and writing activities for kids to learn about their place in reconciliation in fun and creative ways. The activity book is free and available to download and print from our website. This year, a kind community *membear*, Jenna Dubeau translated the activity book to French! Thank you *bearly* much, Jenna.

Reconciliation Ambearristers Program

fncaringsociety.com/Reconciliation-Ambearristers

Reconciliation Ambearristers are friends with Spirit Bear, and they support schools and community mem**bears** to make a difference for First Nations children and promote the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. This year, we have shifted the requirements of the program to make it more relationally based. Relationships are integral to build and tend to, especially in the work of reconciliation. Prior to schools and community groups joining the program, they must already have a strong relationship with a community-authorized Elder and/or Knowledge Keeper.



Some Reconciliation Ambearristers!

This year, over 15 new schools and community mem**bears** were joined by a Reconciliation Ambearrister. We were even invited to attend Brock University's naming ceremony for their Reconciliation Ambearrister!

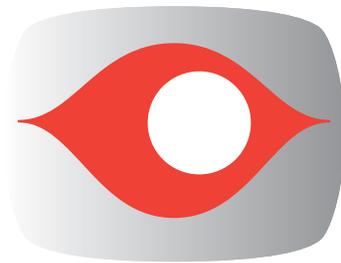
Schools and community groups have also created their own social media accounts through Twitter and Instagram to share their Reconciliation Ambearrister's story and experience. Some have taken to videos to share their bear's story. We cannot wait to continue to grow our Reconciliation Ambearrister network!

Child- and Youth-Led Campaigns

The Caring Society believes that all children, including First Nations children, have a right to grow up safely with their families, go to good schools, and be healthy and proud of who they are. These rights are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Canadian government has ratified the UNCRC and has expressed support for UNDRIP. With this in mind, the Caring Society works to ensure the realization of these rights for First Nations children and youth and their families.

Children and youth are powerful change makers with deep understandings of what is right and what is wrong – that's why we prioritize their engagement in meaningful reconciliation. Meaningful reconciliation involves learning about our collective past and thinking creatively about our future, and we look to youth for their leadership on this front. Engaging children and young people in reconciliation and social justice also helps to nurture compassion and moral courage and bolsters their self-confidence!

The Caring Society believes that each of us can take peaceful and respectful actions to make a better Canada for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and their families. We provide opportunities for educators and young people to participate in events and activities where they can feel empowered to make a difference.



I Am a Witness: Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

fnwitness.ca

In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal or CHRT) ruled in a landmark human rights case that the Canadian government is racially discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children by providing flawed and inequitable child welfare services to

First Nations children and their families and failing to implement Jordan's Principle.

As of September 2022, the Tribunal has issued 23 non-compliance and procedural orders, three of which were issued this past year.

- November 2021: the Tribunal released a ruling providing their detailed reasonings following the August 2021 Letter-Decision (2021 CHRT 41). The Letter-Decision and 2021 CHRT 41 confirmed that funding of buildings and additional capital assets that support the delivery of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle programs and prevention services must be provided to First Nations and FNCFS agencies, including small agencies. This ruling also confirmed that the Tribunal orders have primacy over the Financial Administration Act.
- January 2022: The Tribunal issued an amendment to 2021 CHRT 41 based on the consent of the Parties (2021 CHRT 41 Amendment).
- March 2022: The Tribunal ordered Canada to fund at actual cost post-majority care to youth aging out of care and young adults who were formerly in care up to and including age 25 and assess the resources required to extend Jordan's Principle supports to young adults past the age of majority (2022 CHRT 8).

Canada's Judicial Reviews

Following Canada's decision to submit two judicial reviews (like appeals) of the Tribunal's orders on human rights compensation and Jordan's Principle eligibility and hearings held in June 2021, on September 29 the Federal Court issued a decision upholding the Tribunal's orders. The compensation originates from a 2019 order by the Tribunal, which found Canada's conduct to be a "worst case scenario" of racial discrimination and ordered the government to pay the maximum amount allowable under the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, \$40,000, to compensate certain First Nations children, youth, and families harmed by Canada's discrimination (2019 CHRT 39). This decision by the Federal Court also upheld the Tribunal order ensuring First Nations children recognized by their Nations are eligible for Jordan's Principle (2020 CHRT 20 and 2020 CHRT 36).

On October 29, Canada filed for judicial review of the Federal Court's decision upholding compensation for First Nations families impacted by Canada's discrimination. While the Caring Society is disappointed by Canada's appeal of the compensation matter, we consented to Canada's request to pause the appeal to allow for focused and intense negotiations to try and reach an agreement to end the Canadian government's discrimination and prevent its recurrence in the provision of child and family services and Jordan's Principle.

These negotiations resulted in the Agreements-in-Principle discussed below. Negotiations for a final and binding agreement are ongoing.

Agreements-in-Principle

On December 31, 2021, the Parties to the Tribunal complaint reached an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. While an important first step, the AIP is non-binding. It is a pre-agreement that lays out a path for reaching a final agreement to meet the Tribunal's orders, end Canada's discriminatory conduct, and ensure the discrimination is not repeated.

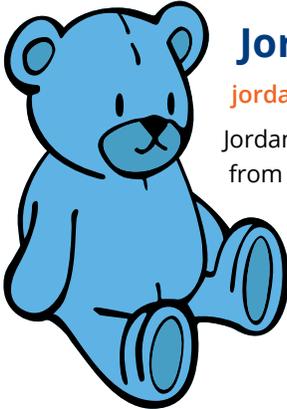
The AIP sets out \$19.8 billion over five years for a reformed approach to funding First Nations child and family services, for capital assets related to the FNCFS Program, and capital assets for Jordan's Principle. The Reformed Funding Approach comes from a three-phase study by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) on outcomes-based funding approaches for child and family services and will be further refined according to feedback from First Nations agencies piloting the approach.

As part of the AIP, the Parties also agreed to seek a consent order from the Tribunal for immediate measures. A consent order is an order that sets out terms agreed to by all Parties. The Tribunal issued this consent order (2022 CHRT 8) on March 24, 2022. It orders Canada to provide \$2,500 per First Nations person on reserve and in the Yukon for child welfare prevention services and to fund at actual cost post-majority supports for federally funded youth aging out of care and First Nations young adults who have aged out of care up to age 26. The Parties are working towards a Final Settlement Agreement, which will be binding and include a dispute resolution mechanism to hold Canada accountable after the Tribunal ends its jurisdiction.

Another AIP was signed between the Assembly of First Nations, Canada and the class action parties for compensating First Nations children and families affected by Canada's discrimination in First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle. On June 30, 2022, the Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) for compensation was reached between these parties. The Caring Society is not a signatory to the AIP nor the FSA but maintains that compensation must uphold the minimum standard set out in the Tribunal orders.

On July 22, 2022, the Assembly of First Nations and Canada, supported by the class action parties, asked the Tribunal to confirm that the FSA satisfies the Tribunal's orders on compensation. The Caring Society's analysis of the FSA found 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 180 days, which is far too short, especially since about half of the recipients are still children. As of the end of August 2022 (the time period of this report), the matter was still being considered by the Tribunal. Please visit fnwitness.ca for the latest information.



Jordan's Principle

jordansprinciple.ca

Jordan's Principle is a child first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson from Norway House Cree Nation. Jordan's Principle ensures that First Nations children can access the supports they need, when they need them. Despite the unanimous support of the House of Commons in 2007 for a broad definition of Jordan's Principle, the federal government went on to implement it in a manner so narrow that few, if any, First Nations children qualified. The landmark ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT or the Tribunal) in 2016 said Canada's definition of Jordan's Principle was discriminatory and ordered the federal government to take immediate measures to implement the full and proper scope of Jordan's legacy.

As of this report, the Tribunal has issued 23 additional orders. Three of these orders were issued in the last year. 2021 CHRT 41 and its amendment orders Canada to fund First Nations or First Nations-authorized service providers for the full cost of capital assets that support the delivery of Jordan's Principle services to children on reserve, as well as capital needs and feasibility studies. 2022 CHRT 8 orders Canada to assess the resources required to assist families and/or young adults in identifying supports for high-needs Jordan's Principle recipients past the age of majority.

With Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) having yet to establish a formal complaints process for Jordan's Principle, the Caring Society continues to operate as ad-hoc compliance mechanism on behalf of families (children and youth), Service Coordinators, and communities. A transparent and accessible complaints mechanism through which families and Service Coordinators can submit difficulties they are having with Jordan's Principle is a priority for the Caring Society. In the interim, we continue to flag compliance issues and relay concerns received from families and Service Coordinators to ensure ISC implements Jordan's Principle according to the CHRT orders.

Public education remains a key part of our work on Jordan's Principle. Caring Society staff were honoured to meet with and/or deliver presentations to a range of diverse audiences this year, including to Service Coordinators, First Nations organizations and political bodies, conferences, academic researchers, and healthcare professionals and service providers. In light of new compliance and procedural orders by the Tribunal, we released an updated version of our Jordan's Principle Information Sheet in June 2022. Caring Society staff also wrote a chapter called "Canada's old mindset and the struggle to fully honour Jordan's Principle," which is set for release in a book published by the Prairie Child Welfare Consortium in September 2022.

Shannen's Dream

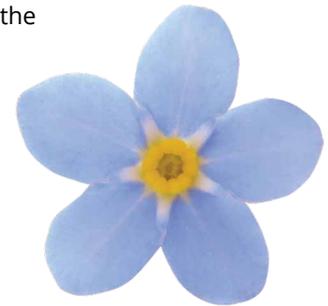
shannensdream.ca

Shannen Koostachin, a youth education advocate from Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario, had a dream: safe and comfy schools and culturally based education for First Nations children and youth. Shannen and her peers in Attawapiskat First Nation fought for a new school after a diesel spill contaminated their school, making the students and teachers sick. Sadly, Shannen passed away in 2010 at the age of 15 and never saw the new school, which was finally built in 2014. With the support of her loving family, friends and community, Shannen's Dream was named in her honour and is a campaign to make sure all First Nations children across Canada have "safe and comfy" schools and receive a good quality education that makes them proud of who they are.

Many First Nations schools receive less funding per student than provincial and territorial schools. Many also do not provide a safe and appropriate learning environment. Shannen worked tirelessly to try to convince the federal government to give First Nations children a proper education. Shannen remains an important role model for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people who continue to carry her dream for safe and comfy schools for all First Nations children in Canada.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls on Canada to provide culturally based education for First Nations children and calls on individual Canadians to learn more about Indigenous peoples in Canada as a starting place for meaningful reconciliation. In this spirit, the Caring Society continues to provide updated education resources for learners and teachers of all ages to take part in activities that foster reconciliation and culturally based equity for Indigenous children and youth.

In celebration of Shannen's Dream, the Caring Society hosts the annual event, School is a Time for Dreams. This event invites people from all over the country to support equitable education for First Nations and all young people in Canada.



The Caring Society at Work: Services, Events and Projects

Caring Society Services

Reconciling History

fncaringsociety.com/reconciling-history

The Reconciling History initiative invites people to learn from the past in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action by learning about Canada's treatment of Indigenous children and families in ways that link lessons of history to contemporary injustices. By learning about the complete and accurate story of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, we can all have a better understanding of how we can contribute to reconciliation in meaningful ways.

Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

To honour Orange Shirt Day and the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Caring Society partnered with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G), Project of Heart and Beechwood Cemetery to host an event on September 30 in Ottawa. The day was an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about Canada's history in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, reflect on the legacy of the residential school system and take action. Keeping with COVID-safe protocols, we hosted 1,500 people at the event throughout the day. Even more people took part virtually across Canada!



A7G and the Caring Society were honoured to partner with Project of Heart and Beechwood Cemetery to host an event in honour of Orange Shirt Day.

The day included:

- the first-ever full public display of 57,000 tiles made by children and youth across Canada as Part of Project of Heart to honour children who attended residential schools;
- Reconciling History walking tours to view plaques marking the final resting places of key figures in the residential school system;
- readings of *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*;
- screenings of the animated film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*; and
- a letter-writing station for participants to write to the Prime Minister calling for the full implementation of all Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action!

Touchstones of Hope

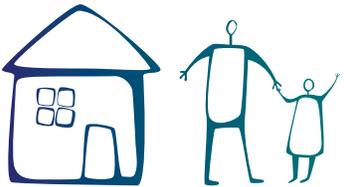
fncaringsociety.com/touchstones-hope

Seventeen years after the publication of the Touchstones philosophy in *Reconciliation in Child Welfare*, Touchstones of Hope continues to be an important resource for institutions, groups, and individuals wanting to take part in meaningful reconciliation.

In 2021, the Caring Society continued our bi-monthly dialogue series on the five Touchstones of Hope principles (self-determination, holistic approach, culture and language, structural interventions, and non-discrimination). The seven-part virtual series was organized in partnership with National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), with the assistance of FNCARES, and open to learners from both Canada and the United States. Along with Caring Society and NICWA staff, speakers included Elders, youth organizers, Indigenous legal experts, Indigenous leaders in culturally relevant health care and approaches to healing, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working in child welfare, and experts in the area of fiscal studies. The series concluded in November 2021 and all sessions are available on NICWA's YouTube channel at bit.ly/TouchstonesofHopeDialogues.



The Caring Society offers sessions on Touchstones of Hope on request. In 2021-2022, we delivered sessions to youth and community-serving organizations, hospitals and social workers. We were honoured to be asked by the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System in Newfoundland and Labrador to facilitate a two-day session for Commissioners and staff. The Inquiry was established by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu Nation, and the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry include the Touchstones principles.



First Peoples Child & Family Review

fpcfr.com

The First Peoples Child & Family Review (FPCFR) is an open-access, interdisciplinary, and peer-reviewed journal honouring the voices and perspectives of First Peoples and supporters. The FPCFR's mission is to promote research, critical analysis, stories, standpoints, and educational resources that advance innovation within child, family, and community-based matters for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, as well as Indigenous peoples abroad. We are proud to be a leader in the movement for open access and accessible knowledge sharing.

Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, an office move and the "freedom convoy" that disrupted downtown Ottawa, the FPCFR experienced a disruption to our production schedule. However, the FPCFR is working on a joint publication with the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) of Jumbunna and the Law Faculty of University of Technology Sydney and their Public Interest Advocacy Centre on an upcoming Fall 2022 special issue. This issue celebrates Aboriginal voices in child protection decision making.

#Hibernating4Health and Spirit Bear's COVID-19 Resources Pages

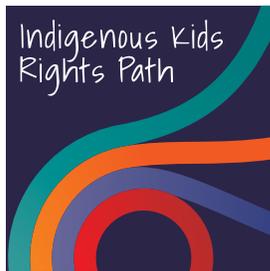
fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bears-COVID-19-resources

In early March 2020, Spirit Bear and the Caring Society launched the **#Hibernating4Health** social media campaign to support kids and families in staying healthy, supporting each other, and learning during COVID-19. In the early weeks of the campaign, Spirit Bear shared valuable health recommendations, encouraging folks to stay home, wash



their paws, and stay a moose length away from friends. Spirit Bear then shared learning activities for kids to engage in at home, including many of the Caring Society's child-friendly resources. Spirit Bear's COVID-19 resource pages on the Caring Society's website keep child- and youth-friendly resources in one place, along with resource pages for professionals working with families and youth, families and educators, and Indigenous communities. These pages are updated continuously, so they continue to direct people of all ages to reliable resources and information.

As families and communities continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caring Society strives to provide high-quality learning resources for kids at home on health and wellness, social justice, and reconciliation. Explore the resource pages and follow Spirit Bear on Twitter for the latest **#Hibernating4Health** resources, activities, and more.



Indigenous Kids Rights Path

indigenoukidsrightspath.ca

Launched in 2015, the Indigenous Kids Rights Path is an online portal that aims to support kids and youth in learning about their rights and offers resources and contacts in the event that they feel their rights are not being respected. The Indigenous Kids Rights Path also supports anyone wanting to learn more about the rights of Indigenous peoples and children's rights. The Caring Society continues to add relevant resources and contact

information to the portal; something has proven to be even more useful in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Caring Society Events

fncaringsociety.com/events

The Caring Society holds annual events to support campaigns like Jordan's Principle, I am a Witness and Shannen's Dream. The events also honour residential school survivors and their families, as well as the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Caring Society provides information and resources to make it easier for people to participate in these events in their communities, schools, workplaces and at home.

Have a Heart Day

fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart

Have a Heart Day is an annual child and youth-led reconciliation event to help make sure First Nations children have a fair chance to grow up safely with their families, get a good education, be healthy, and feel proud of who they are. Celebrated since 2012, Have a Heart Day is usually an event where children and young people gather in their communities, schools and on Parliament Hill to read



letters and sing songs in support of First Nations young people. However, with most places across Canada following health protocols due to the COVID-19, festivities occurred online. This year, we also prioritized the safety of residents living in Ottawa due to the “freedom convoy” that disrupted downtown and surrounding areas.

Leading up to Have a Heart Day, the Caring Society was asked to lead professional learning sessions in both French and English with community *membears* and educators across Canada so that every *beary* felt prepared to lead Have a Heart Day with their communities and students.

We encouraged schools and community *membears* to send their Valentine’s Day cards and letters supporting Have a Heart Day to their elected officials. *Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est* (CECCE) created a video documenting how their schools responded and celebrated Have a Heart Day/ *Journée ayez un coeur*. Hundreds of students sent letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling on his government to make sure that First Nations kids have the same chance to grow up safely at home.

Many community *membears* also created Snow Bears and shared pictures of the chocolate chip cookies they made, Spirit Bear’s favourite!



Elderbeary Day

March 20 marked the Caring Society’s fourth annual Elderbeary Day! Elderbeary Day invites people of all ages to honour and celebrate the contributions of our Elders, who do so much to help teach and raise our children and youth. Participants can choose to thank their Elders in whichever way they prefer, whether that be through acts of service, spending quality (socially distanced) time together, or expressing gratitude through letters or drawings.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the ways that participants could celebrate and honour their Elders, but it did not impact their ability to showcase their gratitude. We still strongly encouraged people to keep themselves and their Elders safe by participating in no-contact acts of gratitude, and we were so thrilled to see so many classes, organizations, and individuals across the country sharing how they chose to honour and appreciate the contributions of their Elders by using the hashtags **#ElderbearyDay** and **#JournéeOursonAîné** on Twitter

Bear Witness Day

Every year on May 10, children, families, organizations, schools, and communities celebrate Bear Witness Day by showing their support for Jordan’s Principle. Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson, Jordan’s Principle is a legal rule to ensure that First Nations children get the services they need, when they need them. May 10 is also Spirit Bear’s *beirthday* and this year, Spirit Bear felt *beary* celebrated!



In its landmark 2016 ruling, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered the Canadian government to fully implement Jordan’s Principle by May 10, 2016. However, First Nations children and their families continue to face discrimination in accessing government services due to the Canadian government’s failure to comply with the Tribunal’s orders. In May 2017, the Tribunal issued a third non-compliance order finding Canada’s approach to Jordan’s Principle to be unlawful and discriminatory (2017 CHRT 14). In total, the Tribunal has issued 23 non-compliance and procedural orders, three of which were issued this past year.

This year, we introduced a three-step approach to engaging in Bear Witness Day. Step One focused on education, Step Two was all about spreading awareness, and Step Three was taking action. For action taking this year, we encouraged schools and community *membears* to write to their elected officials to

make Spirit Bear Day a holiday to honour Jordan River Anderson and Jordan's Principle in their province or territory. The province of Manitoba already recognizes May 10 as Spirit Bear Day, so we think it's *beary* important for all provinces and territories to do the same.

Leading up to Bear Witness Day, the Caring Society was asked to lead professional learning sessions with community members and educators across Canada so that every *beary* felt prepared to lead Bear Witness Day with their communities and students.

The Caring Society also made the animated film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* available to watch for free from May 1 to 11. The Mikinakoos Children's Fund, based out of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, held *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* virtual film screenings in elementary schools throughout the First Nations communities they serve and their broader region of northwestern Ontario.

Throughout Bear Witness Day, we had over 20,000 interactions on all our social media platforms. Many supporters of Bear Witness Day demonstrated their care by sharing photos with their teddy bears and posted their letters calling their elected officials to action. Due to the outpouring of support from our loving and caring community members, **#BearWitnessDay** and **#JordansPrinciple** once again trended on Twitter!



Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams

honouringmemoriesplantingdreams.ca

Celebrated each year in May and June, Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams invites people of all ages to plant heart gardens in memory of children lost to the residential school system, to honour residential school survivors and their families, and to support the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Heart gardens can include

decorated paper hearts, real flowers, and where appropriate, Indigenous plants and medicines.

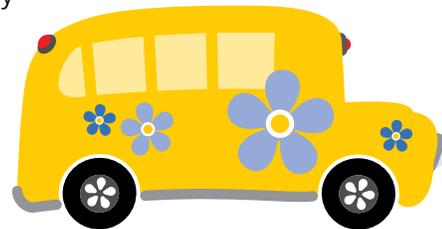
Inspired by the heart garden that children and residential school survivors planted during the 2015 TRC Closing Ceremonies, heart gardens represent our commitment to reconciliation.

This year, we updated our *Finding Our Place in Reconciliation* learning guide, which helps individuals and organizations learn about the impact of residential schools and engage with the TRC's Calls to Action. The learning guide invited participants to create a personal and specific goal that helps bring one of the Calls to Action to life. We also encouraged apartment-friendly planting to make sure everyone could participate. This year, we saw hundreds of heart gardens shared throughout the country via the hashtags **#TRCHeartGarden** and **#CVRJardindeCoeurs** on social media!

School is a Time for Dreams

Every child in Canada has the right to a proper education, which includes access to safe and comfy schools and quality education. However, many First Nations young people don't get the same opportunities to learn and get an education as other kids do because of inequities in First Nations education.

We started the School is a Time for Dreams campaign in 2018 to continue to honour Shannen Koostachin, the founder of Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools, and the community of Attawapiskat. School is a Time for Dreams invites all people to support equitable education for First Nations by learning about Shannen's Dream, spreading awareness, and taking action.



This year, keeping COVID-19 safety precautions in mind, we encouraged participants to keep mailing letters to their elected officials, and to host virtual Shannen's Dream gatherings where students can stand tall and share why it's important for all children in Canada to have safe and comfy schools. Participants shared their actions using the hashtags **#ShannensDream** and **#RevedeShannen** on Twitter.



Annual Caring Society Gala

With the safety of children, families, and communities being our top priority, the Caring Society, organizers, and hosts decided to cancel the annual fundraising gala and education workshop for the second year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thankfully, COVID vaccines have made it possible to resume in-person events (local health protocols permitting), and we are excited to report that planning for the 2022 Gala is underway! Organized and hosted by Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services and Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency, the 12th Annual Gala will take place in October 2022 with the theme *Celebrating 23 Years of Standing with First Nation Nations Children & Families*.

Caring Society Projects

Financial Literacy

In October 2021, the Caring Society and the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) announced the launch of a new resource called the Financial Literacy for Indigenous Peoples Course. The course is the result of multi-year collaboration between the Caring Society, RBC, and Youth in Care Canada (YICC). The course is available for free at <https://www.rbc.com/indigenous/financial-literacy-for-indigenous-peoples.html>.

Choosing a Bank and
Opening an Account

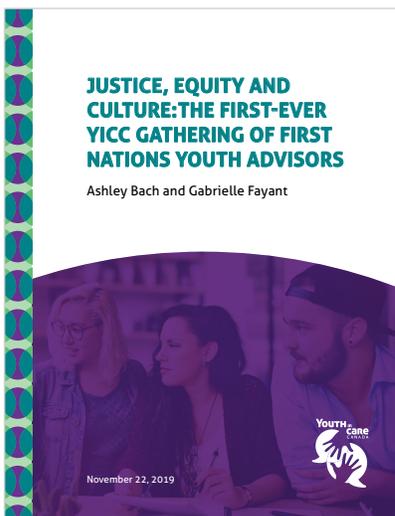
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The Caring Society believes strongly in respecting commitments to young people and acting on the knowledge they share. In 2019, First Nations Youth Advisors with lived experience in child welfare gathered to talk about their experiences, how the child welfare system needs to improve, and the Tribunal's ruling on financial compensation for children, youth and families impacted by Canada's

discrimination. One of their recommendations was that financial training for youth receiving compensation should be offered. Access to financial literacy information is also a recommendation made by residential school survivors in past reports.

The Financial Literacy course is broadly designed and intended to be a resource for all Indigenous peoples. Care was taken to address topics raised by the Youth Advisors, such as the need for information about predatory financial institutions. The Youth Advisors also talked about how recipients might use the compensation, including making a down payment on a house, for post-secondary education, or supporting training and participation in competitive sports. In response, the course covers key subjects like the basics of money and banking, protecting one's money, managing debt and credit, and saving and investing. The course takes about two hours to complete, and users can work through it at their own pace.



Read the 2019 report from First Nations youth at bit.ly/2019YICCGathering.

Following our collaboration with RBC and YICC on the course, the Caring Society continued work on the topic of financial literacy through a series of graphic videos on topics identified by youth:

- Choosing a Bank and Opening an Account
- Avoiding Predatory Financial Institutions
- Protecting Yourself from Scams

The videos are based on the content of the Financial Literacy Course, with their development led by youth with lived experience of child welfare. Warm thanks to Conner Lowes, who wrote the scripts and recorded the English audio, and Byanka Petrin for the translation and French recordings. The videos are available in English and French, with captions available in both languages, on the Caring Society YouTube channel at bit.ly/YICCFinancialLiteracySeries.

Caring Society Awards and Scholarships

fncaringsociety.com/awards-scholarships

The Caring Society proudly acknowledges the work of individuals and groups, including children and youth, to support the best outcomes for Indigenous children and families. We work in partnership with families, communities, schools, and other individuals in recognizing the outstanding work of our awards and scholarships.

Jordan's Principle Scholarship

fncaringsociety.com/jordans-principle-scholarship

Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson and in partnership with Jordan's family, the Caring Society was proud to present the fifth annual Jordan's Principle Scholarship for First Nations students to Anastacia Bradstreet and Nicole Tailfeathers. Honourable Mentions went to Miyah-Mae Stewart-Tuccaro, Sandra Hart, and Miranda Shannon. These recipients were presented with the scholarship to honour their commitment to Indigenous children's health and community service. May they always hold Jordan River Anderson in their hearts and minds, and remain champions for Jordan's Principle and equity for all Indigenous children.



Shannen's Dream Scholarship

fncaringsociety.com/shannens-dream-scholarship

The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is named in loving memory of Shannen Koostachin from Attawapiskat First Nation who sparked a national movement for safe and comfy schools for First Nations students. The first annual Shannen's Dream Scholarship was awarded to Jorden Hendry, Gregory Meconse, Chett Monague, and Janine Rattlesnake. Congratulations!

As a "pay-it-forward" scholarship, recipients must make a fair and measurable contribution to the Shannen's Dream campaign or related First Nations initiative as a condition of receiving the award. The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is made possible by a generous donation from the Collure family from Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Spirit Bear Award

fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear-award

Spirit Bear was proud to present the fourth annual Spirit Bear Award. The Spirit Bear Award recognizes groups of young people who demonstrate a commitment to reconciliation and the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. This year, three groups were awarded the first place prize in recognition of their hard work:

- Barbara Giroux's Grade 1 class at Holy Family School in Ottawa, Ontario;
- Asha Nagpal's Grade 1 class at Whiteoaks Public School in Mississauga, Ontario; and
- Shirley-Ann Oldnall, Katie Giles, and their K-6 students at Thickwood Heights School in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

A huge bear cheer for all these groups of young people!





First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Services

fncaringsociety.com/knowledge-portal/fncares

About FNCARES

The First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service (FNCARES) is a partnership between the Caring Society and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education. Located on Treaty 6 territory in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, Alberta), FNCARES focuses on translating research on structural disadvantage for First Nations children into practical, community-based solutions.

We organize and host numerous educational events throughout the year, including lectures, workshops, film screenings, panel discussions, book launches and other educational events that are free and open to the public. We also develop resources to educate about the structural drivers of disadvantage and promote further discussion and action concerning culturally based equity for First Nations children and youth.

Director: Cindy Blackstock, **Research Associate:** Melisa Brittain

FNCARES Events



clockwise from top left: Pam Palmater, Melisa Brittain, Steven Hassan, and Cindy Blackstock.

Mind Control and Colonization – Part I

On December 8, 2021, FNCARES hosted a webinar featuring Dr. Steven Hassan, Dr. Pam Palmater, and Dr. Cindy Blackstock to explore connections between Dr. Hassan's work on authoritarian mind control and colonization in Canada. Dr. Cindy Blackstock began by discussing how propaganda has always been part of colonialism, forming the government's messaging, shaping non-Indigenous views of First Nations, and helping to create a climate that enables human rights violations and ongoing injustices. For Dr. Blackstock, Dr. Steven Hassan's work on mind control has the potential to help disrupt limited thinking, affirm First Nations ways of knowing, and allow for true self-determination.

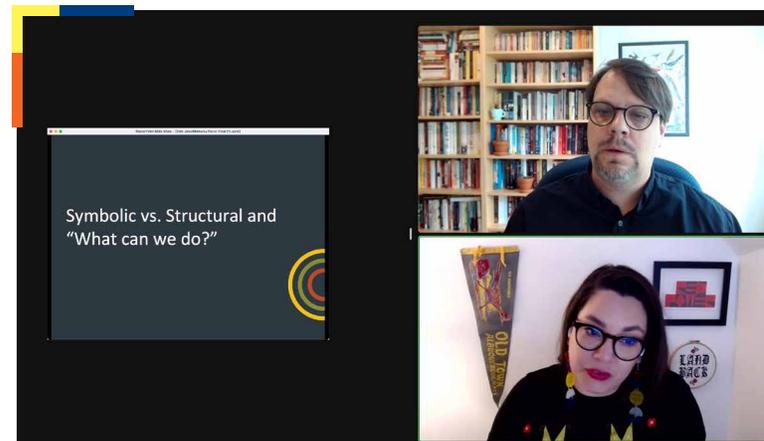
Dr. Steven Hassan, founder of Freedom of Mind Resource Centre (freedomofmind.com) and internationally recognized expert on cults, brainwashing, and authoritarian control, outlined his theory of mind control, including the BITE model and influence continuum. He explained how, as a means of gaining and maintaining coercive control, colonial governments assert undue influence and authority over Indigenous peoples in ways that can create a sense of individual and cultural insecurity.

Dr. Pamela Palmater, Mi'kmaw citizen, lawyer, and Professor and Chair in Indigenous Governance at Toronto Metropolitan University, spoke about how colonial ideology tries to silence, villainize, and control First Nations people who intervene in the discourse of "Canada the good." We must, she asserted, continue to disrupt state propaganda, political rhetoric, corporate mantras, white supremacy, and anti-First Nation racism that allows for the continuation of the "worst and longest-running genocide to continue unabated in Canada," the blaming of First Nations, and the internalization of blame by First Nations peoples.

The video is available on the Caring Society YouTube channel at bit.ly/MindControlandColonizationSeries.

A National Crime: Is it Over?

In honour of the 100th year anniversary of the publication of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce's *The Story of a National Crime* (bit.ly/NCTRNationalCrime), FNCARES hosted a webinar to discuss his attempts to reveal crimes against Indigenous children in residential schools when they were happening, how the colonial mindset enables mainstream Canada to continuously 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.



Ian Mosby and Eva Jewell

Dr. Cindy Blackstock began by speaking about Bryce's efforts to hold government to account during his life and drew parallels between what the public, government, and media knew of injustices then and now, and how we must continue to demand government accountability for both past and current injustices. Afterwards, Drs. Milloy and Johnson presented their paper *A Cruel Kindness: Laying the Foundations of Federal Child Welfare Policy in the 1920s and 1930s*, which examines responses by non-Indigenous people who worked in the Indian Residential School system when confronted with the atrocities carried out by the system. Their analysis provides insight into the deep roots of discrimination against Indigenous peoples in Canadian settler thought. The paper can be read at bit.ly/CruelKindnessReport.

Drs. Mosby and Jewell presented on their work tracking Canada's lack of progress towards completing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, noting that the government completed more actions in the three weeks following the discovery of unmarked children's graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in 2021 than they had the three years prior. They attribute this urgency in completing the actions to Canada's attempt to save face on the world stage as its image was threatened by international news stories, and they argue that the calls selected for fulfilment were largely symbolic rather than structural. While symbolic gestures can have some positive impact, they noted, the Calls to Action that require systematic changes must be fulfilled to end the ongoing national crime. Their report, *Calls to Action Accountability: A 2021 Status Update on Reconciliation*, is available through the Yellowhead Institute at yellowheadinstitute.org/trc.

The video is available on the Caring Society YouTube channel at bit.ly/NationalCrimeFNCARESTalk.

FNCARES Research

Research Report – *Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't stand tall: Reconciliation education in the elementary classroom*

This research project studies the impacts of the Caring Society's social justice-based reconciliation campaigns on elementary teachers and students who have actively participated over the years to ensure equity for First Nations children. In response to research findings, the research team is developing an interactive online resource for teachers and educational professionals called *The Spirit Bear Virtual Schools for Teachers*. Find more information in our research report, which outlines the intentions, methodologies, research activities, and findings from the first four years at bit.ly/JustBecauseWereSmall.



Watch for The Spirit Bear Virtual School for Teachers online in 2022! In the meantime, learn more about the school and the I am a Witness learning guide by watching the Spirit Bear Virtual School Webinar: I am a Witness learning guide at bit.ly/SBSchoolWebinar.

FNCARES Resource Development

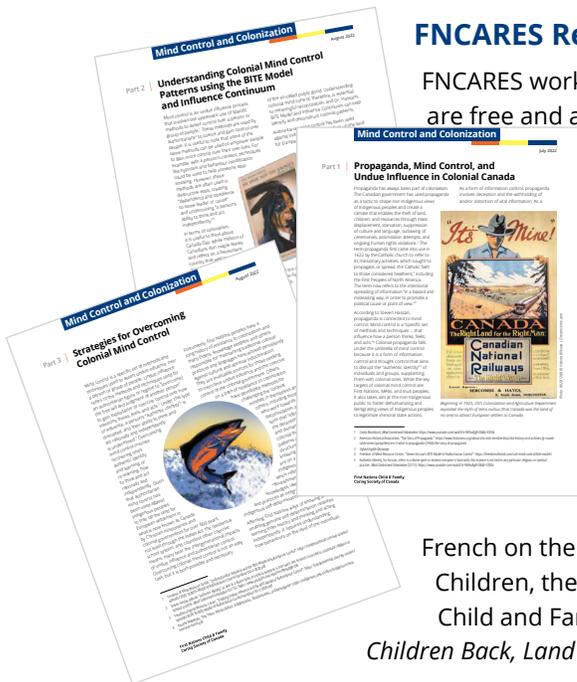
FNCARES works year-round with the Caring Society to produce resources that are free and accessible to the public. This year, we worked with Dr. Steven

Hassan of Freedom of Mind Resource Center to produce three information sheets on Mind Control and Colonization:

- Propaganda, Mind Control, and Undue Influence in Colonial Canada
- Understanding Colonial Mind Control Patterns Using the BITE Model & Influence Continuum
- Strategies for Overcoming Colonial Mind Control

The information sheets are available at bit.ly/MindControlColonizationInfoSheets.

We also created information sheets in both English and French on the Agreement in Principle Regarding Compensation for First Nations Children, the Agreement in Principle on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle, and the report, *Children Back, Land Back: A Follow-Up Report of First Nations Youth in Care Advisors*.



Future Directions

Our vision of Canada is one where all First Nations children are loved, respected, and honoured. We know just what to do to make that vision a reality and it will require the education and active engagement of caring Canadians and organizations to make it happen. Over the next year we look forward to making the following visions a reality:

- Continue to work with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and the Canadian federal government on First Nations child welfare and the full implementation of Jordan's Principle.
- Write, illustrate, and publish Spirit Bear's fifth book with accompanying educational resources.
- Completion and distribution of Spirit Bear's two stop motion animated films.
- Expand the Reconciliation *Ambassadors* program and promote reconciliation initiatives for the Caring Society's ever-growing bear family.
- Continue expanding the Reconciling History project to truthfully portray Canada's collective past in order to honour reconciliation.
- Support First Nations child and family service agencies, governments, and stakeholders' engagement in the Touchstones of Hope movement.
- Expand the Touchstones of Hope Reconciliation in Canada and Reconciliation + Children and Youth platforms to include more of the Caring Society's initiatives.
- Publish two editions of the First Peoples Child & Family Review and continue updating the online database.
- Expand the tools we use to share information and resources, including through videos, webinars, and our forthcoming podcast.
- Develop more educational resources for Shannen's Dream, Jordan's Principle and the promotion of children's engagement in research and positive social change.
- Expand the available educator resources and make these resources more accessible.
- Complete and launch the Spirit Bear Virtual School for Teachers web resource.
- Host School is a Time for Dreams, Have a Heart Day, Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams, Elderbeary Day and Bear Witness Day for another year!

A warm thank you to our members, volunteers and the many thousands of caring people of all ages who have joined the effort to ensure culturally based equity for First Nations children, youth, and their families.

Want to Make a Difference for First Nations Children?

Go online to fncaringsociety.com to learn more and join the movement for culturally based equity for First Nations children, young people, and families. You will find seven ways you can make a difference for Indigenous children and youth, as well as information and resources to make it easier for you to participate in these campaigns in your community, school, workplace, or home! Think about supporting the Caring Society by becoming a member at fncaringsociety.com/what-you-can-do/become-member or making an online donation at fncaringsociety.com/donate.





First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

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