

UPDATE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASE FOR FIRST NATIONS KIDS The Tribunal Issues Letter-Decision Approving \$23.4 Billion Compensation Package for First Nations Children, Youth and Families

On July 26, 2023, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued a letter-decision finding that the revised Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) signed by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Caring Society, Canada, and other class action parties *fully satisfies* the Tribunal's compensation orders. A letter-decision is similar to an oral ruling from the bench and the Tribunal will release its full reasons in the coming months.

This landmark decision approving compensation recognizes the egregious harms flowing from Canada's wilful and reckless discrimination against First Nations children, youth, and families in its provision of child welfare service and failure to properly implement Jordan's Principle.

This letter-decision follows the Tribunal's order (2022 CHRT 41), finding that the class action FSA signed by Canada, the AFN and the class action parties in June 2022 did *not* fully satisfy its orders on compensation. To address the Tribunal's order,

the AFN and Canada returned to the negotiating table with the new addition of the Caring Society to revise the FSA.

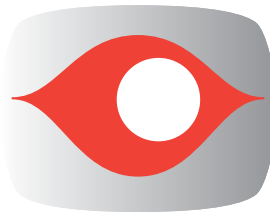
The Revised FSA addresses key issues raised by the

Tribunal in its 2022 CHRT 41 order, including ensuring that children and families entitled to compensation through the Tribunal orders but were left out of the class action FSA would receive compensation through the Revised FSA.

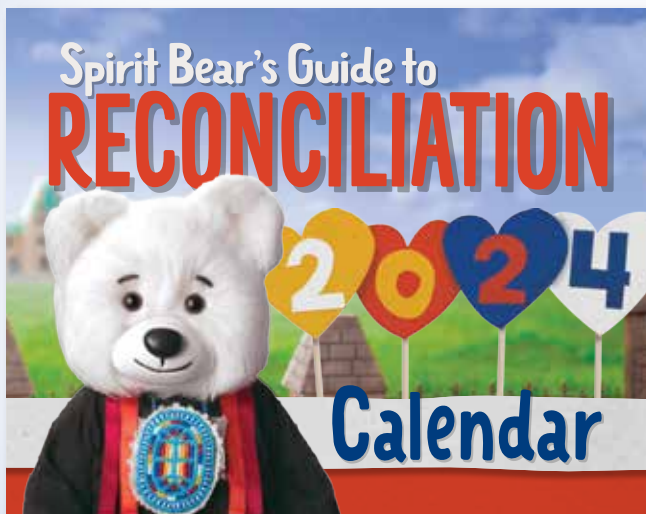
The Revised FSA will now be submitted to the Federal Court for final approval before steps are taken to implement the Revised FSA and distribute compensation.

Meanwhile, work remains on the issue of long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and the full implementation of Jordan's Principle to ensure the discrimination ends and does not reoccur.

For the latest information and to read an information sheet about the letter-decision, please visit fnwitness.ca.



Pre-order Spirit Bear's 2024 Guide to Reconciliation Calendar!



Exciting news: Spirit Bear's seventh Guide to Reconciliation Calendar is here! The calendar offers concrete ways for children, youth, and families to meaningfully engage in reconciliation throughout the year and serves as a reminder for people of all ages to incorporate acts of reconciliation into every day. All of the images in the 2024 edition features stills from Spirit Bear's third motion picture *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*.

You can pre-order your copy of the calendar in both English and French at fncaringsociety.com/shop. And don't forget to download the free activity book to accompany the calendar at fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/calendar.





SAVE THE DATE Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is Coming Up!

Now in its tenth year, Orange Shirt Day was created by Phyllis Webstad who, in sharing her experiences attending a residential school as a young child, spearheaded a movement for all people living in Canada to learn about the residential school system and its impacts, honour Survivors, their families, and the children who did not make it home, and take action in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

The Caring Society is fortunate to partner once more with Assembly of Seven Generations and Beechwood Cemetery to host our third annual event for Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. We have the following activities on this year's agenda:

- The unveiling of the Children's Sacred Forest and stone, honouring the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children who passed away in residential schools;
- Reconciling History Walking Tours at Beechwood Cemetery where participants can visit the resting sites of prominent Canadians who were involved in the residential school system and learn more about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action;
- Showings of Spirit Bear's film *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*;
- Action tables where participants can write letters and make art detailing their commitment to reconciliation;
- Reconciling History Walking Tours throughout Downtown Ottawa, where participants can learn about the involvement of the federal government and non-Indigenous people in the residential school system and think about the lessons we can take from the past to address contemporary harms against First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

To learn more about these events, and for other ideas on how to get involved, visit fncaringociety.com/orange-shirt-day.

Top: Some of the rocks that participants painted at last year's action tables

FREE SNEAK PEEK FOR ORANGE SHIRT DAY! New Spirit Bear Film

The Caring Society is thrilled to announce the release later this fall of Spirit Bear's next animated adventure, *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*. Brought to the screen by the incredible team at Spotted Fawn Productions, the story follows Spirit Bear as he meets new friends and learns about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. The film is dedicated to all of the children and families affected by residential schools and the veterans who fought for peace and justice for all people in Canada. In this spirit, although the official release is still to come, the film will be free online from September 23 to October 2 in recognition of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Follow us on social media and visit fncaringociety.com/orange-shirt-day for the link on September 23, and updates on the film's official release later this fall!



Honouring First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Veterans

More than 7,000 First Nations people served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. Each year on November 8, we honour the contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit veterans on National Indigenous Veterans Day. To learn more about this day, you can read Spirit Bear's book *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*.

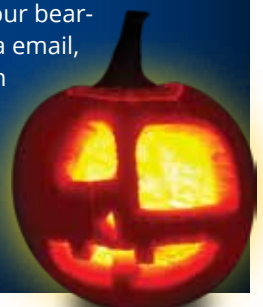
National Aboriginal Veterans Monument



Spirit Bear's Pumpkin Carving Contest

Spirit Bear is hosting another pumpkin carving contest this year, and all children and young people are invited to enter!

To enter, please share a photo of your bear-themed pumpkin carving with us via email, or on social media anytime between October 1 to 31, 2023. You can submit your carving to @SpiritBear on Twitter, @SpiritBearAndFriends on Instagram, or email info@fncaringociety.com.



Gala in Winnipeg – Tickets Available Now!

Join us on October 25, 2023, at the Victoria Inn & Convention Centre for an evening of good food and fantastic entertainment in support of equity for First Nations children and families. The Caring Society Gala is an annual fundraiser hosted by the First Nations child welfare agencies of Manitoba. This year's host is Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA). In Addition to the silent auction and live art auction (always highlights!), KSMA has added a **fashion show** and **photo booth** to the night's activities.

KSMA is seeking artist donations, including visual media (paintings, sculpture, etc.) and traditional First Nations clothing

and accessories. Artists who donate will be acknowledged and thanked during the Gala. Also new this year is the option to donate tickets and tables for Youth and Elders to attend free of charge.

For more information about the Gala, including how to donate or purchase tickets, visit fncaringsociety.com/events/annual-caring-society-gala or call Tracy at 204-784-8220 or 204-951-1774.



Gala Education Workshop

The Caring Society is proud to host a yearly Education Workshop on the afternoon of the Gala. The topic this year is liability. Join Dr. Cindy Blackstock (Caring Society), Koren Lightning-Earle (Wahkotowin Law and Governance Lodge) and Mary Teegee (Carrier Sekani Family Services) from 1–3 pm on October 25 at the Victoria Inn & Convention Centre as they discuss potential liability concerns for First

Nations and their employees who take on prevention funding as part of Canada's reformed funding model for the First Nations Child and Family Services Program or assume responsibility for Jordan's Principle.

The workshop is **free** but registration is required. Call 204-359-4551 or email smenow@minisowin.org to register.

The Spirit Bear Virtual School is Now Open!

On August 23, we launched the Spirit Bear Virtual School, a new online resource to support learning about the Caring Society's campaigns and initiatives for social justice and reconciliation. In response to research findings that said educators would benefit from resources designed specifically for teaching the Caring Society campaigns, the Caring Society, along with University of Ottawa researchers Drs. Lisa Howell and Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, created the Spirit Bear Virtual School and its resources. While these resources were specially designed for elementary educators, they are adaptable for older learners and accessible to everyone.

On the website, you will find *Spirit Bear's Beary Caring Curriculum*, which is grounded in five guiding principles known as the "Touchstones

for Learning," adapted from the Touchstones of Hope reconciliation process of truth-telling, acknowledging, restoring, and relating. Another key resource is the *Jordan's Principle Learning Guide*, which invites everyone to learn about the human rights case on First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle, and to participate in ending discrimination against First Nations children and youth.

Along with many other resources and learning opportunities, the school offers video interviews with early years educators Dr. Michelle McKay and Klara Redford, who discuss their use of the Caring Society's campaigns and resources in their kindergarten classrooms, the enormous capacity young children

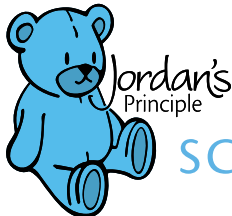
have to understand love, fairness, and justice, and how learning about historical and ongoing injustices must start in kindergarten.

Visit fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/spirit-bear-virtual-school and keep your eyes open for the *Shannen's Dream Learning Guide* and French translations of the website and resources, coming later this fall.



Get Ready to Submit Your Applications for the 2024 Scholarship Cycle!

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.



SCHOLARSHIP

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

shannen's dream SCHOLARSHIP

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



Peter Henderson Bryce Award

For 2024, the award will honour the work of an adult who demonstrates their commitment to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children's health, safety, and wellbeing.



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.

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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