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Federal Court Approves \$23.4 Billion Revised Compensation Final Settlement Agreement for First Nations Children, Youth and Families

On October 24, 2023, the Federal Court approved the \$23.4 billion Revised Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on Compensation for First Nations children and families who experienced discrimination because of Canada's inequitable provision of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and flawed, narrow implementation of Jordan's Principle. The Federal Court's approval followed from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's (Tribunal) finding that the Revised FSA on Compensation satisfies the Tribunal's earlier orders on compensation.

While the Federal Court has approved the Revised FSA, there are still additional steps before any compensation will be paid to the victims. The Federal Court must first approve the Distribution Protocol, which sets out compensation eligibility criteria, procedures, the necessary forms to be filled out, and the supports for beneficiaries. Once the Distribution Protocol is approved, the application process will begin; this will likely be in the fall of 2024. Applications will be made to and decided by Deloitte LLP, the Administrator appointed by the Federal Court. The goal is to identify as many people who are eligible for compensation as possible,



using existing records. Canada is preparing a database of all eligible children in care and from care that it can identify.

The Revised FSA also requires Canada to fund supports, like mental wellness, navigator, and application supports. While the Caring Society provided recommendations to class action parties about the types of supports needed, it is ultimately up to the Assembly of First Nations and class action parties to adopt them.

The Caring Society's primary role in compensation was before the Tribunal, and we are not a party to the class action. The class action lawyers, alongside the committees they create, will take the lead role on compensation implementation. The Caring Society has a limited role in compensation moving forward. While the Revised FSA is implemented, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal continues to hold jurisdiction to ensure Canada's discrimination stops and does not happen again.

To keep up with the latest information on the implementation of compensation, please visit www.fnchildcompensation.ca. For more information on the case before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, please visit www.fnwitness.ca.



SAVE THE DATE! Have a Heart Day is Coming February 14, 2024!

Mark your calendars for February 14, 2024! Planning for this year's Have a Heart Day is officially underway. Did you know that, since 2012, Have a Heart Day has been led by children and youth as a way of bringing together caring young people to ensure that First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are? While the Caring Society is thrilled to be hosting another in-person event on unceded Algonquin Territory (Ottawa, Ontario), you can host your own Have a Heart Day event no matter where you live.

Visit www.haveaheartday.ca to read more about the event and how you can participate. You can also download fun resources for people of all ages!

Orange Shirt Day 2023

The Caring Society was so privileged to partner once more with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G) and Beechwood Cemetery to host a number of reconciliation-based activities in honour of Orange Shirt Day. This year's agenda included the following activities:

- **Reconciling History walking tours at Beechwood Cemetery and throughout Downtown Ottawa.** Young people from A7G facilitated tours not only on September 30, but also on October 2, which was a recognized statutory holiday for federal public servants. The newly revised Downtown tours educated participants about the various historic and contemporary harms against First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, but also emphasized the many awesome things that communities are doing today, and how the residential school system is just one piece of an ever-evolving story.
- **The unveiling of the Children's Sacred Forest at Beechwood Cemetery.** At 2:15 pm on September 30, participants witnessed the unveiling of the Children's Sacred Forest and accompanying stone to honour the children who passed away at residential schools. Surrounded by **baby pine trees** (www.bit.ly/babypines) that will never grow past the height of a child, the stone is meant to serve as one of many places of honouring and remembrance.
- **Showings of the newly released *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*.** Attendees of all ages learned more about reconciliation by watching Spirit Bear's third big-screen adventure.
- **Art and letter-writing at the Action Tables.** Back again for another year, the Action Tables provided a space where people of all ages could demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation through art and letter-writing to elected officials, calling on them to fully implement the TRC Calls to Action.

We look forward to continuing with this important day of activities in the years to come!

Cindy Blackstock Receives "Children's Nobel Prize"

In a vote determined by millions of children from around the globe, Dr. Cindy Blackstock was awarded the 2023 World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child, also referred to as the Children's Nobel Prize, for her role in the collective work to advance the rights of First Nations children, young people, and families. Previous recipients of the award include Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzai!

On October 4, Cindy was presented the award by Queen Silvia of Sweden at the ceremony in Stockholm, but her favourite part of the experience was getting to travel to local schools and spend time with the students. The Caring Society is thrilled that the movement for culturally based equity for First Nations children, young people, and families is being taken up by kids all over the world!



Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams Premieres on Spirit Bear TV!

The Caring Society was so pleased to officially release the latest film in the Spirit Bear series, *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*, on November 20, World Children's Day! In this latest adventure, Spirit Bear visits Algonquin territory and meets a friendly dog named Jake, who teaches him about residential schools, heart gardens, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.

Did you know that you can now watch all of the Spirit Bear films in one place? November 20 also marked the launch of the new Spirit Bear TV! In the spirit of accessibility and equity, all of Spirit Bear's films, animations, and other short videos are now available to watch for free at www.vimeo.com/spiritbeartv. Spirit Bear TV is dedicated to two *beary* special friends and champions of children's rights, Joan Glode and Landon Pearson.

You can learn more about the films and the newly released Spirit Bear TV by visiting www.fncaringssociety.com/spirit-bear/films.



SPIRIT BEAR HONOURING MEMORIES, PLANTING DREAMS

THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY CARING SOCIETY AND SPIRIT BEAR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
SPIRIT BEAR: HONOURING MEMORIES, PLANTING DREAMS. A FILM BY JENNIFER STONE
Based on the book "Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams" by Chris Blackledge
Screenplay by CHRYL BLACKLEDGE, Executive Producer CHRYL BLACKLEDGE, Director of Photography MICHAEL ANDERSON, Executive Producer CHRYL BLACKLEDGE
Original Score by David Gumpel, CHRYL BLACKLEDGE, MICHAEL ANDERSON, LONNIE VEE, JESSICA HARTMAN, MICHAEL
Executive Producers CHRYL BLACKLEDGE, JENNIFER STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE
Produced by JENNIFER STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE, ANDREW STONE
Including children and youth from Spirit Bear TV



Recap of the 13th Annual Caring Society Gala

The Caring Society's 13th Annual Gala was a great success! We are so thankful to our colleagues at Kinoshao Sipi Minisowin Agency for their hard work putting together this wonderful event each year. This year, around 600 people came out to enjoy an evening of music, dancing, art, and fashion in support of the work of the Caring Society. The guest of honour was the giant teddy bear who greeted guests as they arrived. Our board members were especially delighted to see him! The Caring Society wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the organizers, volunteers, performers, and artists who helped to make the night so special.



Update on Spirit Bear's Pumpkin Carving Contest

Spirit Bear was *beary* excited to receive over 35 submissions from children and youth for his annual pumpkin carving contest! With such creative carvings, it was nearly impossible to choose just a few favourites. To thank participants for their support, each individual/group submission received a gift card to spend at www.goodminds.com, a First Nations family-owned business that hosts First Nations, Métis, and Inuit educational books, resources, and products. Thank you to all those who participated and made this year's pumpkin carving contest a memorable one!





First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service

Jordan's Principle Back-to-Basics Webinar

Implementation of Jordan's Principle has

improved; however, Canada still fails to fully implement it, resulting in delays and denials in services and supports for First Nations children. In addition, many people are still unclear about who is eligible, how to apply, and how to respond when they face barriers when applying for Jordan's Principle. On October 23, FNCARES and the Caring Society held a webinar to educate people about these issues and try to provide some strategies for overcoming barriers faced when applying for services and supports through Jordan's Principle.

Dr. Cindy Blackstock introduced the topic and context for the presentation, and then Dr. Helaina Gaspard from the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy presented her research

on Jordan's Principle and substantive equality. Dr. Gaspard also invited service providers and paediatricians to contribute to a new project designed to inform the development and implementation of solutions for achieving substantive equality.

Next up was Dr. Ryan Giroux, who presented findings from research by the Canadian Paediatric Society on paediatricians' knowledge, behaviour, and experiences of accessing Jordan's Principle for First Nations children and youth. Afterwards, Molly Rasmussen of the Caring Society presented on the Back-to-Basics Approach that Indigenous Services Canada staff are required to follow when they receive Jordan's Principle requests. Molly also described who is eligible for Jordan's Principle and provided strategies for overcoming barriers when submitting requests.

Over 670 people registered for the webinar, demonstrating the need for more discussion and education about Jordan's Principle and the need to keep pushing Canada to fully implement Jordan's Principle, so that First Nations children get the services and supports they need without denial or delay.

Watch video of the webinar here: www.bit.ly/BacktoBasicsWebinar

Find resources provided by presenters here: www.fncaringsociety.com/publications/jordans-principle-back-basics-webinar-resources



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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