

newsletter

✕ SpiritBear

✕ CaringSociety

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Highlights From Spirit Bear's First Exhibit

On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Spirit Bear gathered with some *beary* special friends to celebrate his biggest adventure yet: the launch of the Spirit Bear and Children Make History Exhibit at The Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre in Prince George, British Columbia.

Developed in partnership with Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Spotted Fawn Productions, and The Exploration Place, the exhibit tells the true story of how children of all diversities are standing with First Nations kids to end inequities in First Nations children's services so they can grow up healthy and proud. The exhibit showcases hand-made puppets and sets from Spirit Bear's four stop-motion animation films produced by the award-winning Indigenous studio, Spotted Fawn Productions, alongside archival material from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case, Jordan's Principle, Shannen's Dream, and important lessons from history.

To help celebrate its launch, the Caring Society was honoured to welcome many special guests, including Chief Dolleen Logan of Lheidli T'enneh

First Nation, Regional Chief Terry Teegee, Mayor Simon Yu, and Phyllis Webstad, founder of Orange Shirt Day. Youth MCs Sloan and Kashyana did a wonderful job of overseeing the event. Guests were also treated to a surprise visit from Spirit Bear himself, looking larger than life! The Spirit Bear mascot is courtesy of Dusty Hagerud of Color Sound Lab, in collaboration with Spotted Fawn Productions.

The final surprise of the evening was the unveiling of a *new* interactive Spirit Bear experience: *Bear Shares*. This interactive experience was developed in collaboration with our friends at Spotted Fawn Productions, and Steam Labs, a non-profit organization that specializes in technology and education experiences. Users are invited to virtually visit Spirit Bear at three locations based on his films where they can ask him questions and listen to his answers. Developed to run both locally and online, Bear Shares is also available on the Caring Society's website at fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/bear-shares.

The Spirit Bear and Children Make History exhibit is on display at The Exploration Place until mid-October. To learn more about Spirit Bear's exhibit visit fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/spirit-bear-and-children-make-history-exhibit.

Below: Youth emcees Sloan and Kashyana with Spirit Bear's mascot.



Spirit Bear's 2025 Guide to Reconciliation Calendar is Here!

Back by popular demand, we're pleased to share that the 2025 Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation Calendar is available for pre-order!

In honour of Spirit Bear's latest film release, the 2025 calendar showcases images from Spirit Bear's fourth motion picture, *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*. Similar to past years, the calendar will be accompanied by an activity book, which will be available to download for free at fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/calendar.

Don't forget to pre-order your copy of the calendar, available in both French and English, at fncaringsociety.com/shop.

SAVE THE DATE Orange Shirt Day

The Caring Society is thrilled to partner once again with Assembly of Seven Generations and Beechwood Cemetery to host our fourth annual Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event on September 30. Originally created by Phyllis Webstad who courageously shared her experience attending residential school as a child, Orange Shirt Day is acknowledged each year as a way of honouring residential school survivors and their families, learning about the past, and committing to meaningful reconciliation.

This year, we will be offering dedicated tours and showings during the morning of September 30 for classes and school groups, followed by public tours later in the afternoon and evening. This year, we are pleased to offer the following activities:

- Showings of the fourth Spirit Bear film, *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*;
- Youth-led Reconciling History walking tours at Beechwood and Downtown Ottawa to learn more about prominent historical figures and their relationship to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities historically and today;
- Rock painting, letter writing, and other ways to creatively express your commitment to reconciliation.

If you are not located on unceded Algonquin Territory where the Caring Society's events will be taking place, we invite you to participate in Orange Shirt Day in a way that makes sense for you,

either by attending an event hosted by your community, or taking up the following activities:

- Take a virtual Reconciling History walking tour;
- Write a letter to your elected officials urging them to help fully implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action;
- Watch Spirit Bear's films and read his books, all available for free on our website.

To learn more about how to participate in Orange Shirt Day no matter where you live, visit fncaringsociety.com/orange-shirt-day.



Updates on the Caring Society's Non-Compliance Motion on Jordan's Principle

Proceedings in the non-compliance motion on Jordan's Principle that the Caring Society filed against Canada in December 2023 continue before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal). The hearings are scheduled for September 10, 11, and 12, 2024. The Caring Society will post information, including whether the hearings will be in-person, online, or hybrid, as it becomes available on our website.

Canada opposes the Caring Society's motion and in its cross-motion, has requested orders to extend the request determination timeframes ordered by the Tribunal in previous rulings, for the Parties to co-develop objective criteria to identify urgent requests, and the ability to refer requesters to existing services.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) opposes most of the Caring Society's non-compliance motion and has

requested that the Tribunal dismiss all the relief sought. The AFN has requested orders relating to reimbursement timelines, to adjust the determination timelines for non-urgent requests, and to provide Indigenous Services Canada the ability to refer requests to First Nations or First Nations organizations. The AFN has also requested that the Tribunal ensure that any relief ordered in the non-compliance motion proceedings be interim, subject to a final settlement agreement or an expiry date of March 31, 2025.

As interested parties, the Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation are not taking a position on the motion. The Canadian Human Rights broadly supports the motion.

On June 3, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), representing the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit, and the British

Columbia Assembly of First Nations, filed a motion to intervene in the Caring Society's non-compliance motion and Canada's cross-motion. On July 2, the Tribunal granted the FNLC Interested Party status, and the FNLC submitted its factum on July 16 with general support for the Caring Society's non-compliance motion.

For the latest information, please visit fncaringsociety.com/i-am-witness.



DON'T MISS Resources on the draft Final Settlement Agreement on First Nations Child and Family Services

On July 11, 2024, the Assembly of First Nations, Chiefs of Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and Canada released a draft Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on the Long-term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. Although the Caring Society was not involved in the creation of the draft FSA, after thoroughly reviewing it we have put together a series of resources with important considerations for Chiefs and technicians to contemplate while reviewing the draft FSA. Visit fncaringsociety.com/fncfs-resources to access the following documents:

- a Draft FSA Review Guide, providing key questions for readers to consider in their review of the draft FSA;

- an infographic outlining the governance structure contemplated in the draft FSA;
- an infographic that explains how First Nations and First Nations-authorized service providers can access capital funding under the draft FSA;
- an information sheet that addresses the myths and realities of the draft FSA;
- an infographic that breaks down the dispute resolution process that is proposed to replace the Tribunal under the draft FSA;
- an information sheet called *Letting Canada off the Hook?* that further explains the implications of the dispute resolution process proposed in the draft FSA on the Tribunal's jurisdiction; and
- a report card identifying the Caring Society's overall assessment of the draft FSA.



Spirit Bear's Pumpkin Carving contest

Good news! Spirit Bear is hosting his annual pumpkin carving contest again this year.

Children and young people are invited to share photos of their bear-themed pumpkin carvings or decorations via email or social media between October 1 and 31. Don't forget to tag [SpiritBear](#) on X, [SpiritBearandFriends](#) on Instagram or [CaringSociety](#) on Facebook. You can also email your submission to info@fncaringsociety.com. We're *beary* excited to see your creative carvings!



14th Annual Caring Society Gala GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Join us on October 18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for an evening of fun, food, and live entertainment in support of equity for First Nations children at the 14th Annual Caring Society Gala, an annual fundraiser hosted by the First Nations child welfare agencies of Manitoba. The Caring Society extends its warmest thanks and appreciation to the Kinosaosipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA) for organizing the Gala again this year. Last year's event drew over 600 people with an incredible \$70,000 raised! KSMA hopes to make this year's Gala even bigger, and we at the Caring Society are planning a few surprises of our own.

For those who cannot attend in person and would like to contribute, tickets and tables can be purchased and donated back so that Elders and youth can attend the Gala free of charge. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are also available, and KSMA is seeking donations of artwork and prizes for the silent auction.

For more information, visit fncaringsociety.com/events/annual-caring-society-gala or contact Tracy at KSMA at 204-784-8220 or tthompson@minisowin.org.

Date: October 18, 2024
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Victoria Inn & Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB
Tickets: \$200/person or \$2,000/table



FNCARES Update



Our SSHRC-funded research project *Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't stand tall* wrapped up in March 2024, and we are continuing to present our findings through multiple

venues, including scholarly journals, the *Spirit Bear Virtual School*, and a new film that documents one of the main findings of this research: Children and young people who learn about discrimination towards First Nations children and their families in Canada often feel empowered to learn more and to stand in solidarity with First Nations to ensure the discrimination ends.



To create the film *My Voice Matters: Changing the World Through Child & Youth Activism*, we asked young people who had participated in the Caring Society's social justice-based reconciliation campaigns as young students to look back on their experiences and reflect on how they felt when they first learned about Canada's discrimination against First Nations children, how it felt to take part in activities that were part of a larger social justice movement, what impact their work has had, and how participating as young students has impacted their own lives.

Early reviewers of the film called it "beautiful," "unbelievably wonderful," "captivating and meaningful." Another wrote, "[the film] took my breath away. Those former students are SO articulate."

We will be launching *My Voice Matters* in September on the *Spirit Bear Virtual School* website. Be sure to watch our social media for information about the film's launch. This is a film you won't want to miss!

Scholarship Updates

Jordan's Principle Scholarship

Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson and created in partnership with Jordan's family, the Caring Society was proud to present the seventh annual Jordan's Principle Scholarship to Jordan Barnaby, Tyler Ermineskin, Zoey Germain, and Alvin Laboucan. We were grateful to be able to provide two \$5,000 scholarships and two \$2,500 scholarships to First Nations students to assist with post-secondary education costs this year, largely thanks to donations made in memory of Joan Glode, a fierce advocate for First Nations children.

This scholarship is awarded to First Nations students studying children's holistic health and wellbeing. May they always hold Jordan River Anderson in their hearts and minds and remain champions for Jordan's Principle and equity for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children.

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. We awarded three prizes of \$500 to children and youth, which they can use toward their continued work toward reconciliation as they see fit. Thank you to the Olive Tree Foundation (Mohamed and Opheera Nasir Endowment Fund) for generously donating towards the award!

This year's Spirit Bear Award recipients are the Bateman Mahihkanak Dance Troupe, Mckenna Bonner, and VACFSS Youth Advisory Committee. We would also like to give an honourable mention to both Mrs. Condon's Grade 2 Class and Ms. Sanche's Grade 8 Class; congratulations! Spirit Bear appreciates everyone's continued dedication and commitment to reconciliation.

Check back for the 2025 scholarship cycle by visiting fncaringsociety.com/awards-scholarships.



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Membership Information

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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