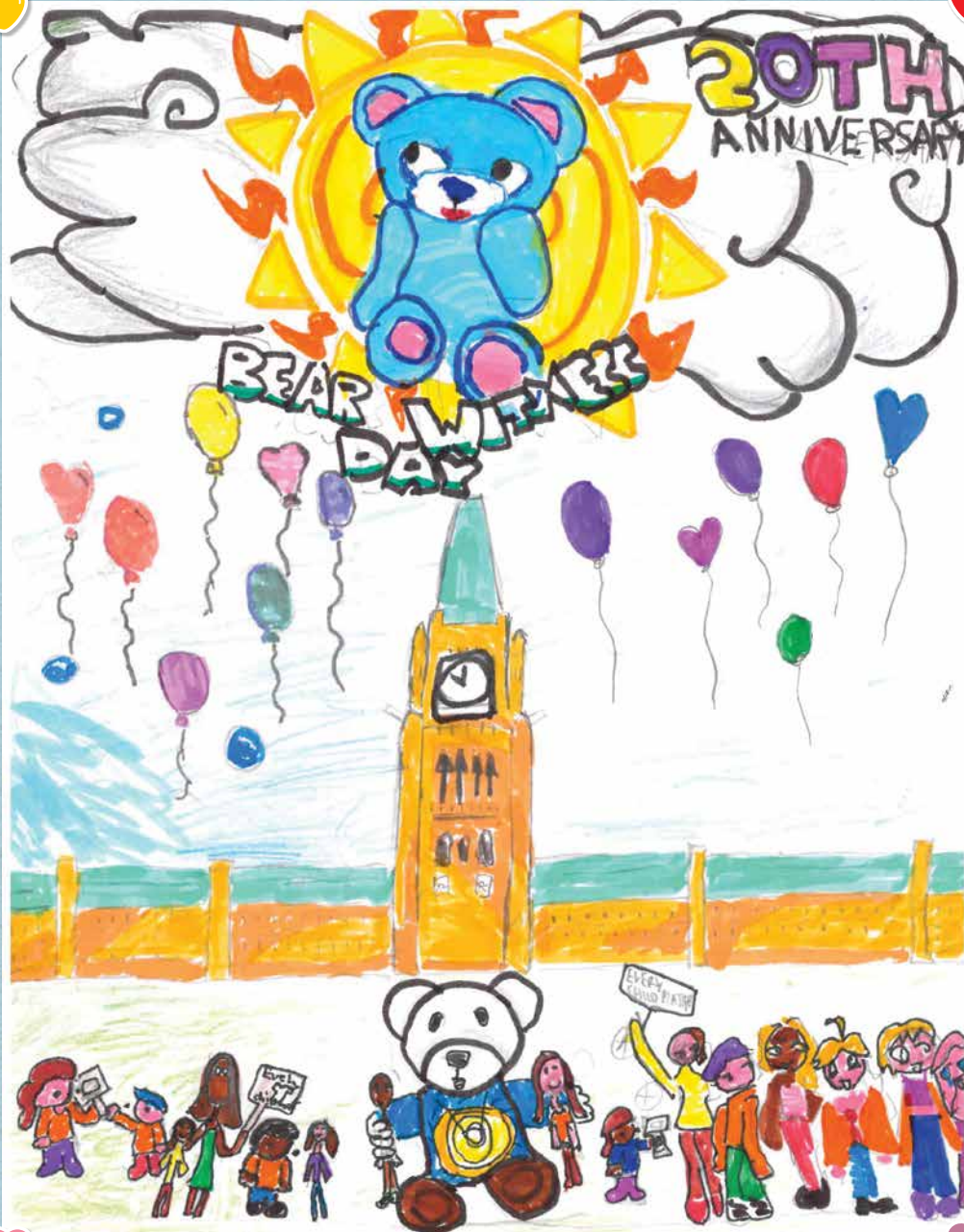




JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

20th Anniversary Scrapbook

Dedication

In loving memory of Jordan River Anderson, whose legacy is one of justice, dignity, and love. Though his life was short, he left behind a powerful gift for First Nations children, youth, and families: Jordan's Principle. **Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle and legal rule ensuring First Nations children get the services they need, when they need them.**

Jordan's legacy lives on in all of us who stand up for First Nations children. Jordan's Principle is a forever sacred responsibility that reminds us that **children must come first.**



About Jordan's Principle and This Scrapbook

Jordan River Anderson was a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba who was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities. For over two years, he lived in a children's hospital in Winnipeg because the federal government and provincial government of Manitoba could not agree on who would pay for his at-home care. The disagreement took place because federal and provincial/territorial governments often cannot agree on

who should pay for services for First Nations children, even when the service is normally available to other children. The result is that First Nations children are left waiting while governments argue about payment. Unfortunately, Jordan died in the hospital at the age of five, before he could experience living in a family home.

In 2005, Jordan's family and community bestowed a great honour and responsibility on all of us by allowing his name to be used for Jordan's Principle. Jordan's Principle was named in the 2005 report *Wen:de: We Are Coming to the Light of Day*, which exposed the deep systemic barriers preventing First Nations children from accessing needed services and supports. In response to advocacy from Jordan's family, community, and other First Nations and supporters, the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion in 2007 supporting Jordan's Principle.



Jordan's family with supporters and Member of Parliament, Jean Crowder, who tabled the Jordan's Principle motion

Despite the unanimous support from all Members of Parliament, Canada chose not to properly implement Jordan's Principle, and First Nations children continued to be denied services due to Canada's excessively narrow and restrictive interpretation. In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal) issued a landmark ruling, finding that Canada is discriminating against First Nations children in its provision of services. The Tribunal ordered Canada to stop the discrimination and prevent it from happening again. Yet, despite close to 30 legal orders since then, Canada has still not implemented Jordan's Principle according to the Tribunal's orders.

Full implementation of Jordan's Principle is both a legal obligation and a requirement for reconciliation. Jordan's Principle is one of the top Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (Call to Action #3) and is echoed in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Calls for Justice (Call 3.2). These calls emphasize that equitable access to health, education, and social services is foundational to reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples in Canada.

In 2025, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Jordan's Principle. While some progress has been made, and Jordan's Principle has been life-changing and life-saving for thousands of First Nations children, much more needs to be done to end the federal government's discrimination in implementing Jordan's Principle. In honour of the 20th anniversary of Jordan's Principle, people across Canada came together to stand up for the rights of First Nations children and make this Bear Witness Day the most *bear*-rific yet. Celebrated annually on May 10, Bear Witness Day honours Jordan River Anderson and his family for the gift of Jordan's Principle and invites people of all ages to "bear witness" to ensure Jordan's Principle is fully implemented! Teddy bears were Jordan's favourite toy.



This scrapbook highlights some of the many events that were held in May 2025 to honour the tremendous impact of Jordan River Anderson's life and legacy. The largest events took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Ottawa, Ontario. Both are significant locations related to Jordan's Principle.

In Winnipeg, Sagkeeng Child and Family Services and Kinosaosipi Minisowin Agency hosted a Bear Witness Day parade with Jordan's family as honoured guests. Premier Wab Kinew delivered a statement in Cree in the Manitoba legislature honouring Jordan, his family, and Jordan's Principle.

In Ottawa, across the street from the House of Commons, where Jordan's Principle was passed unanimously by Members of Parliament in 2007,

Senators Francis, Audette, Greenwood, Harder, Klyne, and White joined with the Assembly of Seven Generations and the Caring Society to host a Bear Witness Day celebration for elementary and high-school students at the Senate of Canada. The thoughtful letters and beautiful drawings created by these students can be found throughout this scrapbook.

The final section of the scrapbook highlights some of the many uplifting and impactful celebrations that took place from coast to coast to coast.

As we look back on 20 years of Jordan's Principle, and commit to ensuring its full and proper implementation by Canada, may this scrapbook serve as a reminder and gesture to honour the tremendous impact of Jordan River Anderson's life and legacy.

Special Thank You

Thank you to the students from Ms. Kathy Schuiteboer's class at Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School for creating the beautiful image on the cover of this scrapbook.







May 5, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark carney,

Congratulations on the Election Victory. First, we may have some concerns about Jordan's principle. I believe that Canada could start helping with home care.

You see what happened to Jordan River Anderson was terrifying and that no kid should go through that experience. Jordan River Anderson is a young boy from the Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, technically died in Winnipeg hospital at the age of 5 due to a jurisdictional dispute between federal and provincial governments over funding for his specialized care.

With that being said we think that we could achieved by strengthening the implementation of Jordan's principle. A child-first policy, and advocating for equitable treatment within the healthcare system.

Thank you for your time and I hope that we could hear back from you! :)

Sincerely,

Shyria



Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Great job on winning with Liberals, you probably know but you made Liberals win four times in a row.

My name is Ryker. I'm in grade 6 soon going to badley in grade 7.

The thing I need to write to you about the Jordans Principle and you should try to find things to improve on it. I won't tell you what to do. (That is why I'm not Prime Minister.)

It matters because every child matters and every child should get the same care.

The Jordans principle is a child first rule no matter where you originate from. It also ensures that Indigenous people get the same care. It's also outlined from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal known as the CHRT.

Mainly I think we should keep this rule and add some changes like making a hospital just for first nations people.

Are there any plans for this I wonder if I perdocted anything?

Thanks for your time. I hope I hear back

you honorable Mark Carney,

Sincerely, Ryker



Dear prime minister Mark Carney,

I would like to congratulate on winning the election. I am very happy to have you as our prime minister. My name is Bumi ~~Anderson~~ and I'm in sixth grade. I am twelve years old and I go to pierre elliot Trudeau Elementary School. I am happy to live in this country but, we have some problems the first nations peoples are getting treated unfairly. We think that first nations peoples on reserves need to have equal access to government services. this includes health care, medical care, dental care, all sorts of therapy etc. discrimination is still happening and it needs to end now!

Jordan River Anderson was a boy who was sadly born with severe medical needs which caused him to spend two years of his young life in a hospital bed. When he was well enough to go home the governments were arguing on who was going to pay for a health care supervisor to stay and help with Jordan at home to make sure he doesn't get sick again. It took them three years to decide and by that time Jordan had gotten sick again and sadly passed away with out ever going home.



this can never happen again and we need your help to do this.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,
Bumi



From: Jackson

To: Mark Carney

Dear Mark Carney

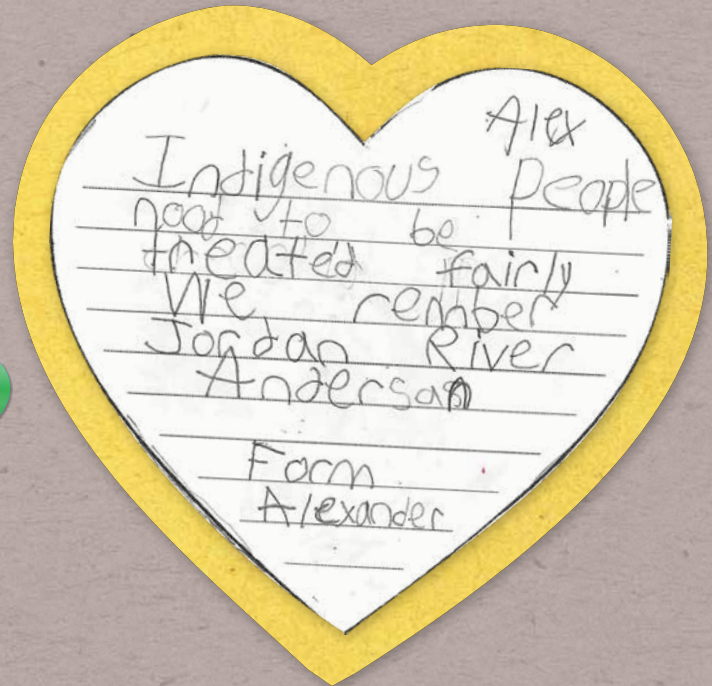
Date: May 6, 2025

Congrats on making it to being Prime Minister

I'm Jackson a student from a primary school called Peps. I already know you will make the future better. Anyway I'm here to talk about Jordan's Principle and how I hope you can keep that law because Jordan is a indigenous kid that sadly passed away at the hospital at the age of five and he did not get to return home because of misdiagnosis and I hope you will keep this law cause we can't be treated differently just because of our differences. Also I want to talk about a weird law you decided to make why does a hard working person who just bought a house needs to pay tax of how much the house is making I find this worst than the carbon tax because you are basically replacing it with the house tax but still you are a great man and you were humble about conservatives losing so that's all that I have to say I hope you will make our future better. Nice talking to you.

Thanks for your time
Sir Carney

Signature: Jackson.



Dear, Prime Minister Mark Carney

Good job winning the Election
this year. I'm Miya 
I'm in grade 5 at Pierre
Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.
I need to talk to you about
what happened to Jordan. Do you
know why it's important, because
Jordan died at a very young age of
5 years old. 3 facts about
this problem is that the
first nation people where
not being treated like others.
Also because they where just
different from the others.
Another fact about Jordan's
Principle that there only getting
30 percent for school. I think
what's best is for you to start
pacing a pension to this to.
If any steps are taking it
would do so much for the world
people. Thank you for your time
and I would love to hear from you

Sincerely,

Miya



March 28, 2025

Dear Prime Minister ~~Camey~~,

~~We care~~ about First Nations
Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We don't want what happened to
Jordan River Anderson to
happen to other kids in Canada.

It is important for Indigenous
people to have healthy lives.
Please let Indigenous children
have clean water, healthy food,
and good health care.

turn page From
Isabella

Thank you for helping
our country Canada and
Indigenous people have
Beautiful lives.





Le principe de Jordan

Par: Amirouche Mélina

Née le 22 Octobre 1999, Jordan, fils d'une première nation n'as pas pu vivre longtemps. A cause de plusieurs handicaps, à l'âge de 3 ans, les médecins ont déterminé qu'il pouvait aller vivre chez lui. Mais il avait des besoins médicaux qui coûtaient très cher. Les deux gouvernements (fédéral, provincial) refusaient de payer. Ce qui a causé un conflit en empêchant Jordan de rentrer chez lui. Ce désaccord dure 2 ans et c'est ça qui provoque sa mort le 2 Février 2005.

La morale de cette histoire

Jordan est mort sans avoir pu vivre dans une maison, non pas à cause de ses maladies, mais d'un conflit entre les deux gouvernements. Sa vie a malheureusement été de l'injustice. Mais grâce à lui, le principe de Jordan a été créé pour s'assurer que plus jamais un enfant autochtone ne reçoive pas des soins essentiels à cause d'une dispute gouvernementale.

En résumé:

Sa mort tragique a permis de sauver d'autres vies, en forçant le Canada à reconnaître et corriger une grave injustice.





March 28th 2025

Dear Prime Minister Garney,

We care about First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. We don't want ^{what} happen to Jordan River Anderson to happen to other kids in Canada. It is important for Indigenous people to have happy and healthy lives. Please let Indigenous children have clean water, healthy food and good health care. Thank you for helping Indigenous people have beautiful lives.

From Sloane



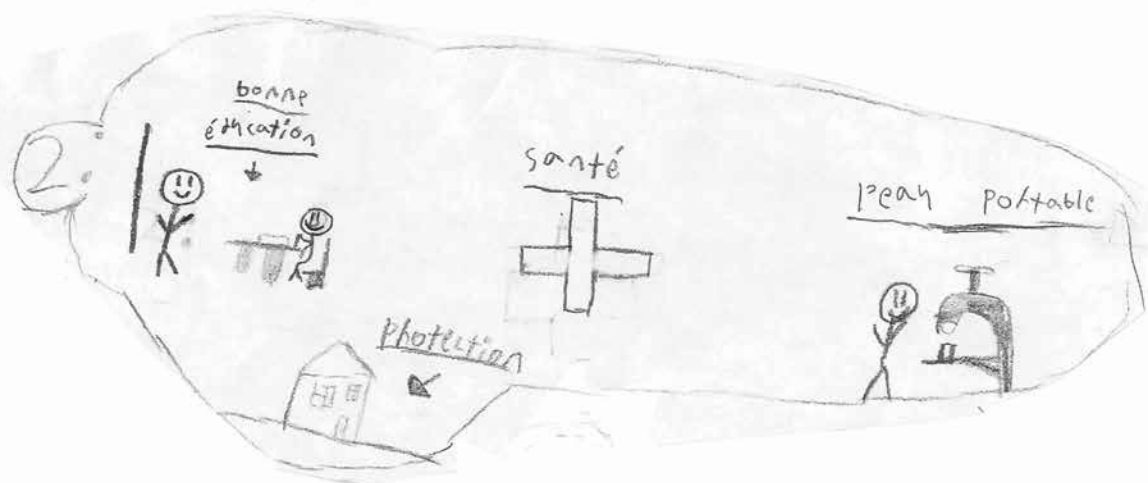


Corinne

On veut que chaque enfant ait une
éducation et soit en santé, ont de
l'eau potable et ont une maison.



L.oubson
Témo in





May 5, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Congratulations on winning the elections, my name is Max, I am 11 years old, but I am probably going to be 12 by the time you read this, I am in 6th grade at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.

I am writing to inform you that there have been several spills and leaks from oil pipelines in indigenous communities in Canada. This is very bad because it pollutes the land and water and because of that the animals die and the meat cannot be eaten, the water becomes undrinkable and clean water is crucial to survival, and the plants die so no vegetables or fruit.

I think that if we are still to use oil we should go around the indigenous communities and have supervised sections to be able to fix the leaks as quick as possible.

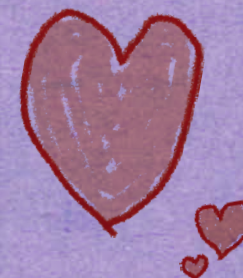
Also we should raise more awareness to Jordan's Principle because there are lots of indigenous children with a lack of supplies in healthcare, education, and social services so we need to give them the supplies they need have proper healthcare, education, and social services.

If there are already steps being taken to address the issues, maybe you could add my ideas to them.

Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear back from you.

Maxime

Maxime



Bear Witness Day in Winnipeg

Sagkeeng Child and Family Services and Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency hosted a Bear Witness Day event in Winnipeg to honour the 20th anniversary of Jordan's

Principle. Jordan River Anderson's family collaborated on the day's events and were honoured guests. Youth leader Angel led children, families, and supporters on a

march from The Forks to Memorial Park, which is across from the Manitoba Legislature. At the park, young people and leaders spoke to the crowd and enjoyed lunch and an afternoon full of fun activities.

On May 8, Premier Wab Kinew delivered a statement in the Manitoba Legislature in Cree. He honoured Jordan River Anderson, Jordan's family, and Jordan's Principle. The statement also reflected on The Spirit Bear Day Act, which was passed by the Manitoba legislative assembly in 2018 to honour Jordan's memory and annually recognize the importance of Jordan's Principle on May 10.



Premier Wab Kinew with Jordan River Anderson's family and supporters

Premier Wab Kinew's Speech in Cree

manito maskwa kīsikāw

Hon. Wab Kinew (Premier): opīkiskwēw,
nipasikōn anohc kā-kisikāk, ta-wīhtamān, mitātaht
kā-itakimiht sākipakāwi-pisim, oma kīsikāw, Spirit
Bear day kā-isi- kiskēnihcikatēk, ē-kistēnihtākwanik,
mina ē-kiskisināniwanik Jordan River Anderson
opimatisiwiniw, ēkwa ē-ohpinikatēk kiskēnihtamowin
awāsisak kwayask ta pamihihcik opimatisiwiniwāhk,
mīna mitoni ta-kistēnihtākwak Jordan's Principle.

awa napēsis Jordan, kinosēw-sīpihk ohci,
Norway House Cree Nation, ispiy kā-nihtāwikit
misiwē kī-isi-animihtāw, misiwē ēkī-itāspinēt, kapē
kā-pimātisit ahkosiwi-kamikohk kī-kanawēnimaw,
ina mwāc ohci kaskihtācik ta-itasowēcik awēna
ta-tipahikēstamawāt kisāspin kī-pakitiniht ta-kīwēt –
Canada kihci-okimānāhk, ahpo Manitoba okimānāhk.
ina ēki-tasi-ohtami-anwēhtahkik ta-tipahikēstamawācik
opamihihēwiniw, ēkwani mwāc ohci kiwētahāw
Jordan, itē takī-kanawēnimikot mina takī-sītoskākot
onīkīkwa, owīcisana, owahkomākana, mīna takī
-wicihikot owici-ininīma, māka kapē ē-isi-cimāsinik

o-pimatisiwin kī-pamihāw āhkosiwi-kamikohk. ispiy
kā-pōni-pimātisit, kī-wanāstāniwan Jordan's Principle,
wanasowēwin, kēhcināc ininiwi-awāsisak kwayask
ta-pamīhihcik, kahkinaw kēkwan ē-isi-natawēnihtahkik,
pamīstākēwina ta-miskahkik – .ta-kiskēnihcikatēk
awēna ta-tipahikēstamākēt awāsis-pamihiwēwin ohci.

oma kīsikaw kika-kiskisinaw mona ina poko
wanasowēwin, ohci, māka ininiwi-awāsisak sākōc
ta-otihtahkik pamihiwēwin ēkwa wicihiwēwin
kā-isi-natawēnihtahkik, mona ina āyītaw ta-anwēhtahkik
ta-wicihiwēcik onikāniwak.

omisi itastēw Jordan's Principle, mona pēyak
awāsis ta-kakwātakihtāw mīna mona pēyak
ta-wanikisitotawāw, pēyakwan ta-isi-pamihāw
tāpiskōc kotakiyak awāsisak. kwayask-itōtākēwin
ta-kiskēnihtahkik awāsisak, ta-kistēnimihcik,
ta-mino-pamihihcik kāpē, mino-ayāwin asici
nikanēnihtākosiwin ta-wāpahtahkik kapē.

ē-isi-kistēnihtakwahk Jordan's Principle ahpo
Jordan River Anderson opimātisiwin kiskisowin, poko
ta-kanawāpahtamahk manotēwak kākī-pē-otinaskēcik,
ēkwa anihi kākī-nakatamākawiyahkok, poko
mitoni sōhki ta-māmawi-atoskātamahk kwayask
ta-pamihihcik ininiwi-awāsisak, mona nōhta kwayask
ta-kanawēnihcikatēniki otininākosiwiniwāwa.

Honourable Speaker, oma kā-nakiskamāhk nisitanaw askiy aspin kākī-nakataskēt Jordan, kistēnihtākwaniw okiskisiwin, opimātisiwn, ēkwa kitasotamāsonaw tahto awāsis kwayask ta-itōtawāyahk, manācihiwēwin ēkwa minwatisiwin, asici kisēwātisiwin ohci.

kiwapahtēnaw osōhkātisiwiniwāw Jordan owāhkomākana inikohk kākī-atoskātahkik kwayask ta-itastāniwanik ininiwi-awāsisak -pamihiwēwin, kākī -kēhcinahocik mona wīhkac kotak ininiw ta-itāpahtahk kākī-itāpahtahkik wīnawāw. kinanāskomitināwāw kākī -miniyāhk Jordan otācimowin ēkwa owīnowin, mino-wāhkohtowin ta-kiskēnihci katēk, mīna ta-mino-wicēwitoyahk.

asici mīna, niwī-kīhkāyēnihtākohānān Dr. Cindy Blackstock, kākī -wāpahtahk Jordan-a kākī-ispānihīkonit, kinwēs ēki-atoskātahk kwayask ta-isi pamihihcik ininiwi-awāsisak. Dr. Blackstock ēkī-nīkāniskahk, ēkī -kēhcināhot ta-atoskēmakahk oma wicihiwēwin misiwē ota Canada, ta-astēk tipahikēwin, kahkinaw awāsisak kwayask ta-pamihihcik.

Jordan kikistēnihtākohitinān.

ēkosāni, kinanāskomitinān.

ēkwa kīnawāw kahkinaw kinanāskomitināwāw.

Premier Wab Kinew's Speech, translated to English

Honourable Speaker, today, I rise to recognize May 10th as Bear Witness Day, also known in Manitoba as Spirit Bear Day – a day to honour the memory of Jordan River Anderson and to raise awareness about children's rights and the importance of Jordan's Principle.

Jordan was a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation born with complex medical needs who spent his entire life in hospital because governments could not agree on who should pay for his in-home healthcare costs. Those delays meant Jordan was never able to be at home, surrounded by family and his community; instead, he lived his short life in hospital. After his passing, Jordan's Principle was established to ensure that First Nations children receive the services they need and do not face gaps, delays or denials, caused by jurisdictional disputes.

This day reminds us that Jordan's Principle is more than a policy—it is a powerful expression of children's inherent human rights. It ensures that First Nations children receive the services and supports they need without delay and without being caught in jurisdictional disputes between governments.

At its core, Jordan's Principle affirms that no child should suffer or be left behind because of systemic inequalities. It is a tool of justice, designed to uphold the dignity, health, and wellbeing of children by placing their needs first – always.

Honouring Jordan's Principle and the memory of Jordan River Anderson means confronting the legacy of colonialism and working actively to ensure fairness and equity for First Nations kids who deserve nothing less than the full protection of their rights.

Honourable Speaker, as we mark the 20th anniversary of his passing, we honour Jordan's memory, and we recommit ourselves to treat every child with dignity, fairness, and compassion.

We recognize the strength and advocacy of Jordan's family, who pushed for needed changes within public health systems and who fought to ensure that no other family would have to endure the same injustice. Thank you for gifting all of us with Jordan's story and his name as a call to action so we can walk in a good way.

And, finally, we also acknowledge Dr. Cindy Blackstock for her work to ensure Jordan's experiences show us how to make things better for First Nations children. Dr. Blackstock's leadership across Canada has helped turn a principle into real action for thousands of children.

Jordan, we honour you.

Thank you.

And to all of you, we thank you all.



Anderson family members with Premier Wab Kinew and supporters at the Manitoba Legislature



Jordan's father,
Ernest Anderson,
cuts the cake!

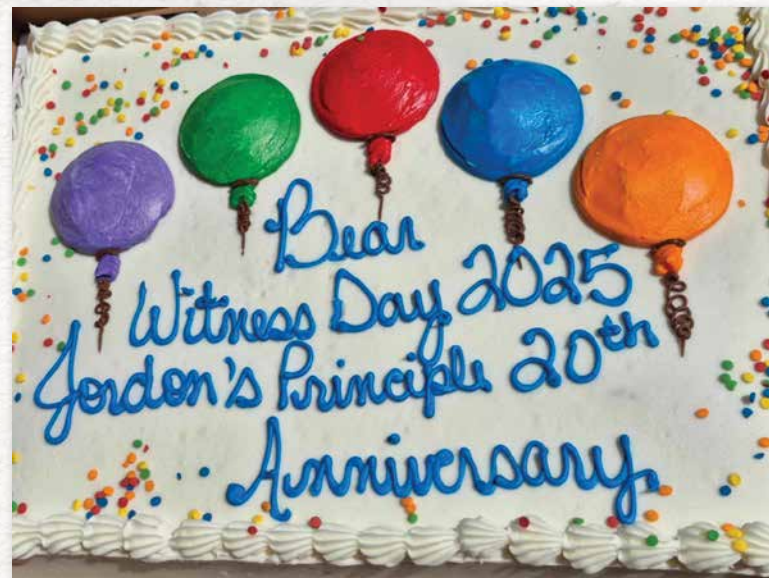


Photo credit: Charlene Lafreniere



Children helping to open the Bear Witness celebration



Jordan's Principle 20th Anniversary Scrapbook





Youth leader Angel receives her bear crown





March 28, 2022

Dear Prime Minister Carney,
Please let Indigenous children
have clean water, healthy
food, and good health care.

From Sloan





March 28th 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney,
we care about First Nations,
Inuit and Métis people. We don't want
what happened to Jordan River
Anderson to happen to other kids
in Canada. It is important for
Indigenous people to have happy
and healthy lives. Please let
Indigenous children have clean
water, healthy food, and good health.

From Shayan.



March 28, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney
We care about First Nations
Inuit and Métis peoples.
Please let Indigenous
children have clean water,
healthy food, and good
health care.

From: Wyatt



March 28 2025

Dear Prime Minister ~~Harper~~ CANNEY
We care about First Nations, Inuit
and Métis peoples. We don't want what
happened to Jordan River Anderson to...
happen to other kids in Canada. It is
important for Indigenous people to have
happy and healthy lives. Please let
Indigenous children have clean water,
healthy food and good health care.
Thank you for helping Indigenous people have
beautiful lives.

From: HARPER

We remember Jordan River
Anderson and Indigenous
people. All Indigenous people
need good health care,
good food and good water.
We want to help Indigenous
people.

From: Isabella

March 28, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We care about First Nations, Inuit, and Métis
Peoples. We don't want what happened to Jordan
River Anderson to happen to other kids in Canada.
It is important for Indigenous people to have happy
and healthy lives. Please let Indigenous children
have clean water, healthy food, and good health
care. Thank you for helping Indigenous people
have beautiful lives.

From: G

Kate

March 28, 2020

Dear Prime

Minister Carr

please let indige

ous children have cle
an water, healthy foo

d, and good health ca
re. Thank you for he

lping indigenous people

FROM DANIEL



May 5
2025

Dear Prime minister Mark Carney

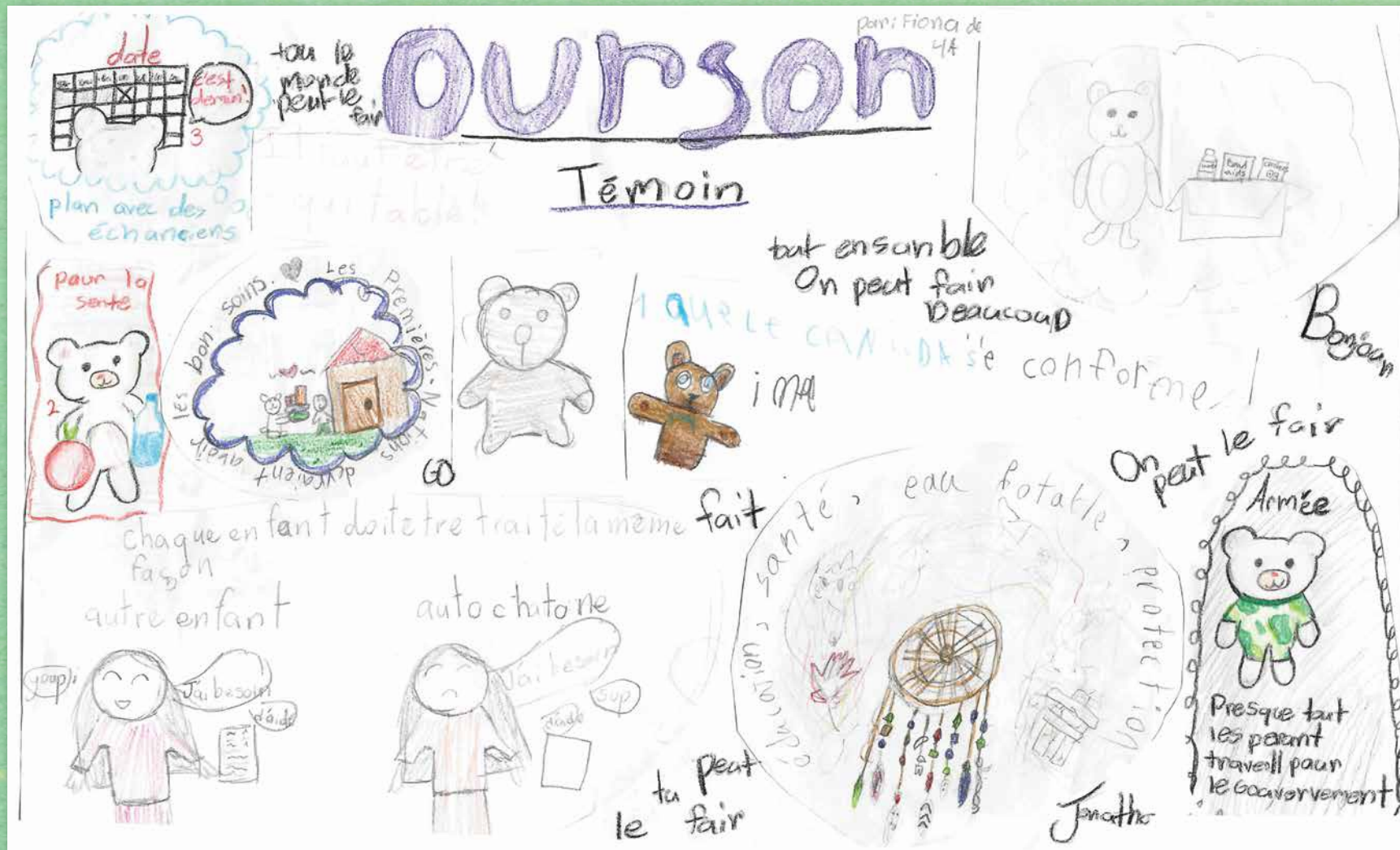
Mark Carney good job winning prime minister I am Zik, am in 6 grade and I am 12 years old the school I go to is Pierre Elliott Trudeau elementary school. This issue that am going to talk about is indigenous children equity.

Prime minister Mark Carney there's a very amount of bad things in the world racism and disgrace to religion but one that is not that world wide is indigenous children equity giving indigenous children the same as everyone else. There's a lot of things that have this, employment in task that indigenous kids to clean someone's house or even for a indigenous adult trying to get a job but no it's because their indigenous, or education for indigenous kids and health that's really important. These issue the government needs to take charge in I think all indigenous people should have the same opportunities as everyone else. I know you just became the prime minister but at least think about this speak to indigenous people to talk about the problem because I believe you can do it.

Zik

Thank you
for your time
hope to hear
back





March 28 2025

Dear prime Minister Carney
We care about First
Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.
we don't want what
happened to Jordan River
Anderson to happen to
other kids in Canada.
It is important for
Indigenous people to have
happy and healthy lives

From
Levi

please let Indigenous
children have clean
Water, healthy food, and
good health care.
Thank you for helping
Indigenous people have
beautiful lives.



March 28 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney
we don't want what happened to
Jordan River Anderson to happen
to other kids in Canada. It is
important for Indigenous
people to have happy and
healthy lives.

From
Cristiana





May, 6th 2025

Dear prime Minister Mark Carney

Congratulation on your election victory

Hi I'm my name is Nyasha I am 12 years old and I in 6th Grade all most in 7th my school name is pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.

My letter is about the 1st nation people....♥

After learning about the nation people over the years I saw one video about the education of some reserved schools and in a video there were a class of 40 but they only had 4 labs toops in not only in the class but in the hole school and it wasnt only labs toops it was more school Serpis too so if some one didnt have pen they couldnt write.

this is important because of the suicide education if you dont have splies in the school or at your house it is an issue!

♥ facts about the andigenous one is in 1999 to 2006 there this boy name Jorden who was sick when he was born but when he was 3 the doctor said he can go back home but with medicine and a machine to help his breath and also a nurse but the two curt where fighting for 2 year to see who's going to pay but sadly Jorden past a way and never went home. → → → → →



and that wasnt that long ago so what are you going to do and what steps are you taking to address the issue. With children health and education for the First Nation.

I thank you for your time and I hope to hear back from you soon.♥

Sincerely
Nyasha





May 5, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

My name is Olivia, I am 12 years old in grade 6 and I go to Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School. I am writing to you about Bear witness day inspired by Jordan River Anderson. I think it's important to bring awareness to this issue to encourage people to take action to ensure that the First Nations kids get the help and support they need without delays or rejection because of their identity. Bear witness day helps prevent the same thing Jordan had to face and Sarah died because the government couldn't decide on who would pay for his



health care. So we as a class ask the government to take action, understand, take notice and make sure this will not ever happen again.

Thank you for your time I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely
Olivia



Bear Witness Day at the Senate of Canada



A7G youth get ready to host!

On May 10, over 300 students and adults from the Ottawa-Gatineau region, along with their teddy bears, came together at the Senate in Ottawa to “bear witness” and celebrate the 20th anniversary of Jordan’s Principle. Students came dressed to the nines, rocking their bear crowns, blue t-shirts, and friendship bracelets. We were especially honoured to have students from Kitigan Zibi elementary school travel over two hours to join the celebration! After opening remarks from Kokum Shirley, several students shared their heartfelt letters and collages that highlighted the importance of the full implementation of Jordan’s Principle. Nimkeehns Wemigwans and youth drummers from Kitigan Zibi shared several songs, while guests took part in the biggest round dance to ever take place at the Senate. We were thrilled to host this Bear Witness Day gathering in partnership with the Assembly of Seven Generations and Senators Francis, Audette, Greenwood, Harder, Klyne, and White. Many thanks to all the students who showed us what it means to “bear witness”!





Teddies and bear crowns, oh my!



Senator Francis receives the gift of a beaded blue bear pin for his long-time support of Jordan's Principle





Round dance time!





Youth drummers from Kitigan Zibi
honoured us with songs



May 5, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney

Congratulations on winning the election! I do think you were the best vote for.

My name is Khalid 🇸🇩🇸🇩🇸🇩 I am 12 Years old and in grade 6, I am from Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary school.

The reason I am writing to you is because of the problem with the indigenous people. I think that what is going on is unacceptable and that you must do something about it.

I think it is sad that Jordan's Principle had to become a thing. It is not fair that a little boy had to die in a hospital because they couldn't figure out who would pay for his care! And in schools on reserves, as you know, they get less funding than our school.

I think to start you should give more funding to the schools on reserves.

I would like to know if any steps are being taken to fix the issue.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will write back to me soon.

Sincerely

Khalid



May 6, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Congratulation on the election victory!

Hello, my name is Hana, I'm in grade 5, 10th old, in school named Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School (P.E.T.E.S).

I have an issue that this hole letter will talk about. The issue is about the Jordan's principle. If you don't know what's this story is go search it and I will tell you.

Jordan's principle is a small kid that died at 5 years and he never got out of the hospital for 2 years all because of the two governments of Canada and of Manitoba fighting about who is going to pay the bill of Jordan River Anderson for going back home.

I think that this is an important issue to talk about and to fix.

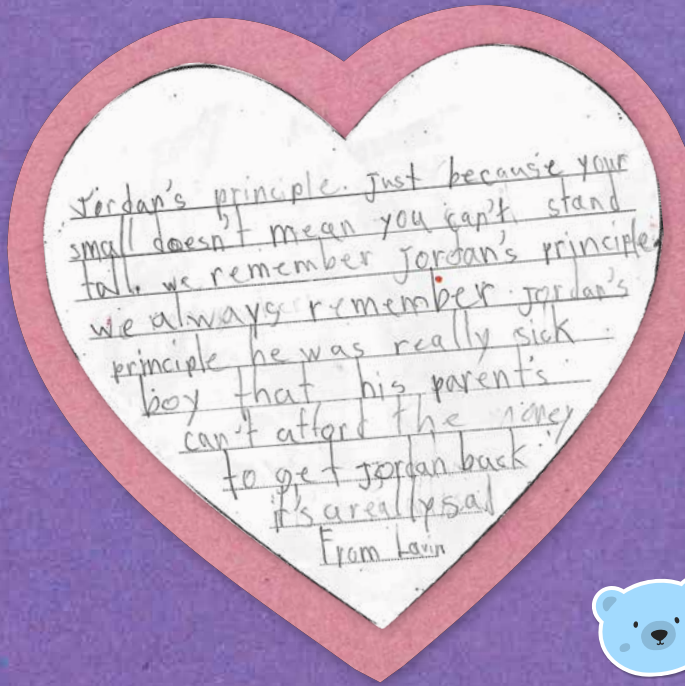
I know that Jordan's Principle took around 10 years to make sure that 1st nation people get the same respect as others. And guess what there are still people going to the house of commons to make 1st nation people.

By the way, I think that we should fix this by starting with making education for 1st nation kids better by including them and treat them all the same!

Thanks for All your time and I will stand with 1st nation kids and people. I hope to hear from you please♡

Sincerely,

P.s = Please make Canada an
AMAZING
♡ COUNTRY ♡



Jordan's principle. just because your
small doesn't mean you can't stand
tall. we remember Jordan's principle.
we always remember Jordan's
principle he was really sick
boy that his parents
can't afford the money
to get Jordan back.
it's really sad
From Larin



May 5, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

We write to you to address the inequity that indigenous children are facing and have been facing for an absurd amount of time. To state the fact; we are eleven to twelve and understand that this is outstandingly wrong. While you're in office I hope to see change and I hope you realize how severely we need it.

-Zoe



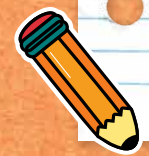
Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

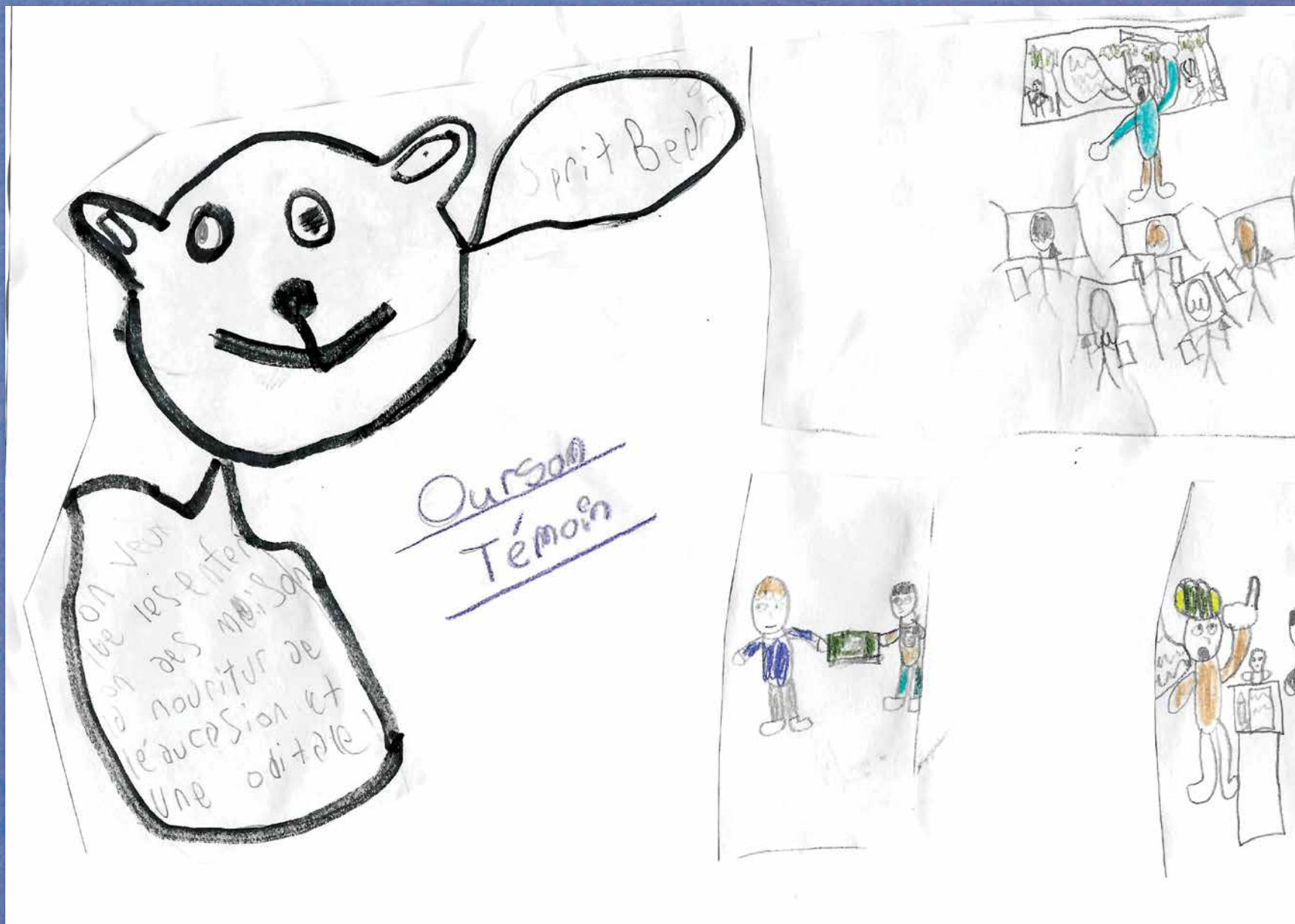
Congratulations on becoming our new Prime Minister!

If I was old enough to vote, I would vote for you in a heart beat. My name is Kylie ~~Sandra~~ ~~Trudeau~~. I was born on October 28th, 2011. I am in grade 6 and I go to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School. I'm sure that you've briefly heard about an issue with native children's education. This is something that has been going on for a while. I think it is awful with how they are being treated. People are insulting them, being racist. They are humans too! Hurting others hurts ourselves. They have classes up to 40 people in each, and there is only a limited amount of school supplies. For example, imagine a school of 300 people. Only around 9 students would get maximum a pencil and a binder. I think you should donate supplies or send money or create a fundraiser. Prove to us that you are a kindhearted, caring and loyal Prime Minister. Show everyone what you can do to help our country. Thank you for your time, I hope you can get back to me soon.

Sincerely,

Kylie





May 5, 2025

The Honourable Prime Minister Mark Carney,

I would like to congratulate you on your successful election as Prime Minister.

My name Esosa ~~is~~ I am 11 years old in grade 6 going to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School.

I would like to inform you about how indigenous youth on-reserve get less funding for things like education, healthcare, and other services, than other kids.

This is a very serious matter because these kids are our imminent leaders of Canada. They deserve to have everything they need to thrive in their lives. This is not equal nor is it fair.

There is a significant funding gap between provincial schools and schools on-reserve. I am referring to a range of thirty to fifty percent reduced funding. The lack of essential resources in some schools on-reserve leaves me astonished. Things like libraries, gyms, and technology are not available for these students. Even as little as textbooks. From early 2025 half of First Nation schools are overcrowded and need replacements because of poor conditions.



Please stand up for First Nation youth, the next leaders, and take action to this unfairness.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration, I look forward to receiving a reply.

With deepest respect,

Esosa





Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,
Congratulations on winning the election, I am thrilled to have you as our prime minister, but there is something I'd like to inform you about, Jordan's principal. Jordans Principal is about a little boy names Jordan River Anderson. He is an indigenous little boy who passed away at the age of 6 from not getting enough funding for his Carey-Finman-Ziter Syndrome in 2005. I would like to bring this to your attention because indigenous reserves, schools, hospitals, etc are also not getting what they need like funding, textbooks, computers, ipads, etc and I would like to change that. I also want your help. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to hear back soon.

Sincerely,



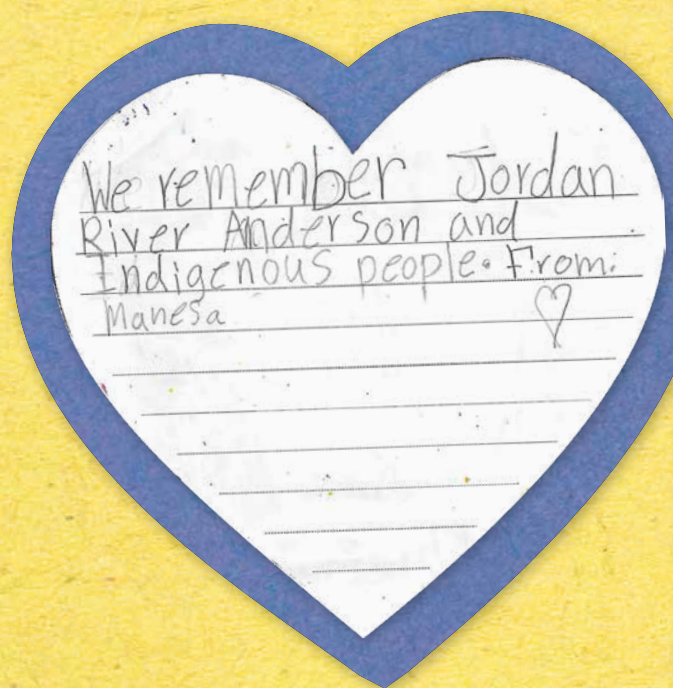


May 5th, 2025
Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Congratulations on winning the 2025 elections. My name is Elliot. I'm 11 years old and I go to Pierre Elliott Trudeau elementary school. I'm speaking on account of Bear Witness Day. Bear Witness Day is a celebration in honour of Jordan River Anderson, who due to federal and provincial governments arguing for who would pay his specific medical needs, passed away. He was six years old, and never got to leave the hospital. This isn't just Canada's problem. It's a national problem. The governments in competent minds couldn't process that first Nations were humans too. I hope to see that you will.

Sincerely, Elliot





May 6th, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Congratulation on becoming our Prime Minister,

Hi, i'm a student at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary school, i'm eleven years old and i'm in grade six.

There's one thing I would like you to notice, first there's a lot of homelessness due to the lack of prices rising. And the homeless people make other people feel uncomfortable downtown. People started sleeping on the street which does not make them secure with no roof on top of the head. I think that you could lower & make a bit more stuff Canadian and make houses more affordable. And hospital bill lower to help some people like Jordan.

Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon

Sincerely Celeste



May 5 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,
I'm Ziri, a 11 year old kid in the time
of this letter. I'm also in Grade 6.
What are you doing about the indigenous people?
There is still Jordan's principal, which is very important! Remember
Orange Shirt Day, and residential schools.
Just pay the same money that you pay for US
Thanks for your time and congratulations for your victory!

Student

Ziri

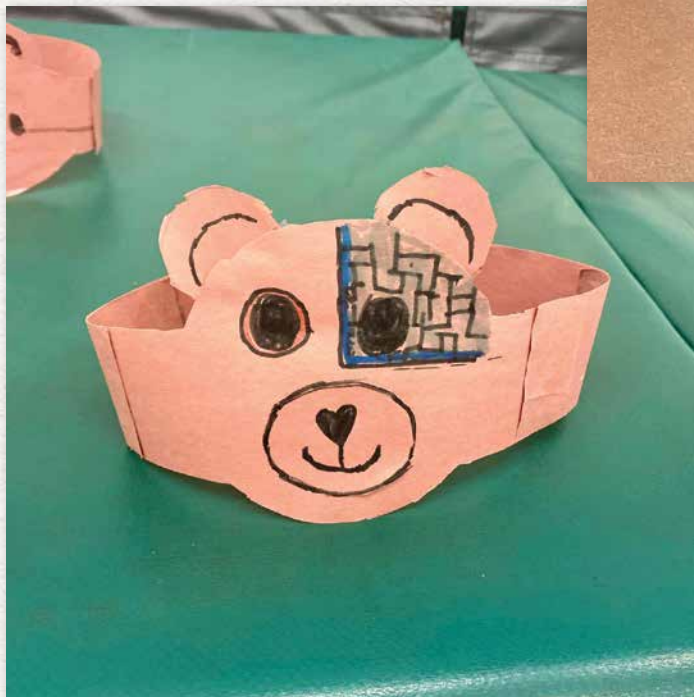


Bear Witness Day from Coast to Coast to Coast

From coast to coast to coast, students, teachers, families, and communities came together to celebrate Bear Witness Day in heartwarming and creative ways. Classrooms and communities buzzed with excitement as teddy bears took centre stage, joining in on letter-writing campaigns, story-telling circles, and joyful events filled with arts and homemade treats.

Whether through baking bear-shaped pancakes, crafting with love, or writing powerful messages to leaders, people of all ages found meaningful ways to honour Jordan's Principle and stand up for the rights of First Nations children. The celebrations in the pictures that follow are just a few that took place across Canada on Bear Witness Day 2025.

Kids Club made Bear Crowns for Bear Witness Day at the West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, Ontario





Spirit Bear Picnic with St. Monica's School,
Ottawa, Ontario





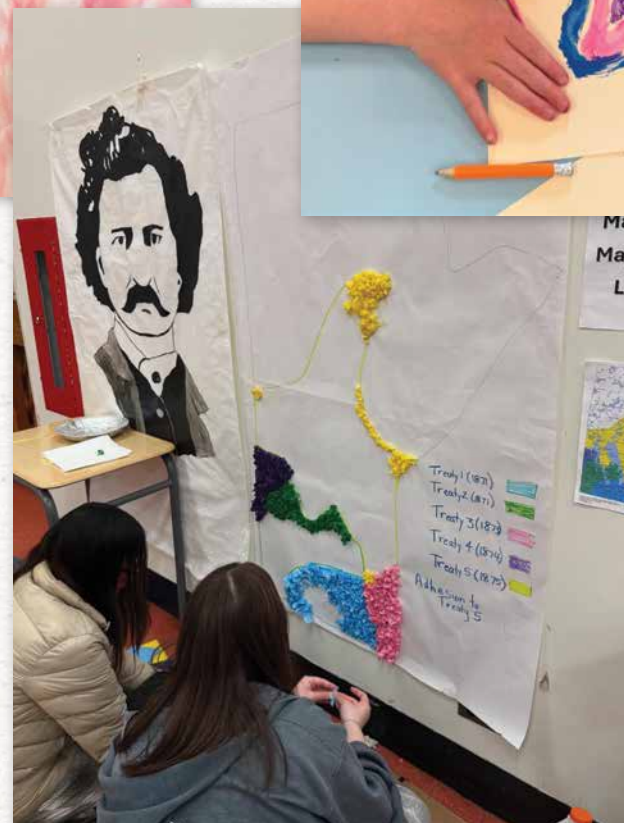
St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School
Bear Witness Day, Bolton, Ontario



SickKids honoured Bear Witness Day with Grandmother Vivian as Elder-in-Residence, Toronto, Ontario



Juniper Elementary School Land
Base Education, Bear Witness
Day Activities, Thompson,
Manitoba

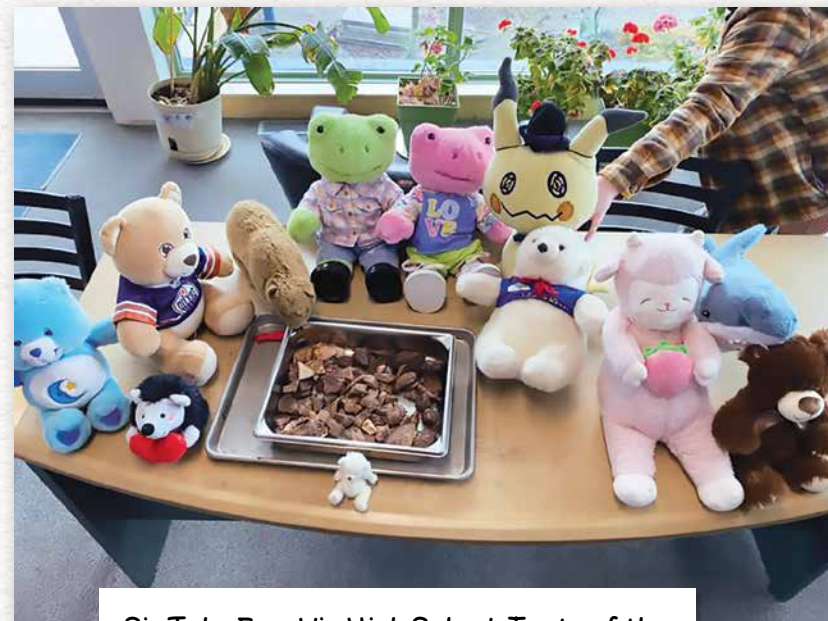




Bear Witness Day in Akwesasne, Ontario and Quebec



Teddy Bear Picnic
and Tea Party
for Bear Witness Day
in Komoka, Ontario



Sir John Franklin High School, Taste of the
North on Bear Witness Day with a special
picnic, Yellowknife, NT



May 5th 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

I congratulate you on your accomplishment of becoming our new prime minister. My name is Cedric ~~the 1st~~. I am twelve years old I'm in grade six and I go to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School. I am very upset on the situation involving first nations kids not getting enough funding for their schools and education. I hope dearly you take action to this case because people are struggling and you need to recognize that. This situation started when a boy named Jordan River Anderson died in the hospital at the age of five because he was waiting for who would pay for his hospital bills. I think that just because he was first nations doesn't mean you should argue about who pays for the treatment. Just to make sure that I am not mistaken I wanted to ask that if you are taking action in this matter I formally apologize. Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Cedric





May 5th 2025

Dear prime minister Mark Carney,

This is Marie-Élise , 11 years of age, in grade 6, and a student of Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School, speaking.

I am here to report a problem that's been going on for a millennia! Ever since the Europeans came into Canada they didn't care if the Indigenous communities lived in Canada for ages! They just started claiming it was their land from the start, and started colonising the Indigenous, and putting them into « Residential schools » and stripping them of their culture and their languages. Even if Canada has made certain changes by accepting Jordan's Principle, we still have a long way to go to look up to the needs of all Indigenous communities, with proper health and education. This matter should be looked into ASAP as children should come first!

But it's not only First Nations, it's children all around Canada....

Thank You for your
Time
Yours Truly,
Marie-Élise



May 6th, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister. My name is Beatrice, I am 10 years old, I am in grade five and go to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School.

I am writing to you to address the fact that indigenous children on reserves across Canada receive less funding than non-indigenous children. This is an issue because First-Native children deserve just as much funding for school and healthcare as other children.

I know that First Nations Kids don't receive enough money to get the school supplies they need. Some kids like Jordan's River Anderson don't even get the medical equipment they need to go home figured out, because the provincial and federal government wanted the other to pay for it.

To solve this problem, I think you could raise funding for indigenous schools in communities.

One question, are any steps being taken to address this issue?

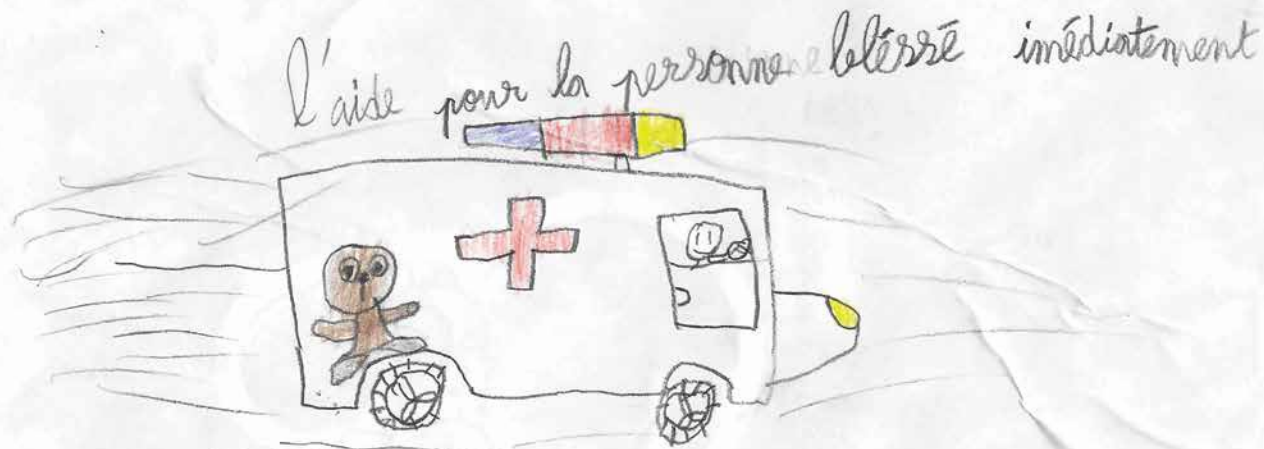
Thank you for your time, I hope to hear back from you.

Sincerely,

Beatrice

WE Remember Jordan.
Jordan was a young boy, and
he was very sick he was in the
hospital for his whole life we
want to help First Nations
Metis Inuit People.
from: Kate

Ensemble on peut changer le monde
en mieux.



Il faut continuer la chose que l'on son terminer
à continuer



Dear Prime Minister Mark Carney,

I want to congratulate you that you became prime minister, you worked so hard.

My name is Donncha I'm 12 and I'm in grade 6 and my school is pierre elliot trudeau elementary school. any ways, I'm writing about why Indigenous kids don't get that much funding than non-indigenous in Ontario or Quebec.

This is an important issue because the indigenous are poor and we want them to have good education.

these are some facts about the topic, the indigenous children don't get that much school supplies, like crayons, computers and erasers. also, Jordan is a boy who had a lot of medical problems and when he could go home the provincial and federal could not decide who will pay for his medical stuff and he eventually died.

I think the government should give more education, health care and medical care for the indigenous.

Have you done anything about it?

thank you for your time and I hope



I hear back from you

Sincerely,

Doncha





May 6th 2025

Dear prime minister Mark Carney,
Congratulation on becoming our new prime
minister. My name is Payton. I am
11 year old, I'm in grade 6 and go to Petes.
I would like to bring up 2 problems that have
been going to this day. The first problem is about
Jordan principle. Jordan was 6 year old when
he died. He died because the federal gov and
provincial gov were fighting over who would pay
for his at home care. They were fighting so
long that Jordan ended up dying. The second problem
is that Indigenous do not get a lot of school
supplies for school and no clean drinking water.
This need to stop. Thank you for reading this

Sincerely: Payton





May 5, 2025

Dear Mr. Camey,

Congratulations on your victory in this election. I am writing to you to address the inequality between provincially funded schools and schools on reserve. This is an important topic to bring up because schools on reserve get much less funding than regular public schools which means there is barely any technology, food or even basic school supplies such as pencils, notebooks, etc. Why is the Canadian government still letting this happen. As the new Pri minister I think you should be the one trying to fix this because now you are responsible for the country. You should start putting in more programs and funding for schools on reserve. So, what will you be doing to help fix this. Thank you for your time, I hope you will do something.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arlo".

Arlo



May 6th 2025

Dear Mr. Prime Minister Mark Carney

My name is Brandon , I am a 12 year old 6th grader that goes to Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School. I am reaching out to you about an occurring problem involving the indigenous peoples of Canada. This issue is highly important due to the difference of equity between indigenous and other Canadian folks is outstandingly different.

Firstly, funding for indigenous schools are very low compared to others in this country. Secondly, there was an incident in 2005 where an indigenous child named Jordan River Anderson. Provincial and Federal governments couldn't decide on who would pay for his health condition and sadly passed away.

I would like to know if any steps are being taken. If not, please consider this letter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Brandon





Dear Mr. Carney,

I need to tell you something very important. I believe that when people of the first nations were being mistreated, they deserved more, and what happened during that time was, a boy named Jordan River Anderson, died because he couldn't buy anything for his care, he had no money, his parents faced financial challenges due to the complex medical needs for their child and the bureaucratic hurdles in accessing necessary funding. Know there is a celebration called Jordan's principal because it was tragic, I don't want to see that ever again. I am going to stand up against mistreatment for first nations people. My Question is, will you?

Sensorially: Joshua



May 5, 2025

Dear prime Minister Mark Carney

My name is Simon, I'm 11½ years old, and I'm a grade 6 student at Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School. I find that there are still problems with the way the first nations communities are being treated. This is absolutely horrible since everyone deserves to be treated with equity. I think you should put more money into their education food and water. Additionally, it would be great if you invested more into the military, and lowered the cost of living to make life more affordable.

please write back Mr. Carney Sincerely

Simon

Let's put Canada first, for a change. I hope you'll make the right choices for our country.





Dear prime minister carney,

I would like to congratulate you on your election Victory, you were an extremely good candidate.

I am Jacob ~~Erasmus~~, in 5th grade, from Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.

I am writing this on the regard of Jordan's principle, The previous governments had not taken this into consideration. Jordan's principle is a foundation to support first nations people, giving them health, education, and more benefits.

I think Jordan's principle isn't known well enough, and we should do more to equalize them with other Canadians, so please may you bring attention to this.

Jordan was a kid who was extremely disabled, and the government of Manitoba, and the federal government kept arguing over this operations price until Jordan sadly passed away. There are exhibits in museums around the world about this principle. Spirit Bear the show was made to educate people about Jordan's tale globally.

I think you should take steps to bring more of a budget to indigenous costs, and bring heart to Canada, so please tell me what steps if any will you take to fix this.

Thank you for your time and, I would hope to hear back from you.

Sincerely,

Jacob

May 6th 2025

Dear Prime minister Mark carney,

I wanted to congratulate you for your Election
firstly, and the person writing this letter is me Anvin
I am 11 years, I am in grade 6 and I go to pierre Elliot Trudeau
Elementary School. Now I'm here to say that I am shocked
of what's happening to the Indigenous kids. Some communities
don't even have clean water to drink, and look what happened
to Jordan, the government was arguing about who is going
to pay for him so long that Jordan ended up sadly dying.
Also the Indigenous kids are not treated the same
as the kids of Canada.

MR. Mark Carney, I know that I'm trying to
help the Indigenous kids by writing you this
letter, but the question is will you?

Anvin



The Caring Society
fncaringsociety.com

October 2025

350 Sparks Street, Suite 202, Ottawa ON K1R 7S8 | 613 230 5885 | info@fncaringsociety.com



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