

A white teddy bear, Spirit Bear, is dressed in traditional Indigenous clothing. It wears a black tunic with a large, colorful, circular beaded medallion on the chest and a red sash. The bear is standing in a natural setting with green foliage and a small basket of blueberries on the ground.

Spirit Bear's Guide to

Reconciliation

2026

calendar

Thank you for supporting our child- and youth-led reconciliation based events and initiatives with your purchase of Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation Calendar 2026!

Our calendar can support all people living in Canada to take *pawsitive* actions toward reconciliation in *beary* caring and respectful ways year-round. We also hope you will participate in our reconciliation campaigns and events, including Have a Heart Day, Elder*beary* Day, Bear Witness Day, Reconciling History, School is a Time for Dreams, Reconciliation Am*bearristers*, and so much more!

**Just because we're small
doesn't mean we can't stand tall!**

**Follow us on social media and share your actions
toward reconciliation with us!**

 CaringSociety  CaringSociety
 fncaringsociety  fncaringsociety

All of the images in this guide were taken at the *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* exhibition that made its debut at The Exploration Place in Prince George, British Columbia, on June 21, 2024. Thank you to James Doyle, whose photos are showcased in this calendar.

Cindy Blackstock with Phyllis Webstad and Spirit Bear at the *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* exhibition.

In January, I will read the book *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*. Doing this will help me write letters to people elected to represent us in the Canadian government. In my letters, I will ask them to fully implement the *Spirit Bear Plan* to end inequalities in services for First Nations children. I will also take time to learn about the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case for First Nations child welfare and Jordan’s Principle.



January

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

On this day in 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that the Government of Canada was discriminating against First Nations children.

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				1	2	3
				New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Ribbon Skirt Day						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					Isra and Mi'raj	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						International Day of Education
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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On February 14, I will take part in Have a Heart Day! I will stand with First Nations kids and their families. I plan to send a Valentine’s Day card or letter asking elected people in government to treat First Nations kids with fairness and kindness.

February

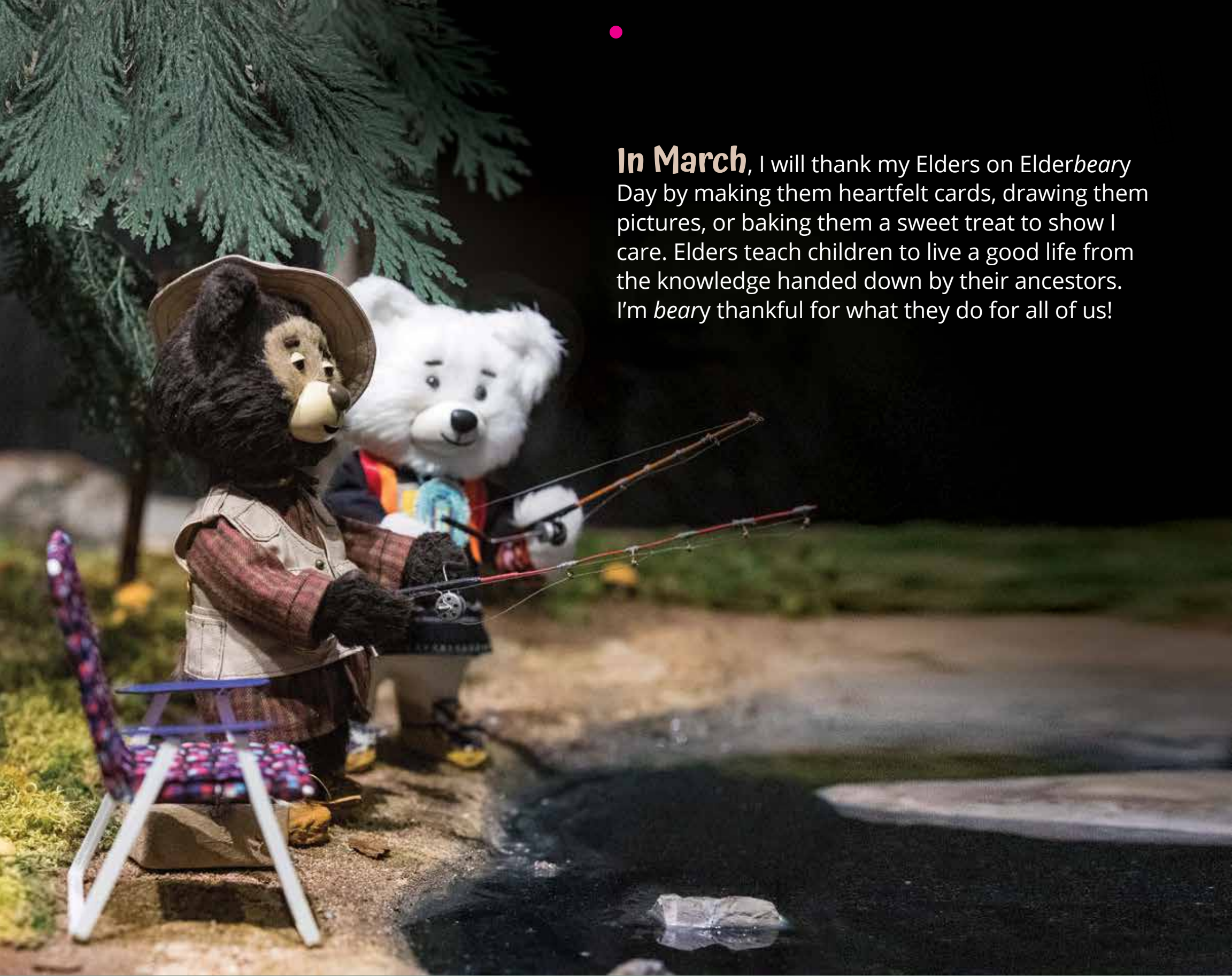
On this day in 2007, the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission alleging that Canada is discriminating against First Nations children by providing less child welfare funding on reserves.

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sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 Black History Month Begins	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Have a Heart Day Valentine's Day
15 Maha Shivaratri	16 Louis Riel Day Public Holiday in many provinces and territories	17 Chinese New Year Ramadan Begins	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20 Yukon Heritage Day (YK)	21
22	23	24	25 Pink Shirt Day	26	27	28

On this day in 2013, the hearings began for the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case.

On this day in 2012, Shannen’s Dream unanimously passed in the House of Commons.



In March, I will thank my Elders on *Elderbeary* Day by making them heartfelt cards, drawing them pictures, or baking them a sweet treat to show I care. Elders teach children to live a good life from the knowledge handed down by their ancestors. I'm *beary* thankful for what they do for all of us!

March

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sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2 Purim	3 World Wildlife Day	4 Holi	5	6	7
8 International Women's Day Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14 Pi Day
15	16 Lailat al-Qadr	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Elderbeary Day Spring Equinox Eid al-Fitr	21 World Down Syndrome Day
22 World Water Day	23	24	25	26 Ram Navami	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31 National Indigenous Languages Day International Transgender Day of Visibility	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination			

In April, I will read the book *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* to celebrate Shannen’s Dream Day of Action. Shannen Koostachin knew that some First Nations communities have good schools, but many don’t. She wanted all First Nations children to get a good education that makes them proud of who they are. Shannen stood up for First Nations children and youth and their dreams!



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April

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sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1 April Fools' Day Passover Begins World Autism Month Begins	2 World Autism Day	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter	6 Easter Monday	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28 National Superhero Day	29	30		

Since 2011, April 27 has been known as Shannen's Dream Day of Action.



On May 10, I will celebrate Spirit Bear’s *bearthday* and participate in Bear Witness Day to honour Jordan River Anderson and his family for the gift of Jordan’s Principle. I will write letters to elected people in the Government of Canada, asking them to properly implement Jordan’s Principle by complying with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders. I will also ask elected officials in my province or territory to make Spirit Bear Day a recognized holiday. Did you know that in 2021, Manitoba made Spirit Bear Day a provincial holiday through the *Spirit Bear Day Act*?

May

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

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3	4	5	6	7	1	2
					Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams Begins May Day	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Spirit Bear Day (MB) Bear Witness Day Spirit Bear’s <i>Bearthday</i> Mother’s Day				Children and Youth in Care Day (ON)	Moose Hide Campaign	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Victoria Day			Shavuot Begins		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Eid al-Adha			
31						

On this day in 1998, the initial meeting to discuss the creation of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society happened.

Red Dress Day

On this day in 2008, Shannen and her friends marched on Parliament Hill for safe and comfy schools for First Nations children and youth.

On this day in 1999, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society was created!



In June, I will continue to participate in Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams, and I will plant a heart garden in honour of residential school Survivors and the children who did not come home. I will make a promise toward reconciliation in response to *Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action*. I will write my promise on a paper heart and plant it in my Heart Garden.

June

On this day in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's closing ceremonies occurred and its 94 Calls to Action were shared.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 Indigenous History Month Begins Pride Month Begins	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	16	17 Muharram Begins	18	19 Juneteenth (US)	20
21 Summer Solstice National Indigenous Peoples Day Father's Day	22	23	24 St. Jean Baptiste Day (QC)	25 Ashura	26	27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day
28 International Pride Day	29	30 Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams Ends				

On this day in 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls closing ceremony took place. They shared their Final Report and Calls for Justice.

In July, I will honour Shannen Koostachin. I will watch Alanis Obomsawin's film *Hi-Ho Mistahey!* to learn about the life of Shannen Koostachin and her home community of Attawapiskat First Nation. I will also watch the film *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* to learn how Shannen's Dream was created.



July

In some places in Canada, July 1 is known as Chinese People's Railroad Day. On this day, we are all invited to honour over 17,000 Chinese workers, many of whom lost their lives building the Canadian Pacific Railway.

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

			1	2	3	4
			Canada Day			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Shannen Koostachin's Birthday					World Day for International Justice	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

In August, I will learn about the traditional and ancestral homelands and territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and learn the original place names of major cities and towns across Canada. I will make sure I know the original place name of where I currently live and learn more about the origin of its name as part of my learning about Canada's history in a balanced and truthful way.



August

						saturday
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	1
2	3 <small>Public Holiday in many provinces/territories</small>	4	5	6	7	8
9 <small>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</small>	10	11	12 <small>International Youth Day</small>	13	14	15
16	17 <small>Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce's Birthday</small>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 <small>Mawlid al-Nabi</small>	26 <small>International Dog Day</small>	27	28	29
30	31 <small>International Overdose Awareness Day</small>	Alanis Obomsawin's Birthday				

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In September, I will read the book and watch the film *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*. Afterwards, I will participate in Reconciling History by sending a letter to Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce at Beechwood Cemetery. I will also write letters to elected people in the Government of Canada asking them to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice.



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September

On this day in 2013, *Hi-Ho Mistahey!*, directed by Alanis Obomsawin, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labour Day	International Literacy Day	National Teddy Bear Day	World Suicide Prevention Day	Rosh Hashanah	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Yom Kippur	International Day of Peace	Autumn Equinox			Sukkot Begins	
27	28	29	30			
			Orange Shirt Day National Day for Truth and Reconciliation			

Spirit Bear Day in Prince George, BC

On this day in 2007, the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On this day in 2016, *We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice*, directed by Alanis Obomsawin, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

In October, I will honour Jordan River Anderson. I will watch Alanis Obomsawin's film *Jordan River Anderson: The Messenger* to learn about his life. I will also watch the film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* to learn about why Jordan's Principle was created.



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October

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sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

				1	2	3
			Jordan River Anderson's Birthday		International Day of Non-Violence	Simchat Torah
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	World Teachers' Day					World Mental Health Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Navaratri Begins International Day of the Girl National Coming Out Day	Thanksgiving Day					International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						Halloween



In November, I will participate in School is a Time for Dreams and learn more about Shannen’s Dream by watching Shannen Koostachin’s speech at the Attawapiskat Youth Forum in 2008. After, I will write letters to elected officials asking them to ensure First Nations children and youth have the opportunity to get a good education in schools that are safe and comfy. I will also honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans by learning about their legacies and all that they have done for Canada. Reading *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams* will help me do this.

November

On this day in 2010, the Shannen’s Dream campaign was launched by youth in Attawapiskat First Nation.

SCHOOL IS A TIME FOR DREAMS

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 Día de los Muertos Begins All Saints’ Day Daylight Savings Ends School is a Time for Dreams Begins	2	3	4	5	6	7 Inuit Day
8 National Indigenous Veterans Day Diwali	9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14
15 Rock your Mocs	16	17	18	19	20 World Children’s Day Transgender Day of Remembrance	21
22	23	24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26	27	28
29	30 School is a Time for Dreams Ends					

On this day in 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In December, I will reflect on all the promises for reconciliation that I made this year. I will commit to taking further actions to advance reconciliation in 2027. To do this, I will read *Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action* and watch the film *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams*.



December

On this day in 2007, Jordan's Principle passed unanimously in the House of Commons.

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sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
				International Day of Persons with Disabilities	National Cookie Day Hanukkah Begins	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women				International Human Rights Day		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Winter Solstice			Christmas Eve	Christmas	Boxing Day Kwanzaa Begins
27	28	29	30	31		
				New Year's Eve		

On this day in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its Final Report.

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

works to ensure the safety and wellbeing of First Nations children, youth, and their families through educational activities that engage individuals of all ages in reconciliation and by providing quality resources to support First Nations

communities. The Caring

Society works proudly with our partners far and wide to promote the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children. All proceeds from the sale of this calendar go to helping ensure First Nations kids can grow up safely at home, get a good education, and be healthy and proud of who they are.

OUR DREAMS
Matter too!



**First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society**

fncaringociety.com