First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Standing with First Nations Children and Youth: Scholarships and Awards



Let's take *paw*sitive action together

Founded in 1999, the Caring Society works to ensure First Nations children can grow up safely with their families, get a good education, be healthy, and feel proud of who they are. Through our scholarships and awards, we celebrate the contributions of children, youth, and adults who stand up for reconciliation, love, and fairness.

Each year, we receive hundreds of scholarship applications from First Nations students, demonstrating both their aspirations and the systemic barriers they face, including chronic underfunding for Indigenous post-secondary education.

In response, our post-secondary scholarships support students who show excellence, leadership, and care in their communities.

Our awards honour people of all ages committed to upholding the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and youth.

Honouring and supporting our scholarship and award recipients is only possible with the generous contributions of our donors. *Please join us.*

Dr. Cindy Blackstock
Executive Director



Spare change to shared change

We invite you to sponsor one of the following awards or scholarships.

Each is named in honour of a courageous person (or bear!) and reflects a deep commitment to reconciliation and the well-being of First Nations children and youth.



Jordan's Principle Scholarship

For First Nations students pursuing studies in children's health or disabilities.

Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson of Norway House Cree Nation, this scholarship supports First Nations students studying children's holistic health or wellbeing at a Canadian post-secondary institution.

Shannen's Dream Scholarship

A "pay-it-forward" scholarship supporting post-secondary education for First Nations youth.

This scholarship honours Shannen Koostachin—a youth leader from Attawapiskat First Nation who sparked a national movement for equitable education for First Nations children—and supports the next generation of leaders.

Spirit Bear Award

Recognizes groups of young people demonstrating leadership in reconciliation.

Named for Spirit Bear, a beloved symbol of reconciliation and equity for First Nations kids, this award celebrates the power of young people to lead change.

Mary Teegee Caring Award

Honours a frontline social worker in First Nations child and family services.

New in 2026, this award recognizes a frontline social worker whose love, courage, and dedication uphold the wellbeing of First Nations children and youth in care.

Neebin's Music Fund

Supports Indigenous youth in the arts.

Honouring the memory of Neebin Armstrong, the Fund supports First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth who contribute to healing and wellness through the arts

Peter Henderson Bryce Award

Recognizes outstanding leadership in promoting the safety, health, or well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth.

This award honours Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, a courageous advocate for the health and wellbeing of children in residential schools. It recognizes adults, children, and youth who have overcome challenges to stand up for the rights of Indigenous children.

Raymond Shingoose Award

Honours a respected service innovator and advocate for First Nations children, youth and families.

New in 2026, this award recognizes a leader in First Nations child and family services who has made a meaningful impact and demonstrates integrity, wisdom, and long-term commitment.

Honouring Excellence:

Meet Our Recent Scholarship and Award Recipients

Each year, the Caring Society supports outstanding leaders of all ages and First Nations students making a difference.

Meet a few recipients who are leading with purpose.

Shannen's Dream Scholarship



Mercedes Stemm

Mi'kmaw medical student and neuroscience graduate who co-founded a national mentorship program supporting future medical students.



Zoe Quill

Genetics graduate, published researcher, and future medical student from Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, advancing Indigenous health and representation.

Jordan's Principle Scholarship



Pamela Angees

Anishininew medical student with graduate training in Kinesiology and Public Health, focused on closing gaps in child health equity.



Meagan Girard

Social work student and former birth helper from Fisher River Cree Nation, dedicated to mental health support in First Nations communities.

Spirit Bear Award



St. Monica's Grade 1 & 2 Class

Led school-wide fundraising and reconciliation efforts through education, advocacy, and community events supporting Jordan's Principle.



Oak Bay High Campus Cousins

Indigenous student leaders Riley and Taylor Nicholson strengthened school community through peer support and cultural initiatives.

Why Your Support Matters

As a national First Nations organization, the Caring Society receives **no government funding.**

Our independence is what makes our advocacy possible, and your support is what makes it sustainable. We rely on donations to fund our scholarships and awards to honour those taking action for reconciliation.

Our Work Has Global Reach

- In 2016, the Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations won a landmark human rights case, the first legal ruling in history holding a federal government accountable for its contemporary discrimination against First Nations children. This landmark case is still ongoing, as Canada has yet to show that it has ended its discrimination.
- In 2023, **30 million children** worldwide learned about reconciliation through the World's Children's Prize—often called the "Children's Nobel Prize"—awarded to our Executive Director, Dr. Cindy Blackstock.
- Our scholarships and awards have supported over 100 recipients, recognizing exceptional First Nations students and others making change across the country. From future educators to doctors and artists, recipients are already making meaningful changes across many fields.

A Shared Responsibility

It is a common misconception that First Nations students automatically receive free post-secondary education. In reality, significant funding gaps remain. Truth and Reconciliation Commission **Call to Action 92** asks businesses to:

Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.

ReconciliACTION

Join us in supporting First Nations students and honouring those who advance the rights and wellbeing of Indigenous children and youth.

Reconciliation requires action—from all of us.

To sponsor or learn more:
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