



Peter Henderson Bryce, M.D.

Award for Children and Youth

Advocating for the Health and Well-Being
of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Children and Youth

Le prix P.H. Bryce pour l'excellence de la défense d'intérêts en santé publique axée sur les enfants et les adolescents des Premières Nations, Métis et Inuits

Peter Henderson Bryce, Medical Doctor (M.D.), 1853–1932

Award Summary, Criteria and Nomination Form

Who Was Peter Henderson Bryce?

Peter Henderson Bryce was among the group of people who wrote the rules and created the institutions that we take for granted in Canada today. He began his career in Public Health in 1882 when he was hired by the government of Ontario to draft the province's first health code, which was passed into legislation in 1884.

Dr. Bryce was the son of a blacksmith who had immigrated to Canada in 1843 and settled in Mount Pleasant, Ontario. Dr. Bryce received Bachelor, Master's and M.D. degrees from the University of Toronto and continued his medical studies with a year abroad in Edinburgh and Paris before entering the public health field.

He was active in public health, becoming the first Canadian president of the American Public Health Association, and founding the Canadian Public Health Association in 1910. Historians refer to Peter Henderson Bryce as “the father of public health in Canada.”

In 1904 Dr. Bryce was hired by the Department of the Interior to manage public health issues in both the Immigration Department and Indian Affairs. In 1907 he issued a report critical of public health standards in the residential school system of western Canada. The average death toll due to communicable disease, primarily Tuberculosis, was 24%. But the report was buried and it was not until 1922, when he published *The Story of a National Crime*, that the statistics became public.

Peter Henderson Bryce died in January 1932 while on a trip to the West Indies. In the years after the 1907 report, his career stalled, and the Indian Affairs portfolio was taken away from him. It was not until the 2008 Residential School apology that the Federal government admitted to any negligence or wrong-doing, which Dr. Bryce had so clearly shown over 100 years earlier.



**First Nations Child & Family
Caring Society**

Suite 401, 309 Cooper Street,
Ottawa, ON K2P 0G5
613-230-5885
info@fncaringsociety.com
www.fncaringsociety.com

Other Ways P.H. Bryce Made a Difference

Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce was very active in his community. Many of the organizations he founded or supported continue to play an active role in supporting health and wellness today. For example, Bryce served in the following organizations:

- Canadian Public Health Association (founder)
- American Public Health Association (president and honorary fellow)
- American Journal of Public Health (contributor)
- Canadian Medical Association, Public Health Section (chairman)
- Canadian Historical Association (founder)
- Ontario Department of Health (founder)
- Upper Canada College (alumnus)
- University of Toronto (alumnus)
- Arts and Letters Club of Ottawa (president)

The breadth of Bryce's contributions speaks to his commitment to inter-disciplinary knowledge and practice in uplifting the holistic health of the community.

The Award

This award will be given every two years to recognize children and youth who individually or in groups advocate for the safety, health or well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth. Although the group might be working to help one child or one community, it is important to show how these efforts could help other First Nations, Métis and Inuit children.

Award nominees must show how they overcame challenges to stand up for the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children that are described in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (<http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/unrcrchilddfrientlylanguage.pdf>). Examples of overcoming a challenge might be speaking in public about the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children even though you are a bit scared of talking in front of groups or speaking up when First Nations, Métis or Inuit people are being discriminated against (watch *Letters to Canada* to learn what discrimination is – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPHUHYq8A8>)

Proposed Benefit of the Award

Dr. Bryce stood up for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children even when it was a hard thing to do because other people criticized him. He knew what was right, and in a peaceful and respectful way kept on trying to help the children. We want others to follow his example by having the courage to stand up for the right thing and help this generation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth have the same chance to succeed as other children and youth in Canada.

Award Criteria

- There are three award categories, with a recipient for each category: Children’s award recipient must be a child or group of children aged 0–12; youth award recipient must be a youth or group of youth aged (13–18), and the child and youth award is a group of children and youth aged (0–18).
- Actively standing up for the health and wellbeing of Métis, Inuit or First Nations children and youth in Canada in peaceful and respectful ways.
- Shows how the efforts can help First Nations, Métis and Inuit children beyond the specific child/youth or group you the award nominees are working with.
- Has overcome personal or group challenges to stand up for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth.
- Inspires others to learn, care and take action to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth.
- Activities support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Nomination Process

The Peter Henderson Bryce Award nomination form must be completed and you will also need to send a letter telling us why the child, youth or child and youth group you are nominating deserve this award. You must also get at least two other people to send letters or a YouTube video saying why this person or group deserve the award.

The complete nomination package (nomination form, cover letter and letters/videos of support) must be received no later than noon EST on November 1, 2013. Please send the complete nomination package including letters of support to:

Peter Henderson Bryce Award Committee,
c/o First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
Suite 401, 309 Cooper Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0G5

For more information please contact Jennifer King at info@fncaringsociety.com

Please note that incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.

