

Opening: Our Dreams Matter Too

- Welcome elders, community leaders, teachers and fellow students to Our Dreams Matter Too
- We meet here today on traditional Algonquin territory to remember, to dream, and to walk
- June 11th has special meaning because it marks the anniversary of the Canadian government's apology for residential schools, and their terrible effects on First Nations children
- If we forget our history, we will never be able to correct our mistakes
- So on this day we remember the apology, but this apology has meaning only if First Nations children have opportunities, can grow up happily in their homes, have a good education, be healthy and have pride in their culture
- Shannen Koostachin had dreams and hopes, and only wanted what many Canadian children take for granted: a good education and a nice school
- Shannon's dream still inspires us, and today we walk in her memory and with her hopes in our heart
- Let's all take a moment to think about Shannen, and to remember her courage and sense of justice (**pause**)
- So we remember, we dream and although our walk today is short, it is part of a longer journey for equality and justice!