



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

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Spring 2018

Tribunal Issues *Fifth* Legal Order on First Nations Child Welfare

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has issued a fifth legal order finding Canada's approach to First Nations child welfare to be unlawful and discriminatory. A landmark ruling by the Tribunal in January 2016 found Canada to be racially discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children. Two years later, the Tribunal admonishes Canada for treating the orders like recommendations and for its continued reliance on the very same policies and practices that lead to discrimination in the first place.

This fifth legal ruling, released February 1, 2018, is another complete victory for the kids because it orders Canada to cost out the extent of the underfunding, identify actual needs in First Nations child welfare, and provide immediate relief and equitable funding for First Nations children, youth, and families. This is consistent with the Spirit Bear Plan, proposed by First Nations, to end all inequities in all services to First Nations children.

In February, Canada released Budget 2018, announced \$1.4 billion in new spending for First Nations child welfare and pledged to implement all of the Tribunal orders. The Caring Society is analyzing these promises and is waiting to see if they will translate into meaningful change at the level of the children. For more information about the budget, visit www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html#Reconciliation.

To read the latest Tribunal order and Caring Society information sheets about the order, including a child-friendly version just for kids, visit fnwitness.ca

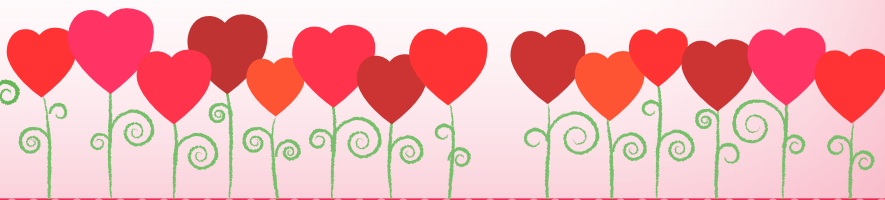
Spirit Bear and friends celebrate a big win for the kids!



HONOURING MEMORIES



This spring show your commitment to reconciliation for Indigenous children by participating in Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams. The event invites individuals and organizations to join in reconciliation by planting heart gardens in their communities as a way to honour residential school survivors and their families, as well as the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Learn more at www.honouringmemoriesplantingdreams.ca ♥



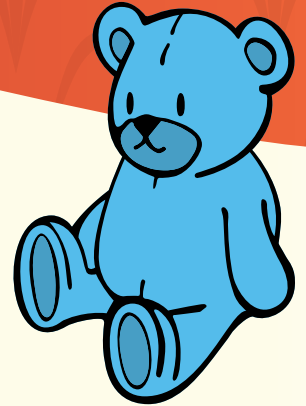
Bear Witness Day Save the date! May 10, 2018

Bear Witness Day invites caring people of all ages to honour Jordan River Anderson and the full implementation of Jordan's Principle by bringing their teddy bears to work, school, or day care and posting on social media using **#JordansPrinciple** and **#BearWitnessDay**

Jordan's Principle, named in honour of Jordan River Anderson, ensures all First Nations youth receive the services they need when they need them. The Canadian

Human Rights Tribunal ordered Canada to fully implement Jordan's Principle by May 10, 2016 marking the very first Bear Witness Day. Learn more at

jordansprinciple.ca and if you know a child in need of services call the 24-hour Jordan's Principle reporting line **1-855-JP-CHILD** or **1-833-PJ-ENFAN**.



Have a Heart Day 2018

On February 15, 2018, children, youth, and caring adults from 21 schools and community groups gathered on Parliament Hill for Have a Heart Day. An estimated 1,000 people came to the steps of Parliament to celebrate love and fairness! Have a Heart Day was celebrated from coast to coast with at least 58 events taking place across eight provinces.

Have a Heart Day is about standing up for the equitable treatment of First Nations children, youth, and families. All children deserve to have access to services to help them grow up safely in their homes, get a good education, and be healthy and proud of who they are.

Thanks to the Ottawa Technical Secondary School and Boko Bakery for making delicious cookies!

A thousand children, youth, and caring adults gathered on Parliament Hill for Have a Heart Day 2018 (photo credit: Warren McBride)



A Teddy Bear Tea Party to celebrate *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*

On December 11, 2017, Spirit Bear celebrated the release of his first children's book with (what else?) a Teddy Bear Tea party! The Caring Society was honoured to partner with the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa to host a Teddy Bear Tea Party and book reading for 90 children from four schools, including First Nations children from the nearby community of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg. The celebration included teddy bear hats, cupcakes, apple cider and hot chocolate. In addition to his friends Jordan's Principle Bear, Cindy the Sheep, and his mom, Mary the Bear, Spirit Bear was thrilled to have two special guests from Unifor join the party: Deb Tveit, and Mohamad Alsadi. Spirit Bear would like to thank the children, teachers and friends who attended for making his book launch so *paw-sitively* special!

Order your copy of *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* at fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear.

Special thanks to Unifor (unifor.org) for making this project possible.



Photo credit: Alejandro Gomez, Réseau de Savoir sur l'Équité | Equity Knowledge Network (RSEKN).



First
Nations
Children's
Action
Research and
Education
Service

Spirit Bear and Children Make History in Edmonton

By Melisa Brittain

FNCARES and Spirit Bear were thrilled to host 150 elementary students at the Edmonton Teddy Bear Tea Party and Book Launch on February 5, 2018. As students arrived at the Citadel Theatre, volunteers gave them a little teddy bear and handed out multi-coloured bear hats and drinks. After the children found their seats, Charlene and Wilson Bearhead welcomed everyone, and

Below: Students join Spirit Bear and Cindy Blackstock in a cheer; Right: Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson (right), Edbearton (centre), and Spirit Bear (left) read to the kids.

special guests read from *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* as the beautifully illustrated pages were projected onto the big screen. Students listened attentively to Spirit Bear's story of fighting for equity for First Nations children at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, and raised three cheers with Spirit Bear as he reminded them, "Just because you're small doesn't mean you can't stand tall!"



Free Orthopaedic Care and Services for Indigenous Children and Youth

Guest article by Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Canada provides free specialized orthopaedic care to children. Transportation and accommodation costs for any child in our care and one parent are covered through the support of the Shriners Fraternity. Children from across Canada and around the world have benefited from the hospital's ground-breaking research and innovative treatments, both in Montreal and in their own communities.

Canada Shriners Hospital believes that the family is a child's primary source of strength and support. Healthcare professionals

are the experts on health and disease. Parents are the experts on the child and they offer essential information to enhance their child's health care.

Shriners Hospitals value and respect the patient's and family's diverse cultural and socioeconomic situation. Care is tailored to each child's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. This mission is carried out without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of a patient or family to pay.

Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada moved to a new location in 2015, on traditional and unceded territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk). The building is filled with natural light and bright and beautiful colours, is child and family friendly and offers a healing and caring environment like no other.

To learn more visit www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/canada



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www.hskids.ca

The HeartSmart Kids™ program builds Grades K–6 educators' knowledge about heart and brain health and takes a wholistic approach to health including Indigenous health practices. This knowledge is then passed on to students and families by learning through their very own HSK books in school and at home

For more information, please visit www.hskids.ca



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

Membership Information

If you would like to join the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society as a Member under one of the following categories:

- Individual Membership: \$75
- Student Membership with ID or Elder: \$5
- Small FNCFCS Agency Membership (1–50 employees): \$500
- Large FNCFCS Agency Membership (50+ employees): \$1,000
- Small Associate Membership (Organizations with 1–50 employees): \$500
- Large Associate Membership (Organizations with 50+ employees): \$1,000

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