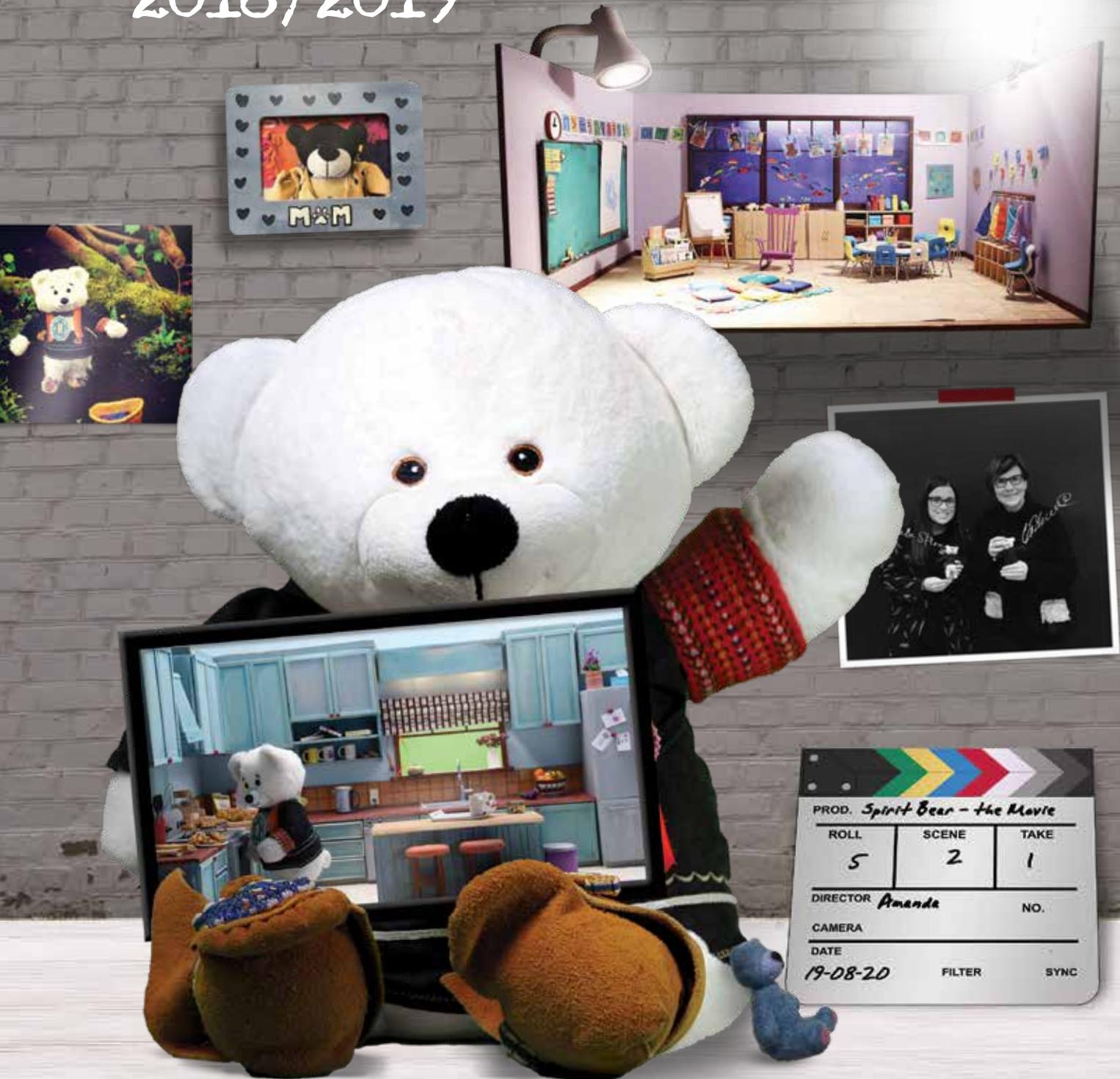


Annual Report

2018/2019



PROD. <i>Spirit Bear - the Movie</i>		
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DIRECTOR <i>Amanda</i>		NO.
CAMERA		
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<i>19-08-20</i>	FILTER	SYNC



Hi! Thank you so much for reading our Annual Report. I am so bear-y excited for my upcoming films and thought I would share some behind-the-scene pictures from my friends at Spotted Fawn Productions. Hope you like the cover!

Love, Spirit Bear 

Please note that this annual report reflects activities from September 2018 to August 2019.

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 @CaringSociety

 @CaringSociety

 @SpiritBearandFriends

 @SpiritBear

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Design by LeahGryfeDesigns.com

Contents

- 2 **Dedication**
- 2 **Honouring**
- 3 **Key Accomplishments for 2018-2019**
- 5 **About Us**
 - 5 The Caring Society Celebrates 20 Years!
 - 5 The Caring Society Board of Directors
 - 6 The Caring Society Staff
 - 6 Strategic Directions 2019–2025
- 7 **Spirit Bear and Friends!**
 - 7 Spirit Bear (*Bearrister*)
 - 7 Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams
 - 8 Learning Guide
 - 8 Spirit Bear Animations
 - 9 Reconciliation *Ambearristers* Program
 - 10 Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation: 2018-2019 Calendar
 - 10 Spirit Bear and Children Make History
- 11 **Child- and Youth-Led Campaigns**
 - 11 I Am a Witness: Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
 - 12 Jordan's Principle
 - 12 Shannen's Dream
- 14 **The Caring Society at Work: Services, Events and Projects**
 - 14 Caring Society Services
 - 14 Touchstones of Hope
 - 14 First Peoples Child & Family Review
 - 15 Indigenous Knowledge Portal
 - 15 Indigenous Kids Rights Path
 - 16 Reconciling History
 - 16 Caring Society Shop
- 16 Caring Society Events
 - 16 Have a Heart Day
 - 17 Elderbeary Day
 - 17 Bear Witness Day
 - 18 Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams
 - 18 School is a Time for Dreams
 - 19 Annual Caring Society Gala
- 19 Caring Society Projects
 - 19 Jordan's Principle Scholarship
 - 19 Peter Henderson Bryce Award
 - 20 Spirit Bear Award
 - 20 SSHRC: Indigenous Youth Voices
- 21 First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service
 - 21 FNCARES Staff
 - 21 Research Project
 - 21 Celebrating Spirit Bear's Second Book
 - 22 (Dis)placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System
- 24 **Future Directions**
- 24 **Want to Make a Difference for First Nations Children?**

Dedication

Dedicated to the memory of:

- Elder Elmer Courchene, Sagkeeng First Nation
- Gary Sacobie, Kingsclear First Nation
- Nita Walkem, NIha'7kapmx Child & Family Services

For their lifelong commitment and dedication to First Nations children, families, and communities and unwavering support for the work of the Caring Society.

Honouring

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (the Caring Society) expresses our sincere appreciation to First Nations child and family service agencies, our members, funding organizations and partners who have made outstanding contributions to the wellbeing of Indigenous children, youth and families in 2018/2019. Special thanks to children and youth throughout Canada who are standing with First Nations children and families and to:

Alanis Obomsawin	Folklore Contracting	Sign Language Interpreting Associates Ottawa Inc.
Amanda Strong and Spotted Fawn Productions	Indigenous Bar Association	Sisters of Service
Amnesty International Canada	Indigenous Youth Voices	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Anderson Family, Norway House Cree Nation	Institute of Fiscal Studies & Democracy	Stikeman Elliott LLP
Andrew Koostachin, Jenny Nakogee and Family	J. W. McConnell Family Foundation	Symposium Café
Anne Levesque, University of Ottawa	Leah Gryfe Designs	The Bryce Family
Assembly of 7 Generations	Lemay Media and Consulting	The Edith and Bernard Ennis Foundation
Assembly of First Nations	Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation	The Printing House
Barb McIsaac	Manitoba First Nations CFS Gala Committee	The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), Australia
Beechwood Cemetery	Many Hands One Dream Coalition	The Stevens Family
Bentall Kennedy (Canada) Limited Partnership	McGill University	Trent University
Beutel Goodman Charitable Foundation	McIntyre Media	UNICEF Canada
Canada Council for the Arts	Mélanie Vincent	UNIFOR
Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions	National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health	United Food and Commercial Workers Union
Canadian National Railway Company	National Film Board	University of Alberta
Canadian Union of Public Employees	Ottawa Technical Secondary School	University of Lethbridge
Cheekbone Beauty	Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP	University of Ottawa, Faculty of Education
Child Welfare League of Canada	PLUS1	University of Victoria
City of Ottawa	Polyglot Publishing	Web Kitchen
Clarke Child and Family Law	Project of Heart	West Region Child & Family Services
Conway Baxter Wilson LLP	Raven Reads Books Ltd.	
Feathers of Hope	Sandy Tunwell, Accountrain Inc.	
	Sarah Colbeck and Family	

Key Accomplishments

Big Win for the Kids

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has issued **eight non-compliance orders** since the 2016 landmark ruling, two of which were issued in 2019.

In January, the Tribunal ordered Canada to provide funding to the Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations for knowingly failing to disclose **90,000 documents** relevant to the Tribunal case.

In February, the Tribunal ordered Canada to provide Jordan's Principle services to non-status First Nations children recognized by their First Nation in urgent, life-threatening situations. The Tribunal also ordered a full hearing to determine the definition of a First Nations child for the purposes of receiving services through Jordan's Principle.



Over **250,000 services and products** were provided to First Nations children as a result of Jordan's Principle and the May 2017 non-compliance order.



Reconciliation in Action

On February 14, the Caring Society hosted its annual Have a Heart Day event with more than **700 local students! Over 50 schools, workplaces and organizations** held events nationwide with **over 5,000 people** celebrating in five different provinces and territories.



We introduced the Touchstones of Hope to more than **250 enthusiastic and caring participants** from **six groups and communities!** The Touchstones of Hope also underwent a rebrand and refresh, including an updated tool kit for Reconciliation in Child Welfare!



To support community participation in Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams, we distributed more than **300 packets of wildflower seeds** across Canada! These were used to plant Heart Gardens in honour of residential school survivors and their families.

#BearWitnessDay and **#JordansPrinciple** were trending on Twitter on Bear Witness Day as individuals, groups, communities, schools and workplaces honoured Jordan River Anderson and learned about Jordan's Principle.



Our infographic relaying how to access services through Jordan's Principle was viewed by **120,000 people** and counting!



Public Education

On May 15, 2019, we celebrated our **20-year anniversary!** We have been providing research, policy, professional development and networking support to First Nations children, families and service agencies for over **7,300 days!**



We published **two issues** of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, including our **first ever audio-visual**



issue and an issue featuring a reprint of our fifteen most popular articles. The *First Peoples Child & Family Review* launched a **new website**, making it easier to search your favourite article and contribute to the journal!

We published **four newsletters** featuring **43 articles** and **four guest contributions!** We distributed newsletters to **over 230 First Nations Child and Family Service agencies, members and educators.**



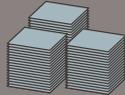
We appeared in the news over **200 times**, both in the Canadian media and overseas!

Key Accomplishments (continued)

Spirit Bear and Friends



Spirit Bear published *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*, his second illustrated children's book. In less than a year, we sold or donated more than **1,700 copies** to First Nations agencies, schools, hospitals and other groups!



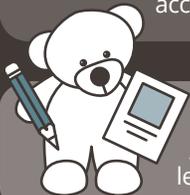
We sold or donated **over 2,000 copies** of our annual calendar, Spirit Bear's 2019 Guide to Reconciliation. All proceeds support child- and youth-led reconciliation initiatives.



Spirit Bear gained more than **1,000 new followers** on his @SpiritBear Twitter account and has tripled his Instagram following on his @SpiritBearandFriends account!



Spirit Bear was honoured by **two major universities** in Canada this year! He received his *PawhD* in Social Work from the University of Victoria and his *Bear So Wise* (BSW) from McMaster University.

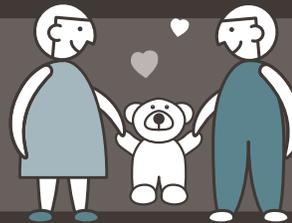


We published a **free learning guide** for *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* to teach about Canada's colonial legacy, discrimination and inequities affecting First Nations children.

Spirit Bear's first book *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* and his accompanying learning guide was made an **Indspire Successful Practice in K-12 Indigenous education!**



Groups, schools and communities worldwide were joined by a Reconciliation *Ambearrister*. Some have even travelled as far as Australia! Each hosted bear learns about reconciliation and supports the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Making New Friends

Through our awards and scholarships, we were able to recognize a number of **amazing groups and individuals** who are taking action to ensure equity for First Nations children and youth. This includes the first ever Spirit Bear Award for a group of young people working on reconciliation initiatives and the TRC's Calls to Action.



We **travelled over 225,000 km**, over five times the distance of the Earth! We visited **nine different provinces and territories** in Canada and four other countries, including: **Australia, Morocco, Switzerland** and the **United States of America**.



We completed **118 public education events** attended by **thousands of people** of all ages and backgrounds!



We gained over **1,600 new followers** on the @CaringSociety Twitter account and **800 new page likes** on Facebook. Our online friends now include more than **22,000 followers!** Since our newly branded website went live in Summer 2018, we've had **140,000 visitors** to our site!



About Us

Building on the interest of First Nations child and family services leaders to create a national networking organization, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (the Caring Society) was developed at the Squamish First Nation in 1998 at a national meeting of First Nations child and family service agencies. Meeting delegates agreed that a national non-profit organization was required to provide research, policy, professional development and networking to support First Nations child and family service agencies in caring for First Nations children, youth and families. An interim board was elected and the plan was approved at a second national meeting at Kingsclear First Nation in 1999.

The Caring Society works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and providing quality resources to support communities. Using a reconciliation framework that addresses contemporary hardships for Indigenous families in ways that uplift all Canadians, the Caring Society champions culturally-based equity for First Nations children and their families so that they can grow up safely at home, be healthy, achieve their dreams, celebrate their languages and culture and be proud of who they are. The Caring Society proudly works with our partners in Canada and around the world to promote the rights of Indigenous children.

The Caring Society Celebrates 20 Years!

On May 15, 2019, the Caring Society celebrated the 20th anniversary of its founding as an organization! The Caring Society was created in Kingsclear First Nation in May 1999 to fill the need for a national organization that would provide support to First



Nations child and family service agencies across Canada.

For 20 years, the Caring Society has provided reconciliation-based public education, research and support to promote the safety and wellbeing of First Nations and their children, young people and families.

The Caring Society Board of Directors

Raymond Shingoose, President
Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc., Saskatchewan

Kenn Richard, Vice-President
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, Ontario

Judy Levi, Treasurer of the Board
New Brunswick Representative

Elsie Flette, Board Member
Manitoba Representative

Marilyn Birch, Board Member
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island, PEI

Koren Lightning-Earle, Board Member
Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society, Alberta

Landon Pearson, Board Member
Carleton University, Ontario

Teresa Steinhauer, Board Member
Mamowe Opikihawasowin Tribal Chief Child and Family Services West Society, Alberta

Theresa Stevens, Board Member
Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services, Ontario

Mary Teegee, Board Member
Carrier Sekani Family Services, British Columbia

Kyra Wilson, Board Member
Long Plain First Nation, Manitoba Representative

The Caring Society Staff

Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director

Andrea Auger, Reconciliation and Research Manager

Jennifer King, Reconciliation and Policy Coordinator

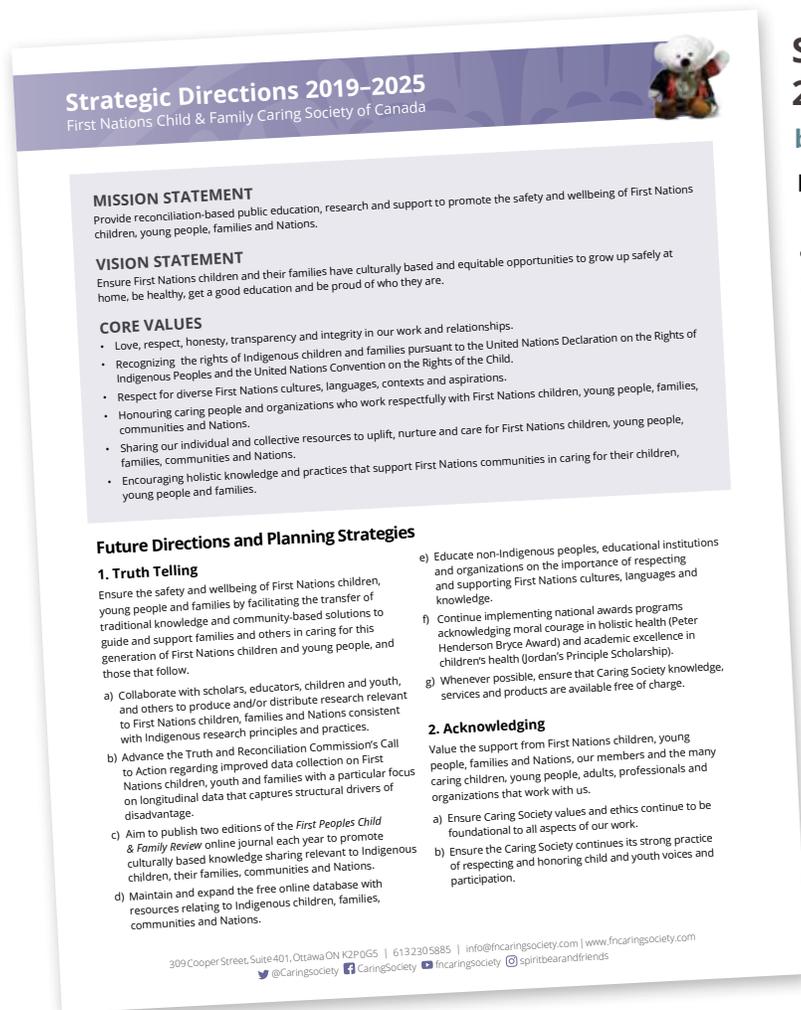
Brittany Mathews, Reconciliation and Research Coordinator

Robin McLeod, Youth and Reconciliation Coordinator

Marc St. Dennis, Education and Public Engagement Coordinator

Jacque Surges, Executive and Administrative Assistant

The Caring Society also acknowledges the contributions of **Daxton Rhead**, **Tammy Morgan** and **Emily Williams** for their dedication and service to the Caring Society and First Nations children, youth and families.



Strategic Directions 2019–2025

bit.ly/2019StrategicDirections

In Summer 2018, the Caring Society Board Members and staff participated in a brainstorming session to update our Strategic Directions. We look forward to continuing our work with children, youth and families and caring Canadians across the country and abroad to ensure First Nations young people have the same opportunities as all others in the country!

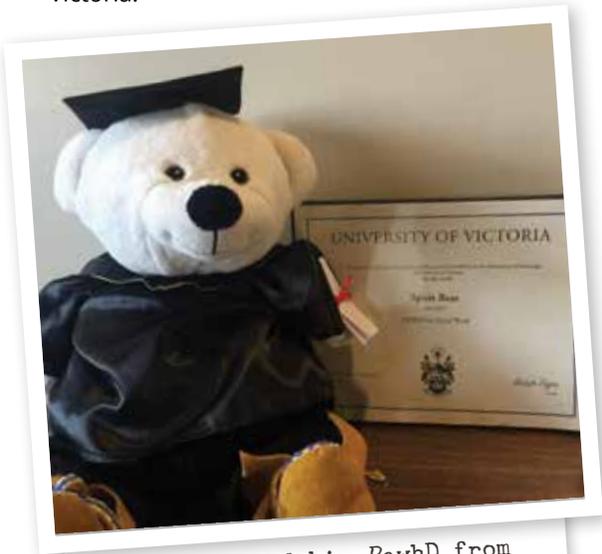
Spirit Bear and Friends!

fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear

Spirit Bear (*Bearrister*)

fncaringsociety.com/about-spirit-bear

What another *beary* exciting year for Spirit Bear as he continues to be a symbol for all children working towards reconciliation and equity! He has made friends all over Canada and the world, and has doubled his followers and friends on his own Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts. Spirit Bear has also been receiving academic accolades! He received his *Bear So Wise* (BSW) from McMaster University and his *PawhD* from the University of Victoria.



Spirit Bear and his *PawhD* from the University of Victoria.

This past year, Spirit Bear attended all the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) hearings and witnessed the Tribunal issue two non-compliance orders. He was an honoured guest at Teddy Bear tea parties, invited to schools and organizations, and met inspirational children and young people from all over the world. Spirit Bear even released a new book, *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams!*

Spirit Bear was gifted to the Caring Society by Carrier Sekani Family Services in 2007. He has been an honorary witness for the Tribunal case since, representing the 165,000 children and their



Spirit Bear preparing to bear witness to a Tribunal hearing in Ottawa.

families affected by the case and the thousands of other children who have stood with them for justice. Spirit Bear is a special reminder of the importance of putting children's interests first.

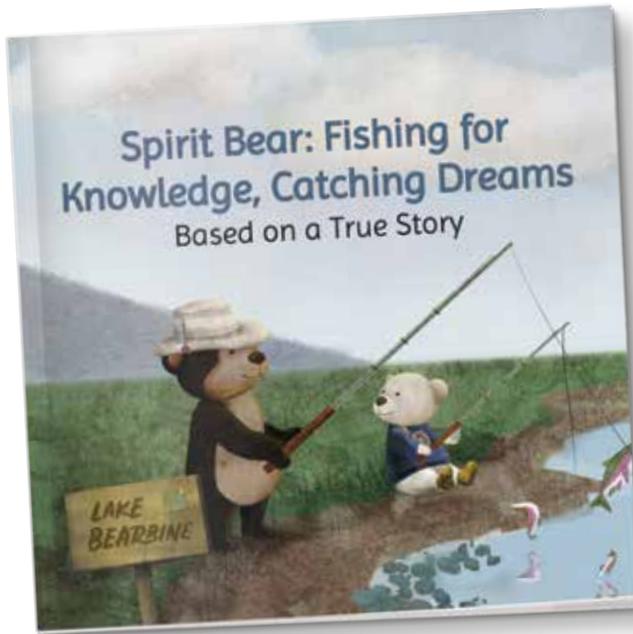


Spirit Bear posing with a crafted gift he received from elementary students!

Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams

fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bears-second-book

Spirit Bear is off on another adventure in his second illustrated book for children! Written by Cindy Blackstock and beautifully illustrated by



Michif artist Amanda Strong, *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* follows Spirit Bear as he learns about traditional knowledge and residential schools from Uncle Huckleberry and his friend, Lak'insxw. He then travels to Algonquin territory where children teach him about Shannen's Dream.

Shannen's Dream is a child and youth-led movement for safe and comfy schools and fair education for First Nations kids. The movement is named in honour of Shannen Koostachin from Attawapiskat Cree Nation. Spirit Bear and his friends won't stop until Shannen's Dream comes true for every First Nations student.

Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams addresses a gap in reconciliation education for children in elementary school. There are few



Canadian books for younger children that link reconciliation with social justice. The book is available on the Caring Society's website and from select distributors in French and English.

With special thanks to Sisters of Service for their generous support of *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*.

Learning Guide

fncaringsociety.com/learning-guide-fun-ways-learn

Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams

follows Spirit Bear on a journey to learn from his Uncle Huckleberry and many friends about traditional First Nations knowledge, the legacies of the residential school system and the impacts on First Nations families and communities. Spirit Bear

also learns about a young hero named Shannen Koostachin and a movement named in her honour for safe and comfy schools called Shannen's Dream.

In August 2019, the Caring Society created a learning guide to accompany the book. The guide is intended to engage children in learning about Canada's colonial legacy, discrimination and inequities affecting First Nations children. It is also an opportunity for students to recognize that their voices and ideas matter and that they can play a significant role in reconciliation and social justice initiatives to stand with First Nations young people.



Spirit Bear Animations

The Caring Society is thrilled to be working with Spotted Fawn Productions (spottedfawnproductions.com) to produce two stop-motion films based on Spirit Bear's books for children. Stop-motion animation is the cinematic process of bringing static objects, like puppets, to life on screen.

Led by Michif artist Amanda Strong, Spotted Fawn Productions is an award-winning team of Indigenous filmmakers, multimedia, and stop motion artists. They have been hard at work on the films since early 2018, writing scripts,



Amanda Strong and Cindy Blackstock on set with Spirit Bear's puppet double!



Spirit Bear's puppet double on set.

developing concept art, and building sets and puppets. Voice acting for the films is by children, youth, and adults active in the movement for equity for First Nations children.

The Caring Society honours the transmission of knowledge through diverse formats such as film, music, parades, community events, and oral communication, recognizing that all children have a variety of learning styles. Spirit Bear's films will engage a wider audience in the movement for equity for First Nations kids by highlighting the importance of storytelling and visual media.

The first film, based on *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*, will be available in early 2020. The second film, *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*, will follow later the same year.

With special thanks to Unifor, Canadian National Railway Company and Sisters of Service for their generous support of Spirit Bear's films.

Reconciliation Ambearristers Program

fncaringsociety.com/Reconciliation-Ambearristers

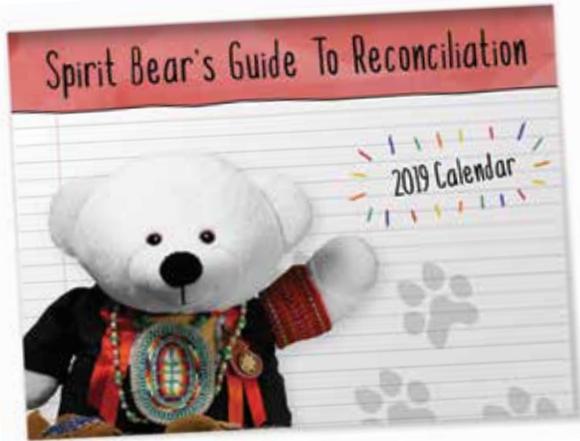
The Reconciliation Ambearristers Program invites groups to host one of the Caring Society's Reconciliation Ambearristers to guide the group through a year of free ways to make a difference for First Nations children and promote the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Hosting groups "teach" the bear Indigenous languages and stories and include the bear in cultural activities so it becomes a well-known Reconciliation Ambearrister in the community! This year, several schools, groups and communities worldwide welcomed a Reconciliation Ambearrister, with some bears travelling as far as Australia to join their new friends!



Mawi Bear, a Reconciliation Ambearrister, lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick and works with the Mawiw Council.

Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation: 2018-2019 Calendar

fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear/calendar



Spirit Bear is *beary* excited to have released his second calendar, *Spirit Bear's 2019 Guide to Reconciliation*. The 2018-2019 calendar featured a whole year of reconciliation-based activities for individuals and groups to participate in. Written from the perspective of Spirit Bear, the calendar featured activities and events hosted by the Caring Society, as well as important days like the anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's closing ceremonies!

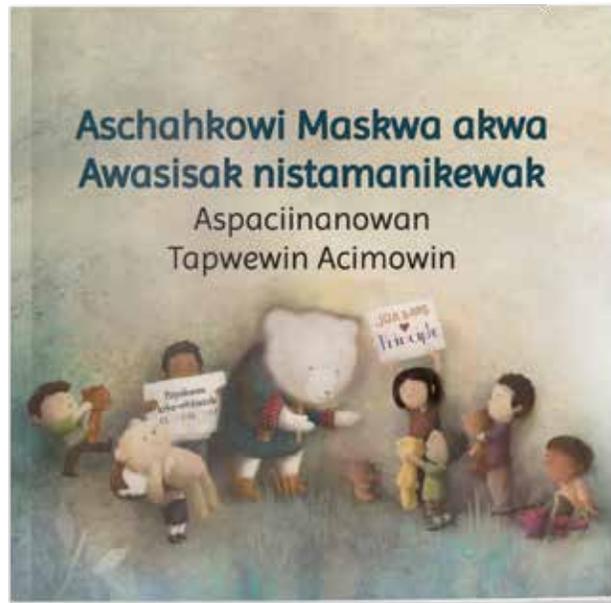
Spirit Bear is busy creating another calendar for 2019-2020 thanks to the continued support of the Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation.

Spirit Bear and Children Make History

fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear/children-make-history

Spirit Bear's first book, *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*, is now available in two Indigenous languages: Cree and Carrier! In honour of Jordan River Anderson, Spirit Bear's first book has been translated into Cree by Madeline Gamblin. The Carrier translation was provided by Dorothy Patrick and Alex Mitchell, and is in honour of Spirit Bear's home. Both versions are available to be read on the Caring Society website!

Spirit Bear and Children Make History tells the story of the case for First Nations children at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (fnwitness.ca). The book is available on the Caring Society's website and from select distributors in French and English.



Child- and Youth-Led Campaigns

The Caring Society believes all children, including First Nations children, have a right to grow up safely with their families, go to good schools and be healthy and proud of who they are. These rights are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Canadian Government has ratified the UNCRC and has expressed support for UNDRIP. As such, the Caring Society actively works to ensure the realization of these rights for First Nations children, youth and their families.

Meaningful reconciliation engages young people in learning about our collective past and thinking creatively about the future. Children and young people have a clear sense of right and wrong, and engaging them in reconciliation and social justice nurtures compassion and moral courage while bolstering self-confidence.

The Caring Society believes that each of us can take peaceful and respectful actions to help make a better Canada for Indigenous children and their families. The Caring Society provides opportunities for children, young people and educators to take part in activities and events where they can feel empowered to make a difference.

I Am a Witness: Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

fnwitness.ca



In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) ruled in a landmark human rights case that the Canadian federal government is responsible for racially discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children by providing inequitable child welfare services to First Nations children and their families, and failing to implement Jordan's Principle.

Following the 2016 ruling, there have been seven non-compliance rulings, two of which were issued in early 2019. Along with a ruling on Jordan's Principle (see Jordan's Principle section), the

Tribunal also ordered Canada in January 2019 to provide funding to the Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations for knowingly failing to disclose 90,000 documents relevant to the Tribunal case (2019 CHRT 1).

The Caring Society is expecting the Tribunal to provide orders in the coming months regarding Tribunal jurisdiction over the case, major capital costs for First Nations agencies, downward adjustment for small agencies and the definition of a First Nations child for the purposes of receiving services through Jordan's Principle.



In December 2018, the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) released their report *Enabling First Nations Children to Thrive*, which endeavoured to collect reliable data in order to analyze and provide an overview of the needs of First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies across the country. IFSD found that there is a need for investment in capital and staff costs, and that “the most significant cost driver of the current system is the number of children in care.” (p. 9) The report made recommendations for future research, including options for a funding framework. Read IFSD’s report here: bit.ly/EnablingFirstNationsChildrentoThrive.

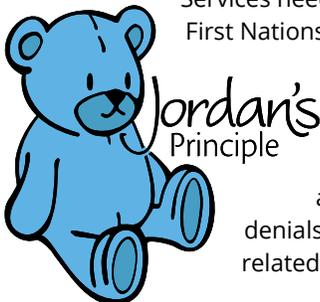
On June 3, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its Final Report entitled *Reclaiming Power and Place*. Alongside the report, the National Inquiry delivered Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. The Calls for Justice included full implementation of Jordan’s Principle and the Spirit Bear Plan, and full compliance with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders. You can read the National Inquiry’s Final Report and Calls for Justice at mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report.

Jordan’s Principle

jordansprinciple.ca

Jordan’s Principle is a child-first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Born with complex medical needs, Jordan spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the Province of Manitoba and the Canadian federal government argued over who should pay for his in-home care. Jordan died in the hospital at the age of five years old, never having spent a day in his family home. Jordan’s Principle ensures that First Nations children can access all public services when they need them.

Services need to be reflective of First Nations’ distinct cultural needs, take full account of the historical disadvantage linked to decolonization, and without any service denials, delays or disruptions related to First Nations status.



In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) ordered the government to properly implement Jordan’s Principle. The Tribunal issued a series of legally binding orders that the Canadian federal government has an obligation to fulfill that include:

- applying Jordan’s Principle to all First Nations children living on and off reserve;
- applying Jordan’s Principle based on the needs of the child (not just limited to the normative standard of care);
- ensuring that administrative procedures do not delay service provision; and
- responding to most cases within 48 hours.

Late in 2018, the Caring Society brought a motion to clarify the definition of a First Nations child for the purposes of Jordan’s Principle. On February 21, 2019, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) issued a ruling (2019 CHRT 7) outlining that a full hearing would be needed, with arguments from all Parties to the case, to determine the definition of a First Nations child for the purposes of receiving services through Jordan’s Principle. In the interim, the Tribunal ordered Canada to provide Jordan’s Principle services to non-status First Nations children recognized by their First Nation in urgent, life-threatening situations. Since the Tribunal’s May 2017 non-compliance order, First Nations children across Canada have received over 250,000 services and products thanks to Jordan’s Principle.

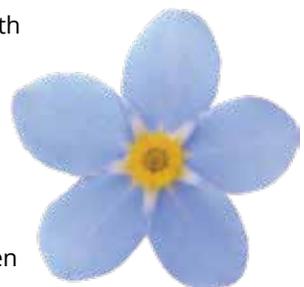
In Fall 2018, the Caring Society proudly released its first video in American Sign Language about Jordan’s Principle. The Caring Society worked with youth from the deaf community to provide information to others about Jordan’s Principle.

Watch the video at bit.ly/ASLJordansPrinciplePSA.

Shannen’s Dream

shannensdream.ca

Shannen Koostachin, a youth education advocate from Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario, had a dream: safe and comfy schools and culturally-based education for First Nations children and youth. Shannen



and her peers in Attawapiskat First Nation fought for a new school after a diesel spill contaminated their school, making the students and teachers sick. Shannen sadly passed away in 2010 at the age of 15 and never saw the new school, which was finally built in 2014. With the support of her loving family, friends and community, Shannen's Dream was named in her honour and is a campaign to make sure all First Nations children across Canada have "safe and comfy" schools and receive a good quality education that makes them proud of who they are.

Many First Nations schools receive less funding per student than provincial and territorial schools. Many also do not provide a safe and appropriate learning environment. Shannen worked tirelessly to try to convince the federal government to give First Nations children a proper education. Shannen remains an important role model for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people who continue to carry her dream for safe and comfy schools for all First Nations children in Canada.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls on Canada to provide culturally-based education for First Nations children, and calls on individual Canadians to learn more about Indigenous peoples in Canada as a starting place for meaningful reconciliation. In this spirit, the Caring Society continues to provide updated education resources for learners and teachers of all ages to take part in activities that foster reconciliation and culturally-based equity for Indigenous children and youth.



Mary the Bear's puppet from the Spirit Bear animation.

The Caring Society at Work: Services, Events and Projects

Caring Society Services

Touchstones of Hope

fncaringsociety.com/touchstones-hope

The Touchstones of Hope is a set of principles to guide a reconciliation process within all aspects of society, and is a basis for a respectful and meaningful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The success of the movement rests on the fact that it is a community-driven process that fosters relationships and provides opportunities to have respectful conversations about reconciliation. This includes concrete steps for moving forward together so that all Indigenous children, youth and their families are healthy and living with dignity.

When the Touchstones of Hope were first conceived the focus was on reconciliation in child welfare. This remains a priority for the



Caring Society and many others, though it is with gratitude and joy that the Touchstones of Hope have been successfully implemented across a wide array of contexts. This includes reconciliation in workplace environments, education, health care and much more.

This past year has been an exciting one for the Touchstones of Hope. Caring Society staff have guided many Touchstones of Hope sessions ranging from sessions with First Nations agencies to engagement sessions with non-Indigenous organizations working in various sectors. More than 250 enthusiastic and caring participants from six organizations, groups and communities took part!

The Caring Society has expanded the Touchstones of Hope resources, including a rebrand of materials, an updated Touchstones of Hope toolkit and clearer information on the Caring Society website.

First Peoples Child & Family Review

journals.sfu.ca/fpcfr

First Peoples
Child & Family Review

An interdisciplinary journal honouring the voices, perspectives, and knowledges of First Peoples

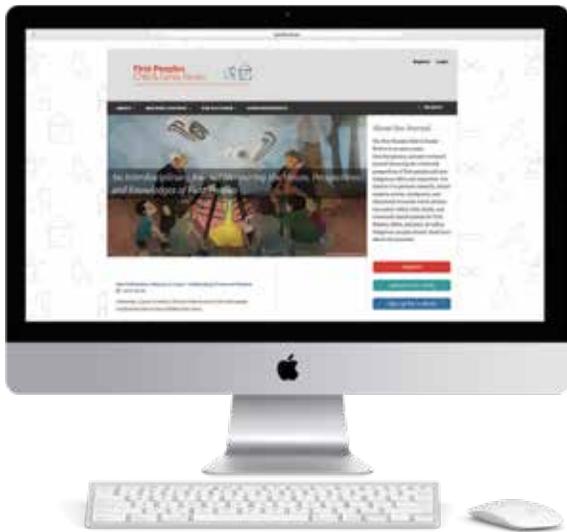


The *First Peoples Child & Family Review* is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary and multi-format journal honouring the voices and perspectives of Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous allies. We are proud to be a leader in the movement for open access and accessible knowledge sharing.

We are proud to announce that the *First Peoples Child & Family Review* has a brand-new website! We reimagined every detail to create a more welcoming appearance that flows between desktop and mobile platforms. The new website is striking and user friendly. It is now much easier to search for your favourite articles and browse the archives. In addition, the steps to submit your work and follow the editorial progress are



Caring Society staff and Cedar Bear were honoured to facilitate a multi-day Touchstones of Hope session with community members, child and family service agencies and caring participants in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.



much clearer and more interactive. Thanks to the Public Knowledge Project and Open Academia for supporting the website renewal.

This year, we published two special issues of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review*.

Volume 13, Issue 2

To emphasize the importance of oral and visual knowledge transmission for Indigenous peoples, 13(2) is our first ever audio-visual edition of the journal. Every contribution in this issue is an image or a video, showing that written knowledge is not the only way to share wisdom.



Animkee from Issue 13(2) of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review*.

Volume 14, Issue 1

We published 14(1) in celebration of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review's* 15th anniversary, featuring a reprint of 15 of our most popular articles. Readers will find that the wisdom shared in this issue is just as relevant today as it was when the ideas were first published, though often in new and surprising ways.



Indigenous Knowledge Portal

fncaringsociety.com/ikp

The Caring Society hosts one of the largest free resource databases for Indigenous children, youth and families in Canada. The database is a great resource for students, teachers, researchers and the general public.

In 2018, the Caring Society made improvements to the database and renamed it the Indigenous Knowledge Portal. The portal is searchable and all resources are listed by various categories. It consists of Caring Society resources, including educator resources and information sheets, as well as literature reviews, reports, guides, films, studies, journal articles and much more.



Indigenous Kids Rights Path

indigenouskidsrightspath.ca

Launched in 2015, the Indigenous Kids Rights Path

is an online tool that provides resources and links for kids and young people if they feel their rights are not being respected. There are also resources for those who want to learn more about Indigenous rights and child rights.

The Caring Society is pleased to announce that in Summer 2019, the Indigenous Kids Rights Path was updated. Links and contact information were updated and additional resources for young people have been added.

Reconciling History

fncaringsociety.com/reconciling-history

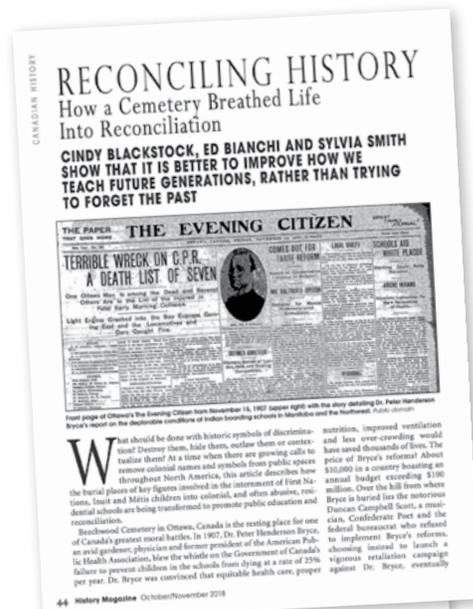
The Caring Society's Reconciling History initiative invites people to learn from the past in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action. The Caring Society believes that learning the complete and true story of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada fosters better understanding of how to contribute to reconciliation in meaningful ways.

Reconciling History provides an opportunity to learning about Canada's treatment of Indigenous children and families in a way that links lessons of history to contemporary injustices. The Caring Society and our partners provide information and resources for people to participate in the Reconciling History initiative, including the stories of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, Duncan Campbell Scott and Nicholas Flood Davin. Reconciling History is an opportunity to demonstrate why reconciliation should move beyond describing the past to learning from it.

Caring Society Shop

fncaringsociety.com/shop

The Caring Society is pleased to announce an online shop where individuals can purchase Spirit Bear's books, the Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation Calendar and the seasonal Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams seed packets! The shop will be updated as new books and calendars become available. All proceeds from the shop go



Reconciling History:
How a Cemetery Breathed
Life into Reconciliation
article in *History*
Magazine



towards supporting young people and others in participating in meaningful reconciliation activities and making a difference for First Nations children, youth and families.

Caring Society Events

fncaringsociety.com/events

The Caring Society annual events support campaigns like Jordan's Principle, I am a Witness and Shannen's Dream. The events also honour residential school survivors and their families, as well as the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Caring Society provides information and resources to make it easier for people to participate in these events in their communities, schools, workplaces and at home.

Have a Heart Day

fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart

Have A Heart Day, one of the Caring Society's main events, has been celebrated annually since 2012. It is a child- and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the services they need to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy and be proud of who they are.

Since 2012, Have a Heart Day has grown and is celebrated each year by thousands of people across Canada. Children and young people gather in their communities, schools and on Parliament Hill to read letters and sing songs in support of First Nations young people. This year, 1,400 students and participants from over twenty schools in the Ottawa area were confirmed to be in attendance on Parliament Hill. Due to extreme weather conditions, 700 students celebrated Have a Heart Day at Ottawa City Hall, while the remaining 700 students celebrated at their schools. Meanwhile, Have a Heart Day was supported by over 50 nation-wide events, with over 5,000 people

celebrating across five different provinces and territories.

Have a Heart Day can be celebrated many different ways, including:

- Sending a Valentine's Day card or letter supporting Have a Heart Day to the Prime Minister and your Member of Parliament;
- Hosting a Valentine's Day party to raise awareness in your school or community;
- Spreading the word through social media, using the hashtags #HaveAHeartDay and #JourneeAyezUnCoeur

Bear Witness Day

fncaringsociety.com/BearWitness



Celebrated annually on May 10, Bear Witness Day invites supporters of all ages to bring their teddy bears to work, school or even daycare to "bear witness" and support the full implementation of Jordan's Principle in honour of Jordan River Anderson.

In its landmark 2016 ruling, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) ordered the Canadian federal government to fully implement Jordan's Principle by May 10, 2016. However, First Nations children and their families continue to face discrimination in accessing government services due to the federal government's failure to comply with the Tribunal's orders. In May 2017, the Tribunal issued a third non-compliance order

finding Canada's approach to Jordan's Principle to be unlawful and discriminatory (2017 CHRT 14).

In total, the Tribunal has issued seven non-compliance orders with the latest order being released in February 2019.



Students participate in Have a Heart Day at Ottawa City Hall.

Elderbeary Day

fncaringsociety.com/elderbeary-day

On March 20, the Caring Society celebrated the inaugural Elderbeary Day! Elderbeary Day invites individuals to honour and celebrate the contributions of Elders who do so much to teach and raise little ones. The day can be celebrated by thanking your Elders for all that they do for you and for your community by writing them letters, drawing them pictures or in any way you believe best represents how much you care.

Celebrate Elderbeary Day on social media with the hashtags #ElderbearyDay and #JournéeOursonAiné.



Spirit Bear, Uncle Huckleberry, Era Bear and Jordan's Principle Bear celebrating Bear Witness Day in Ottawa, Ontario.

This year, Bear Witness Day was celebrated by hundreds of young people and adults across Canada. Students in the Ottawa area attended a *beary* special Teddy Bear Tea Party on May 10, 2019 in honour of Bear Witness Day and Spirit Bear's *beirthday*. Everyone brought a teddy bear, enjoyed popcorn and listened as a host of esteemed guests read *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*. There was even a *beary* special preview of Spirit Bear's upcoming film!

Caring Canadians can also celebrate Bear Witness Day by posting photos of their teddy bears on social media using the hashtags #JordansPrinciple and #BearWitnessDay, as well as #PrincipedeJordan et #JournéeOursonTémoïn. Bear Witness Day has seen tremendous online support, with the number of supporters posting on social media increasing every year. For the past three years, #JordansPrinciple was trending on Twitter for the duration of May 10, making it one of the day's most popular hashtags in Canada.

Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams

fncaringsociety.com/honouring-memories-planting-dreams

Celebrated annually in May and June, Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams invites Canadians of all ages and backgrounds to plant Heart Gardens in memory of the children lost to the residential school system. Heart Gardens honour residential school survivors and their families, as well as the legacy of the Truth and

HONOURING MEMORIES



Salmon Bear, Reconciliation Ambearrister with the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC), participated in the creation of a Heart Garden at CWLC office!

Reconciliation Commission. Each heart represents a child affected or lost to the residential school system and the act of planting represents our commitment to reconciliation. Heart Gardens can be made by anyone and can include decorated paper hearts affixed to planting sticks, real flowers or indigenous plants and medicines, where appropriate.

In 2019, there were over 3,000 hearts planted and over 300 wildflower seed packets distributed across Canada by the Caring Society in support of Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams.

School is a Time for Dreams

fncaringsociety.com/school-time-dreams

"School is a time for dreams, every kid deserves this." —Shannen Koostachin

In September 2018, the Caring Society proudly announced a new event supporting Shannen's Dream entitled School is a Time for Dreams. Celebrated annually in September and October,



this event invites caring individuals and organizations all over Canada to support equitable education for First Nations children and young people.

Every child in Canada has a right to quality education, but for First Nations children this right is not always upheld. Many First Nations young people do not get the same opportunities to learn or to achieve their dreams as other children do because of inequities in First Nations education. School should be a time when young people can create dreams for their futures. Shannen Koostachin, founder of Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools, wanted all children to be able to live their dreams.



Uncle Huckleberry and Cedar Bear taking part in School is a Time for Dreams.

There are many ways to participate in School is a Time for Dreams, including:

- sharing your "When I grow up, I want to be..." dream with others in your classroom, workplace or on social media using the hashtags #ShannensDream and #RêvedeShannen;
- learning about Shannen's Dream in your classroom or organization by hosting a Shannen's Dream party;

- hosting a teddy bear tea party and reading *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dream*; and
- sending letters to the Prime Minister and elected officials to help raise awareness so that all young people in Canada can live their dreams!

Annual Caring Society Gala

fncaringssociety.com/Gala

On October 18, 2018, the Caring Society was honoured to attend the 10th Annual Gala in Winnipeg, Manitoba, hosted by West Region Child & Family Services Inc. Because of the generosity of the First Nations agencies and community members, \$41,000 was raised to support the Caring Society in its work for culturally-based equity for First Nations young people.



Caring Society Projects

Jordan's Principle Scholarship

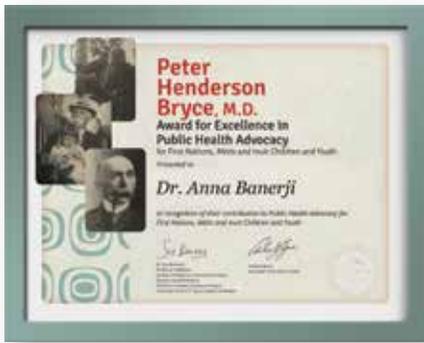
fncaringssociety.com/jordan's-principle-scholarship

Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson and in partnership with Jordan's family, the Caring Society is proud to present the second annual Jordan's Principle Scholarship for First Nations students to Athanasius Sylliboy, Keisha Charnley and Nicole Augustine. These three recipients were presented with the scholarship in honour of their commitment to Indigenous children's health and community service. May they always hold Jordan River Anderson in their hearts and minds, and remain champions for Jordan's Principle and equity for all Indigenous children.

Peter Henderson Bryce Award

fncaringssociety.com/ph-bryce-award

The Caring Society is honoured to present the 2019 Peter Henderson Bryce Award to Dr. Anna Banerji for her outstanding courage and commitment in advocating for fair and preventive health care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth. Dr. Banerji is a paediatrician, an infectious disease specialist and a human rights advocate. She shows steadfast moral courage in her pursuit of fair healthcare services for Indigenous children.



Her actions generate discussion, create space for learning, build community and empower others to stand up for what they know is right.

In 1907, Dr. Peter

Henderson Bryce (1853–1932) blew the whistle on the disgraceful health conditions and the preventable deaths of children in residential schools and proposed simple recommendations to protect and improve the health of students.

The Department of Indian Affairs buried his report, and they eventually pushed him out of office. Dr. Bryce continued to advocate for the health, safety and well-being of Indigenous children despite the resistance of the federal government. In honour of the leadership, integrity and moral courage of Dr. Bryce, the Caring Society presents the Peter

Henderson Bryce Award every two years, rotating between the youth and adult categories.

Spirit Bear Award

fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear-award

The Caring Society is proud to announce the inaugural Spirit Bear Award! Named in honour of Spirit Bear, who is a symbol of reconciliation and equality for kids, the award presented to a group of young people advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and who have demonstrated their commitment to reconciliation.



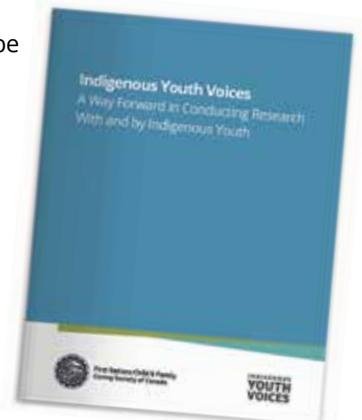
There were many strong nominations for the award and the Caring Society worked with a committee of five youth in Grades 7 and 8 from Featherston Drive Public School in Ottawa, Ontario to select the recipient. Spirit Bear and the Caring Society is proud to give the award to Loughborough Public School in Sydenham, Ontario for their amazing work in reconciliation as a school.

SSHRC: Indigenous Youth Voices

The Caring Society collaborated with Indigenous Youth Voices (IYV) to produce a report on the requirements and ethical standards for meaningful research with Indigenous youth entitled *Indigenous Youth Voices: A Way Forward in Conducting Research With and by Indigenous Youth*. The Caring Society and IYV received an Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation – Connection Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) in order to write the report. The report offers ideas on how to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 65, which calls on the federal government to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understandings of reconciliation through SSHRC.

The research methodology was guided by the Touchstones of Hope principles with a respectful, holistic and reciprocal process. In this spirit, six community-based facilitated sessions were held across Canada with over 50 Indigenous youth from an array of communities and backgrounds. Youth discussed their experiences in research, and identified the requirements and standards for ethical and meaningful research on terms set by them. It is time to close the chapter on harmful research and instead, move forward towards research that is accessible, Indigenous youth-led, holistic, respectful, reciprocal and culturally specific. The youth in the community sessions made it clear that it is time for research to support Indigenous youth and be uplifting.

The report and requirements for meaningful research with Indigenous youth can be read online at: bit.ly/IndigenousYouthVoices





First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service

fncaringsociety.com/fncares

The First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service (FNCARES) is a partnership between the Caring Society and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education. Located on Treaty 6 territory in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, Alberta), FNCARES focuses on translating research on structural disadvantage for First Nations children into practical, community-based solutions, creating resources and holding numerous educational events throughout the year.

FNCARES Staff

Melisa Brittain, Research Associate

Research Project

In 2017-2018, FNCARES and the Caring Society applied for and won a three-year research grant



TOP: Melisa Brittain, Lisa Howell, and Jennifer King at Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Cultural Centre.
BOTTOM: Dwayne Donald, Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, and Sylvia Smith at Margaret Kovach workshop.

from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada (SSHRC) for *Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't stand tall: Reconciliation education in the elementary classroom*. Led by Dr. Cindy Blackstock (McGill University) and co-investigators Dr. Nicholas Ng-A-Fook (University of Ottawa) and Dr. Susan Bennett (Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario), a team of dedicated reconciliation educators from across the country are studying the impacts of the Caring Society's social justice-based reconciliation campaigns on students and teachers at the elementary level.

This year, FNCARES has worked with University of Ottawa and Caring Society colleagues to ensure the research ethics align with community partners, school boards and university research protocols. The research team held a two-day-long Indigenous research methods retreat with workshops by Dr. Margaret Kovach (University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Dwayne Donald (University of Alberta) and Andrea Auger (Caring Society). Workshops were open to graduate students, faculty members and research office staff in the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Education. At Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg's Cultural Centre, attendees learned from Elder Peter Decontie, Anita Tenasco and other education leaders and community members, through a day-long sharing circle that sought to establish and deepen relations and knowledges.

In Fall 2019, the interview team at the University of Ottawa will begin interviews with teachers from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Ottawa-Carleton District and Catholic school boards who have been involved with the Caring Society campaigns. Findings from the study will inform the creation of professional development workshops, sample lesson plans and age-appropriate resources to enable educators to effectively address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action in regards to transforming the educational system in Canada.

Celebrating Spirit Bear's Second Book

On June 13, Spirit Bear joined 180 Grade 3 to 6 students in Edmonton, Alberta to launch Spirit Bear's second book, *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*. Students brought their own teddies to cuddle, donned their bear hats and settled in to listen to a lively reading by special guests: Elder Wilson Bearhead (Nakota, Paul First Nation); Del Graff (Alberta's Child and Youth



Singers and readers at Spirit Bear's book launch.

Advocate); Dr. Muna Saleh (Concordia University); Janis Irwin (MLA, Alberta); Megan Neudecker-Merpaw (Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta); and Deb Barron (Elk Island Public Schools).

After the reading, students from Elk Island Public Schools performed "A Place Like This," a lovely song created by elementary music teachers with the guidance of Elder Wilson Bearhead. The song tells a story of where Elk Island Schools lie in Treaty 6 territory. The celebration ended with the announcement of winners of the Shannen's Dream drawing contest. Thank you to all the students and teachers who participated, to the amazing volunteers and to FNCARES Assistant Event Coordinator extraordinaire, Kaitlyn Walcheske.

Watch a video of the performance of "A Place Like This" at bit.ly/ElkIslandSchools.

(Dis)placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System

Teaching Guide

In March, FNCARES launched a teaching guide to accompany our film *(Dis)placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System* at an event at the University of Alberta. The film features the voices of Indigenous youth reflecting on their prior experiences with the child welfare system and sharing their multiple strategies of resistance to assimilation. Designed for students in Grades 9 to 12, the guide can easily be adapted for colleges, universities and a general adult audience.

The guide provides teachers with necessary background information on the connections between Canada's colonial history, especially

residential schools, and the ongoing inequities experienced by First Nations children and youth. Questions and activities structured around four themed lessons will help students understand these connections, as well as the following:

- the role of family, community and culture in identity formation and belonging;
- how art, storytelling and the revival of cultural practices can be powerful sites of learning, resistance and healing; and
- how everyone can exercise their citizenship responsibilities by taking action in an ongoing social justice movement that addresses the root causes of ongoing discrimination.

Indspire has included the teaching guide and film on their "Successful Practices" website, and it is also listed by the following education websites: The Equity Knowledge Network; Canadian Society for the Study of Education; and Canadian Journal of Education.

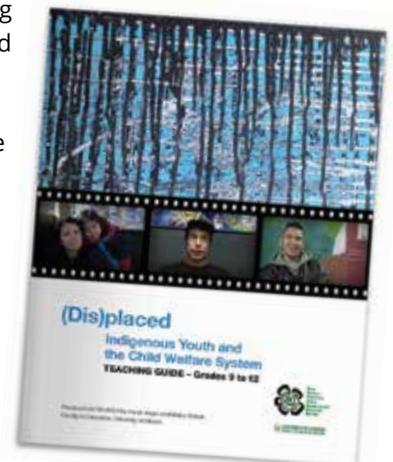
The teaching guide was co-authored by Sarah Auger, a doctoral student in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Alberta with a specialization in Indigenous Peoples Education, and Melisa Brittain, Research Associate for FNCARES. Thank you to the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, for funding this resource, and to reviewers: John Boutilier, Wendy Driscoll, Sarah Gazan, Lisa Howell, Bobbie-Jo Leclair, Sylvia Smith and Rochelle Starr.

Free online copies of the teaching guide are available at bit.ly/DisplacedLearningGuide.

FNCARES will be releasing a learning guide designed specifically for people working with Indigenous children and youth in the coming months.

Screenings

(Dis)placed has been travelling this year. In September 2018, FNCARES screened *(Dis)placed* for incoming students at the

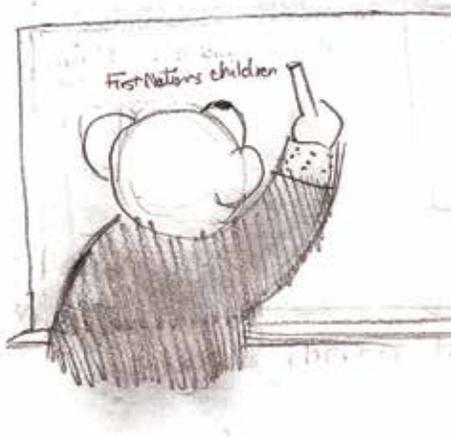


University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work, Central and Northern Alberta Campus, followed by a discussion. The Marda Loop Justice Film Festival screened the film in Calgary in November, and in April, *(Dis)placed* screened at the Storytellers Film Festival in Opaskwayak Cree Nation (The Pas, Manitoba). In May, organizers of the Indigenous Thought: Indigenous Social Work Conference at University nuhelot'ine thaiyots'i nistameyimâkanak, Blue Quills (St. Paul, Alberta), screened the film and invited FNCARES to begin the talking circle. FNCARES also partnered with Charlene Bearhead to show the film during the 4th Annual National Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Network Gathering in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where we distributed the teaching guide to educators from across Canada.

Distribution

Since 2017, Vtape, Canada's leading artist-run, not-for-profit distributor of video art, has done an excellent job of distributing *(Dis)placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System*. In 2018, FNCARES signed with a second distributor, McIntyre Media, to help get the film into more educational institutions. It has been distributed to diverse organizations, including college and university libraries, school boards, public libraries, teachers' associations, child and family service organizations, government departments and film festivals. Both distributors make the film available through multi-year streaming copies, DVDs and as one-time screening rentals. It is available at a reduced rate to community organizations through Vtape, and all proceeds from the film are donated to non-profit organizations serving Indigenous youth.

See the film's website for more information and for links to our distributors at kingcripproductions.com/displaced.



Future Directions

Our vision of Canada is one where all First Nations children are loved, respected and honoured. We know just what to do to make that vision a reality and it will require the education and active engagement of caring Canadians and organizations to make it happen. Over the next year we look forward to making the following visions a reality:

- Continue to work with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and the Canadian federal government on First Nations child welfare and the implementation of Jordan's Principle.
- Write, illustrate and publish Spirit Bear's third book with accompanying educational resources.
- Completion and distribution of Spirit Bear's two stop motion animated films.
- Expand the Reconciliation Ambearristers program and promote reconciliation initiatives for the Caring Society's ever-growing bear family.

- Expand the Reconciling History project to truthfully portray Canada's collective past in order to honour reconciliation.
- Support First Nations child and family service agencies, governments and stakeholders' engagement in the Touchstones of Hope movement.
- Publish two editions of the First Peoples Child & Family Review and continue updating the online database.
- Develop more educational resources for Shannen's Dream, Jordan's Principle and the promotion of children's engagement in research and positive social change.
- Host School is a Time for Dreams, Have a Heart Day, Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams, Elderbeary Day and Bear Witness Day for another year!

A warm thank you to our members, volunteers and the many thousands of caring people of all ages who have joined the effort to ensure culturally-based equity for First Nations children, youth and their families.

Want to Make a Difference for First Nations Children?



Go online to fncaringsociety.com to learn more and join the movement for culturally-based equity for First Nations children, young people and families. You will find seven ways you can make a difference for Indigenous children and youth, as well as information and resources to make it easier for you to participate in these campaigns in your community, school, workplace or home! Think about supporting the Caring Society by becoming a member or making an online donation at fncaringsociety.com/donate.



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

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