

SPIRIT BEAR'S GUIDE TO RECONCILIATION



2021
CALENDAR

SPIRIT BEAR'S MAP OF THE YEAR

JANUARY



RECONCILIATION
WAY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



SEPTEMBER
30



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER





January

In 2007, The Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations went to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (The Tribunal for short) to ask for help to get the government to treat First Nations children fairly.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7 <small>New Year's Eve</small>	1 <small>New Year's Day</small> 	2
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 <small>2006: Canadian Human Rights Tribunal finds the federal government to be guilty of discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children</small>	27 <small>Wassenaar Christmas Cake Day</small> 	28 <small>Wassenaar Knives Day</small> 	29	30

31

On January 26, 2016 after 9 years of Tribunal hearings, the Tribunal ruled that the government is discriminating against 165,000 First Nations kids and then ordered them to give First Nations kids the proper funding for the help they need. Although First Nations kids won the case, it is still not over and kids are still not getting all the things they need to be healthy and safe. Learn more about the case by reading **Spirit Bear and Children Make History**, ask your parents and teachers to help you find out what it means to be a 'witness', and the different ways you can show your support for First Nations by visiting www.inwitness.ca





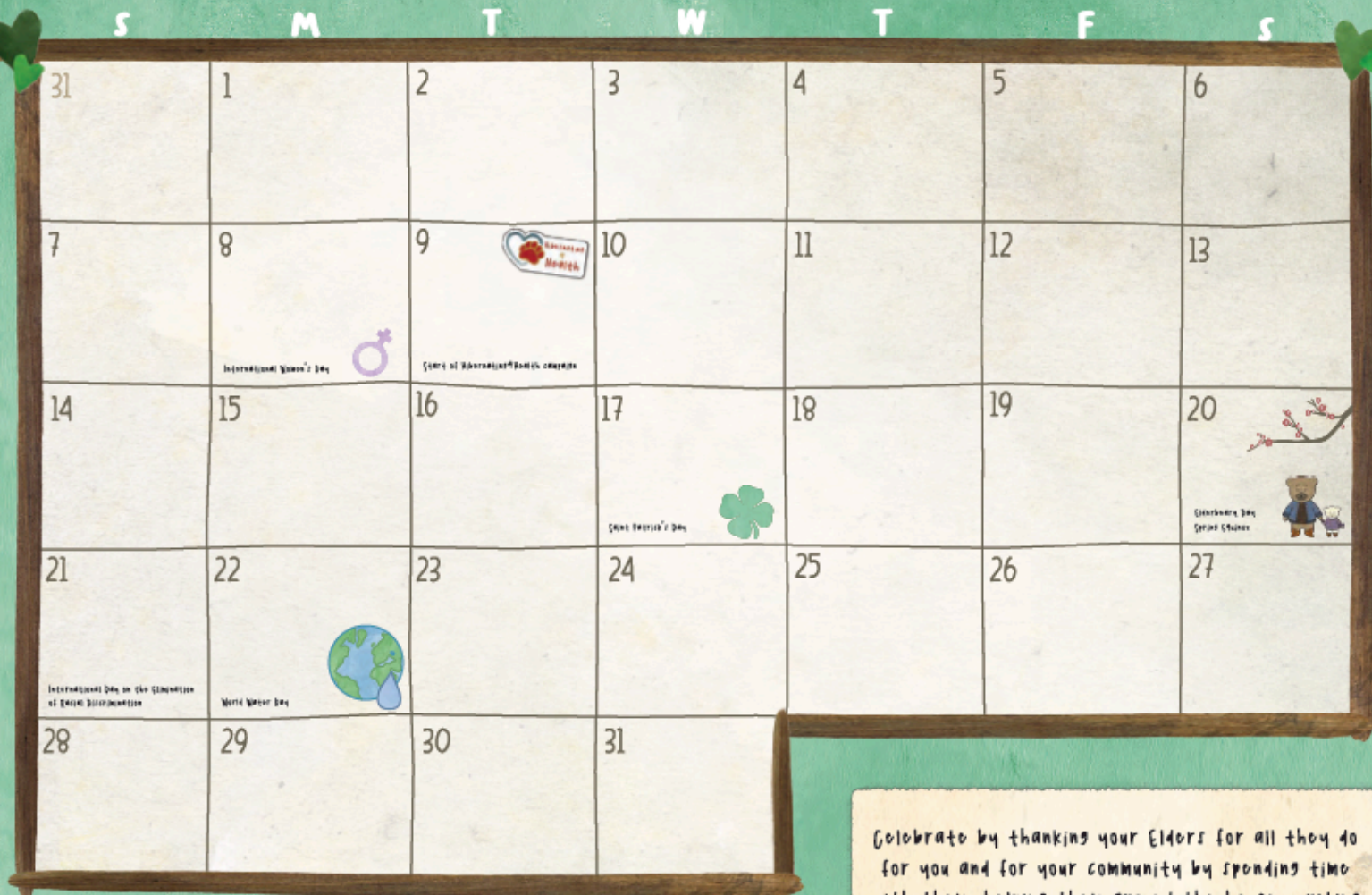
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

28

A group of seven children and a large teddy bear are standing together, holding various signs. The signs include 'SUPPORTS', 'FIRST NATIONS', 'EQUAL', and 'EDUCATION FOR FIRST NATIONS'. The children are dressed in casual clothing, and the teddy bear is a large, light-colored stuffed animal. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



March



Celebrate by thanking your Elders for all they do for you and for your community by spending time with them, helping them around the house, writing them letters, drawing them pictures, or in any way you believe best represents how much you care. Find out more by visiting:

<https://bit.ly/Elderboaryday>

Have you heard about Elderboary Day? It is celebrated on March 20th every year to honour and celebrate the contributions of Elders, who do so much to pass on culture and language and to teach the next generation.

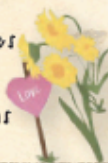


OTTAWA STATION



April

April 22nd is Earth Day! Earth Day is a world-wide event that invites individuals of every age and background to participate in making sure that our planet is healthy and a safe place for our future generations



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Easter



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Easter Monday

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Good Friday

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Golden Temple

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National Administrative Professionals Day



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Earth Day



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2000th Anniversary of Jesus



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National Superhero Day



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In Canada, First Nations, Inuit and Metis leaders and communities are fighting to protect land and water because both are central to their cultures. There are many things you can do to help protect the environment. Talk with your parents and teachers about ways you can change your daily habits to be more environmentally friendly! Planting flowers for pollinating insects like bees and butterflies is a good way to help protect our planet. Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams invites individuals to plant gardens in honour of those lost to the Residential School System, the survivors and their families! Learn more about planting your garden at www.honouringmemoriesplantingdreams.ca





May



May 10 is Spirit Bear's birthday but it is also Bear Witness Day which marks a very important date in the history of Jordan's Principle which makes sure First Nations young people get the services they need when they need them and is named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson. Read more about Jordan's legacy in October!

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					30	1 National Indigenous Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Museum's Day 	10 Bear Witness Day Spirit Bear's Birthday 	11 Lie at-Rest (Bannock year) 	12 1996: Meeting to discuss the creation of the Caribou Nation, Stomach Nation.	13	14 Children and Youth in Care Day (CYD)	15 1996: The Caribou Nation is created, Kwanlin Fort Nation.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Victoria Day 	25	26	27	28  2006: Shannon + Friends march on Parliament Hill for when children for First Nations youth 	29
30	31	<p>After many years of difficulties, the kids won the case in January 2016 and the Tribunal asked for change from the government to make sure children get services through Jordan's Principle. They wanted this done no later than May 10, 2016 so this is when Bear Witness Day started. On Bear Witness Day, bring your teddy bears to school, work or daycare to celebrate and honour Jordan River Anderson and Jordan's Principle. Don't forget to</p>				

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June



In Canada, every June is National Indigenous History Month!
What better way to celebrate than by learning new things
about First Nations, Métis and Inuit history, cultures,
and languages!

There are many resources available including books by Indigenous authors, podcasts by Indigenous peoples, museum exhibits about First Peoples, and films/documentaries by Indigenous filmmakers.

June 5 marks the anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. You can learn more about them by reading Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action here: <http://bit.ly/94TRC>

Challenge yourself by focusing your actions on one or two Calls to Action.



July

Shannon knew just how hard it was to learn in a school that was under-resourced. The children of Attawapiskat created the Attawapiskat School Campaign to reach out to non-Indigenous children all across Canada to write to the federal government and demand a new school for Attawapiskat.



Shannon sadly passed away before a new school was built in her community but she remains an important role model for all children and young people with big dreams for their communities. On July 12, we celebrate Shannon's Birthday, honour her by learning more about Shannon and how you can support her dream at www.shannonsdream.ca





August

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Sikh Holiday

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International Day of the Girl
Indigenous People

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Indigenous people all over the world rely on the land for medicine, food, knowledge and so much more! Getting out on the land is something easy you can do whether you live in the city or in a rural area. There is so much to learn about what land means for all of us.

For Indigenous people everywhere, land has often been something that has been taken away unfairly. You can learn about land and how it is important in maintaining respectful relationships with the First Peoples who inhabited them. Learn whose traditional territory you reside on by visiting www.native-land.ca





September

All kids in Canada have the right to quality education, but for First Nations kids, this right is not always respected. Many First Nations young people do not get the same opportunities to learn and dream as others do because of injustices in First Nations education.

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1	2	3	4		
5	6 Labour Day	7 2015: No-Go Mitcham's Promoters at TIFF	8 International Literacy Day	9 National Teddy Bear Day	10 World Teacher Education Day
11	12	13 2007: UNDEP endorsed by the United Nations 2008: No Go! Mitcham's Promoters at TIFF	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 International Day of Peace	22 Believe Change
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Teacher's Day	1	2	3	4

Schools in First Nations communities are expected to give students the same education as other schools in Canada but they are given less money to do so. Shannon Koostachin believed that all kids in Canada should be able to live their dreams. School is a Time for Dreams is celebrated every September in support of fair education for First Nations and all young people. Participate by writing letters to your Member of Parliament to show your support for First Nations education. Find resources and colouring sheets at: <https://bit.ly/SchoolDreams>

SCHOOL is a time for DREAMS
L'ÉCOLE c'est fait pour RÊVER





October



This month we celebrate the birthday of a very special boy. Jordan River Anderson was a young First Nations boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, born on October 22, 1999.

S M T W				T	F	S
3	4	5 World Teacher's Day 	6	7	8 National Unlucky Day	9
10 World Mental Health Day 	11 Thanksgiving Day International Day of the Girl 	12	13	14	15	16
17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 	18	19	20	21	22 1999: Jordan River Anderson's Birthday 	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween 	<p>He was born with multiple disabilities and lived his entire life in a hospital because federal and provincial governments could not agree on who would pay for his at-home care because he was a First Nations child who would normally live in his First Nations community (reserve). Tragically, Jordan died at the age of 5 before he could experience living in a loving home. Jordan's passing is what led to a movement called Jordan's Principle which ensures First Nations children have the services they need. Watch "Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger", a documentary created to tell more about Jordan's story: https://bit.ly/JordanTheMessenger + read more: www.jordansprinciple.ca</p>					



November

S M T W T F S



November 20 is a special day to celebrate the rights of children all over the world and the anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This document explains all the rights that children have in order to stay happy, healthy and safe in their homes with their families, in school and if they need special help for their health, family or education.

To learn more about your rights as a child, no matter where you live in Canada and no matter what your background, visit

www.indigenouskidsrightspath.ca

and read Spirit Bear's child friendly Convention on the Rights of the Child.





December



In the month of December, families, children and communities celebrate many holidays and often by sharing food together.

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1	2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 National Cookie Day
5	6	7 End of Slavery National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	8
9	10	11 International Human Rights Day	12
13 2009: Jeanne Boivin's 100th Anniversary in the House of Commons	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa Begins Kwanzaa Day	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends



In Canada, not everyone has safe access to the food they need to stay healthy and happy. This is called food insecurity and it means that some families and communities cannot get or afford food. Many Indigenous communities experience food insecurity because of a long history of not being treated fairly which is still going on today. One way to help end food insecurity in Canada is to continue to talk about the challenge for Indigenous communities. Take some time this holiday season with your family to think of ways you can help people in your community and in Canada who experience food insecurity. Write a letter to elected officials telling them why you think it is unfair. It is up to all of us to make sure all families in Canada have access to healthy and yummy foods.

THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA

The Caring Society works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through educational activities, engaging individuals of all ages in reconciliation and providing quality resources to support First Nations communities. The Caring Society works proudly with our partners far and wide to promote the rights of Indigenous children.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELPING ENSURE FIRST NATIONS KIDS CAN
GROW UP SAFELY AT HOME, GET A GOOD EDUCATION, BE HEALTHY
AND PROUD OF WHO THEY ARE**

A big bear hug and thank you to the **Lillian Meighen and
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