



# First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

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spiritbearandfriends

Fall 2018

## NEW EVENT!



In the Spring 2018 newsletter, we mentioned that since this was the last year for *Our Dreams Matter Too*, we would be launching a new event supporting Shannen's Dream. The Caring Society is happy to present: **School is a Time for Dreams!**

As many First Nations young people do not get the same opportunities to learn or to achieve their dreams as others do, equity in education is so important. School should be a time when young people can create dreams for their futures.

School is a Time for Dreams is an annual celebration in September and October that invites young people to share with others (on social media, with their class, etc.) what they want to be when they grow up. This event also calls on everyone to celebrate Shannen's Dream by hosting a party to learn about equity in education and other ways to get involved (Reconciliation Ambeassadors program, for example), by helping to raise awareness, and by sending letters to elected officials letting them know about the importance of safe and comfy schools and quality education for *all* children.

We hope to see your *School is a Time for Dreams* social media posts telling us about your dreams and sharing pictures of your Shannen's Dream parties on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using hashtags **#ShannensDream** and **#RêvedeShannen!**

## Spirit Bear Honoured at the University of Ottawa

At a special ceremony honouring graduates of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Spirit Bear was inducted as a mem-bear of the Common Law and Civil Law Honour Societies at the University of Ottawa. Established in 2003, the Common and Civil Law Honour Societies are the most prestigious alumni distinction presented by the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. Spirit Bear is paw-sitively pleased to be joining a cohort of amazing lawyers, including one of his favourite lawyers, Anne Levesque, who was inducted in 2015.



Cindy Blackstock,  
Spirit Bear and  
Dean Adam Dodek.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Caring Society Gala

### Paving the Way for Equality and Rights of First Nations Children and Youth

Spirit Bear and friends hope to see you at the Caring Society Gala in **Winnipeg, Manitoba** on **October 18** for an incredible evening of gourmet food and Indigenous entertainment in support of equity for First Nations children.

The Caring Society gala (now 10 years old!) is a fundraising event hosted by the First Nations child welfare agencies of Manitoba. Tickets (\$175 each or \$1,500 for a 10-seat table) include a four-course meal, art auction, silent auction and incredible performers. Get your tickets today! **Contact Rena or Rosella at 1.866.636.6100 to order.**

Not in Winnipeg or unable to attend? Donations of artwork and silent auction items (including professional services) and monetary gifts in support of the gala's fundraising goal are gratefully accepted. Please contact Rena at [rena.ironstand@wrcfs.org](mailto:rena.ironstand@wrcfs.org) for information.

*Special thanks to West Region Child and Family Services for coordinating the event!*

## AGM Notice

The Caring Society Annual General Meeting will take place on October 18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the Canad Inns Club Regent (1415 Regent Avenue West) in the Blue Lagoon Room from 12:30–1:30pm.

All are welcome! Join us to hear more about the Caring Society's work and future directions. Doors open at noon, lunch is provided.

## New Spirit Bear Book Coming Soon... We Can *Bear-ly* Wait!

It's *paw*-fficial: Spirit Bear is working on his second book!

"Dear Uncle Huckleberry,

"Look up at the stars tonight. If you look closely, you'll see Shannen Koostachin lighting the way. Shannen knew that school should be a time for dreams and that every child deserves a safe and comfy school and proper education. Every child is sacred just the way they are, and when we see something wrong we need to help make things right!"

Spirit Bear is off on another adventure! Follow Spirit Bear as he learns from his Elders, Uncle Huckleberry and Lak'insw Grizzly Bear, about traditional knowledge and residential schools, before heading to Algonquin territory where the children teach him about Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools.

First Nations children have a right to good schools where they can be proud of their cultures and speak their languages. Shannen Koostachin said that "school is a time for dreams" and Spirit Bear's new friends won't stop until they've shared her message with the world...and you can help!

Look for Spirit Bear's new book this December, just in time for the holidays! Follow us on social media or check the Caring Society website later this Fall for the release date and purchase details.



## Caring Society Website

The Caring Society's website has a new look as of September 2018. The website has not been updated since 2012 so we decided it was time to clean it up and make it more user-friendly.

Throughout the spring and summer, we worked with **WebKitchen** (our web team) and **Leah Gryfe Designs** (our graphic designer) to make sure website users can:

- Find our most popular resources with greater ease;
- Be able to navigate the most popular information on our site from a mobile device;
- Learn just as much without having as much text to read; and
- Have greater access to resources including: updated information sheets, more French resources, and information on Jordan's Principle in American Sign Language (ASL).

The Caring Society's database, one of the largest free resource databases on Indigenous children, youth and families in Canada, will also see improvements as the website is reworked!

We are also *bear-y* excited that our new website design has Spirit Bear as a more central part of our website since he is such a special part of the Caring Society!



## Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt day is an annual event held on September 30. Phyllis (Jack) Webstad started Orange Shirt Day in 2013 based on an experience she had while attending residential school. Phyllis was wearing her new orange shirt on her first day at St. Joseph Mission Residential School when it was taken away from her and never given back. She has always remembered that orange shirt and to her, it has become a symbol of how children did not matter in the residential school system.

Each year Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to take action by not only wearing an orange shirt, but by also learning about the legacy of the residential school system. Orange Shirt Day has been declared "a first step in reconciliation" by the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs-in-Council. It is also a chance to read (or reread) the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action to see how they can be implemented in your life.







## Livre de Spirit Bear Guide d'apprentissage

Je suis énormément ravi d'annoncer que mon nouveau guide d'apprentissage pour accompagner le livre *Spirit Bear et les enfants passent à l'histoire* viens tout juste d'être publié en français! Trouvez le ici : [www.fncaringsociety.com/fr/livre-de-spirit-bear-guide-dapprentissage](http://www.fncaringsociety.com/fr/livre-de-spirit-bear-guide-dapprentissage). Remerciements à Unifor ([www.unifor.org](http://www.unifor.org)) et à la Compagnie des chemins de fer nationaux du Canada (CN) pour leur soutien généreux à ce projet.

## Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams

Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams is an annual event celebrated in May and June where individuals and organizations plant Heart Gardens in honour of survivors of the residential school system and as a commitment to reconciliation.

This Spring, Canadians from all over the country honoured the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and hosted 22 Heart Garden initiatives in seven different provinces. There were over 400 wildflower seed packets distributed by the Caring Society in support of Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams.



## First Peoples Child & Family Review

Once again pushing the envelope of what entails an academic and peer reviewed journal, we are excited to announce that issue 13(2) of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review* will be our first audiovisual edition. We are currently accepting submissions in any format that is *not* written. This includes, but is certainly not limited to: films, audio recordings, music, podcasts, interviews, drawings, and much more. We are challenging the false notion that the only good knowledge is written knowledge. Knowledge is held and shared in many ways; we grow as a community by celebrating this fact. To contribute to this exciting initiative, visit [fncaringsociety.com/first-peoples-child-family-review](http://fncaringsociety.com/first-peoples-child-family-review).

Guest Submission

## National Youth in Care



By Ashley Bach, BC Representative to the Board of Directors, Youth in Care Canada, Mishkeegogamang First Nation

### About Youth in Care Canada

Youth in Care Canada (YICC) is a national, charitable organization which exists to voice the opinions and concerns of youth in and from care.

### Indigenous Youth Voices Must Be Heard for National Legislation

The National Indigenous Child Welfare Legislation proposed by the federal government is an exciting step towards implementing the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

YICC believes this legislation is extremely important and would like to take a moment to address a forgotten but fundamental voice in this process: that of Indigenous youth in and from care. First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth with lived experiences in provincial, territorial and Indigenous child welfare systems know what works and what does not, what they need to receive the best care possible, and how best they can maintain connections to their communities, cultures, languages and territories.

Youth in and from care have championed child welfare in the past and effected positive change through groups like First Call, Feathers of Hope, the Caring Society, YICC and many more. The federal government must create opportunities for Indigenous youth in and from care to do the same for this legislation through, for example, employment, consultation sessions, social media outreach and advisory councils.

The proposed National Indigenous Child Welfare Legislation is an opportunity of a lifetime and an opportunity to change our lives and the systems we live in for the better. We need to get this right the first time around. Listen to us now.

You can read the YICC *Statement on the Emergency Meeting on Indigenous Child Welfare* at [youthincare.ca](http://youthincare.ca), in the News section under the More menu.



First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service

## FNCARES

Melisa Brittain

In June 2018, FNCARES partnered with Charlene Bearhead for a film screening of *Finding Peter Bryce: Story of a National Crime* (Campbell & Bryce, 2018) and panel discussion on advocacy and resistance from within colonial systems.

In 1907, as Chief Medical Officer for the federal government, Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce reported on the appalling health conditions causing deaths rates of between 24 and 69 per cent for children living in Indian Residential Schools. Despite refusal by Indian Affairs bureaucrats to adopt his recommendations to reduce illness and death amongst the children, Bryce continued to advocate for better conditions, and self-published *The Story of a National Crime* in 1921. Bryce is proof that people of the time made clear choices to either participate in cultural genocide or oppose it. As our panel of advocates and educators stated so clearly in their discussion of how they currently resist and advocate for Indigenous children and youth from within contemporary colonial systems: there is no excuse for inaction, either then or now.

Many thanks to our panellists: Walter Brereton, Office of the Child & Youth Advocate Alberta; Dr. Jill Konkin, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta; and Charlene Bearhead, Indigenous & Reconciliation Education Advocate.

## How to Access Public Services and Supports Through Jordan's Principle

As of June 29, 2018



### What is Jordan's Principle?

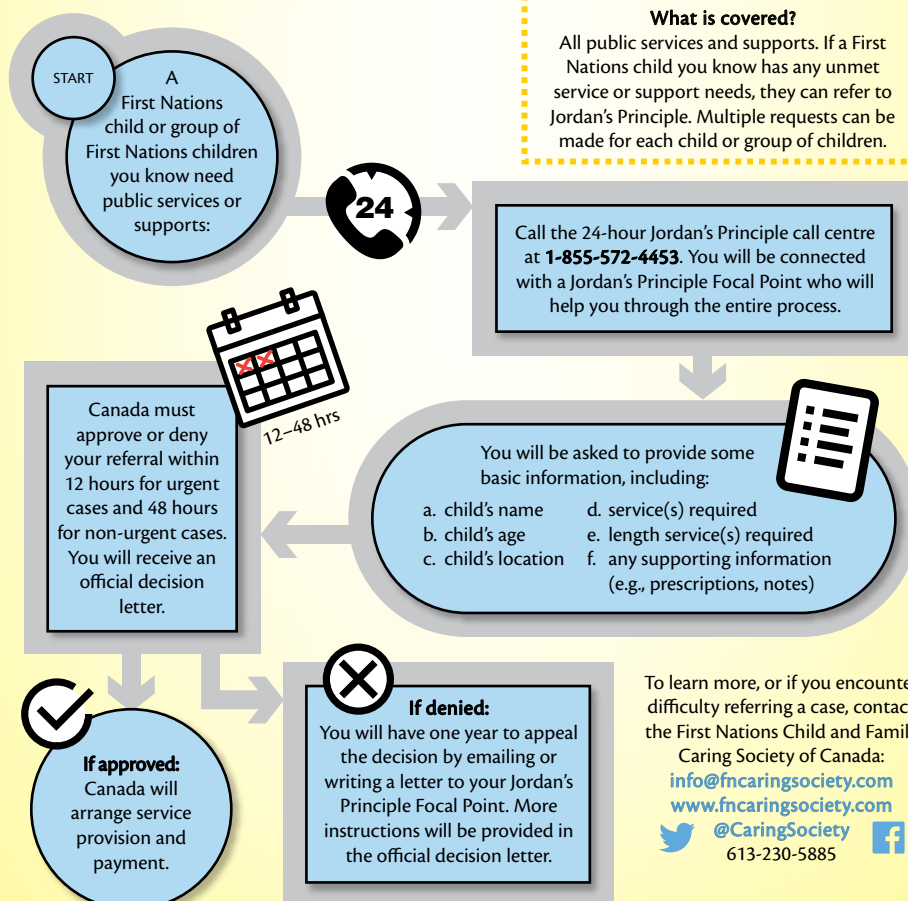
Jordan's Principle is a child first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures First Nations children receive the public services they need when they need them. Canada is legally responsible for Jordan's Principle.

### Who is eligible?

All First Nations children (0–19 years old) who live on or off reserve. A referral to Jordan's Principle can be made for a single child or a group of children. Requests for reimbursement can be made dating back to April 2009.

### What is covered?

All public services and supports. If a First Nations child you know has any unmet service or support needs, they can refer to Jordan's Principle. Multiple requests can be made for each child or group of children.



## 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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