

# MEDIA ADVISORY



## For Immediate Release

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### **Children standing with First Nations children saying “OUR DREAMS MATTER TOO”**

OTTAWA, ON – Thousands of children and caring adults in over 40 locations across Canada will participate in the Our Dreams Matter Too walk on the anniversary of the residential school apology (June 11, 2012). Supporters of the walk call on Provincial and Federal governments to ensure First Nations children get an equal opportunity to succeed.

Children have a keen sense of fairness. The Our Dreams Matter Too walk in Ottawa was organized for and by children. When they found out that First Nations children get less funding for services like education, health, and child welfare they decided to take action. Approximately 1000 participants are expected at the Ottawa walk including children from at least 10 elementary and secondary schools in Ontario and Quebec. Children from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg will welcome the other children to Victoria Island at 10:30 am before the group walks to Parliament Hill. En route to Parliament, children plan to sing and blow bubbles, each bubble representing a child's dream. They will arrive at Parliament Hill at noon to read letters, poems, and sing songs to promote equity for First Nations children.

“You are not alone. We are here for you.” This is the message that children at the Ottawa walk want to share with all First Nations children. First Nations and non-Aboriginal children and youth across the country are working together to ensure all children in Canada receive equitable, culturally based services that help them succeed and be proud of who they are. In their words: “We are children standing together for the rights of First Nations children!”

The Our Dreams Matter Too walk supports three ongoing campaigns: Shannen's Dream ([www.shannensdream.ca](http://www.shannensdream.ca)) for "safe and comfy schools" and quality education; Jordan's Principle ([www.jordansprinciple.ca](http://www.jordansprinciple.ca)) to ensure equitable access to all government services; and "I am a Witness" ([www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca)) to help First Nations children grow up safely at home.

For a complete list of walk locations please visit: <http://www.fncaresociety.com/our-dreams-matter-too/locations>

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