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Update on the Case for First Nations Kids Canada's Appeals and Negotiations for Long-Term Reform

On October 29, 2021, the Canadian government filed for judicial review (like an appeal) of the September 29, 2021 Federal Court decision upholding compensation for First Nations families impacted by Canada's discrimination in First Nations child welfare and failure to properly implement Jordan's Principle. The compensation originates from a 2019 order by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal), which found Canada's conduct to be a "worst case scenario" of racial discrimination and ordered the government to pay the maximum amount allowable, \$40,000, under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* to compensate certain First Nations children, youth, and families harmed by Canada's discrimination (2019 CHRT 39). The September decision by the Federal Court also upheld the Tribunal order ensuring First Nations children recognized by their Nations are eligible for Jordan's Principle (2020 CHRT 36). Canada did not appeal this part of the Federal Court decision.

While the Caring Society is disappointed by Canada's appeal of the compensation matter, we have consented to Canada's request to pause the appeal for a very short time. This will allow for focused and intense negotiations to try and reach an agreement to end the Canadian

government's discrimination and prevent its recurrence in the provision of child and family services and Jordan's Principle. These discussions will be open only until December 2021. If there is no resolution, the appeal will return to court on an expedited basis in January 2022 and the Caring Society will continue to vigorously defend the rights of First Nations children, youth, and families to be compensated for the discrimination they experienced. We will not step away from the Tribunal's compensation order.

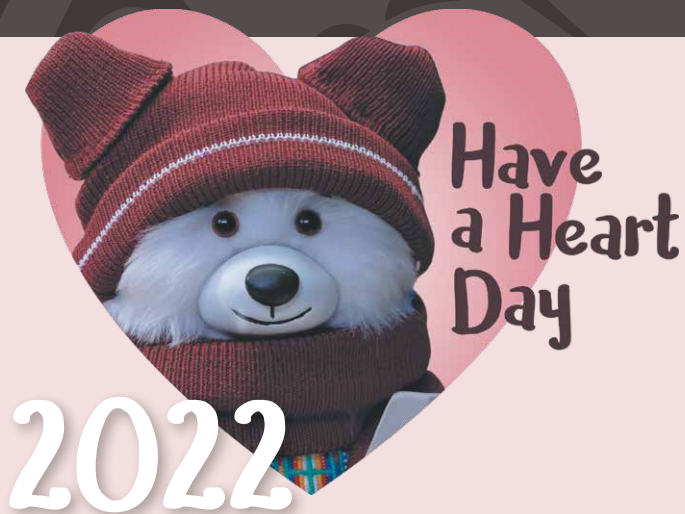
The Caring Society is prepared to give this government a limited opportunity to end its discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and compensate the victims. We have made clear that the Caring Society will not negotiate below the \$40,000 compensation order. The Caring Society is ready for this important work and we are hopeful that the Parties to the Tribunal case can address the past and ongoing discrimination together – to build a better future for First Nation children, youth, and families and for a better Canada for all.

Full details and all documents related to the case are posted on our website at fnwitness.ca. Developments will be posted to our social media accounts. Follow us for updates!

Canada Appeals Tribunal Order on Capital Assets

In addition to the compensation matter, Canada has filed for judicial review of the Tribunal's August 26, 2021, Letter-Decision on capital assets. Capital refers to the physical property that is required to operate programs and services, such as buildings, vehicles, and other infrastructure.

The Letter-Decision from the Tribunal affirms that Canada must provide funding for the capital assets needed to support substantive equality in the provision of First Nations child welfare and to support the delivery of Jordan's Principle services to children on-reserve. The order is important as there is a serious housing and building shortage in many First Nations communities, meaning there is often no space to provide the prevention services that would keep more children safely at home with their families. A letter-decision is the equivalent of an oral ruling being made at the bench, which is binding and for which legal reasons will follow. Further information on the appeal is pending the release of the Tribunal's full decision.



Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are. In 2021, we encouraged children, families, and classrooms across the country to join in Have a Heart Day activities in COVID-safe ways in their homes and communities. While we are looking forward to joining together in the future, the Caring Society has decided to continue with a virtual Have a Heart delivery for 2022. We will be sharing new resources, including videos, activities, and ideas for action in the New Year!

For the latest updates and for ways to participate, please visit haveaheartday.ca.

Ambearrister Spotlight

Spirit Bear is so *beary* thrilled to spotlight the work of the Grade 1 students in Barbara Giroux's class for their participation as a part of the Reconciliation Ambearristers program!

Mrs. Giroux's class and their Reconciliation Ambearrister, Makoonse (Algonquin for bear cub), all wrote letters to Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce and thanked him for doing his best in standing up for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children who attended residential schools by telling the government and Canadians about the poor health conditions in these schools. These letters were hand-delivered by Makoonse to Dr. Bryce's resting place at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, Ontario.

For more information on the Reconciliation Ambearrister program, please visit fncaringsociety.com/Reconciliation-Ambearristers.



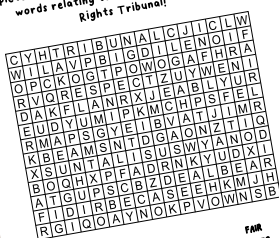
SPIRIT BEAR'S GUIDE TO RECONCILIATION

2022

SPIRIT BEAR'S Guide to Reconciliation

JANUARY

Complete the word search below to find interesting words relating to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal!



TRIBUNAL
CASE
KIDS
CANADA
ORDER
LAWYER
FAIR
RIGHTS
RESPECT

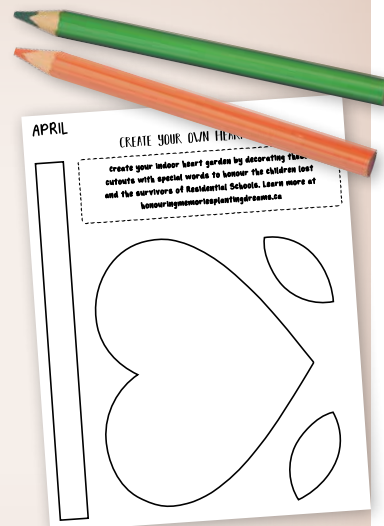
ACTIVITY BOOK
2022

Spirit Bear's Calendar and Pawblishing Updates

The Caring Society is delighted to announce that the 2022 *Spirit Bear Guide to Reconciliation Calendar* is available to order and purchase online for \$15 plus shipping costs! To accompany the calendar, we are offering a free activity book that supporters can fill out by following along with Spirit Bear's adventures!

For more information on how to purchase Spirit Bear's Calendar and to access the free activity book, please visit fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear/calendar.

The Caring Society's Education and Public Engagement Coordinator Madelaine McCracken contributed an article called *Reconciliation is all of us! Learning resources from the Caring Society* for the British Columbia's Teacher Federation's Teacher Magazine, which is accessible at bit.ly/TeacherMagazine.



2022 Scholarships and Awards

Applications and nominations for the Caring Society's four scholarships and awards are now open! This year we are providing the Jordan's Principle Scholarship, the P.H. Bryce Award, the Spirit Bear Award for Children and Youth, and our newest award, the Shannen's Dream Scholarship! Online and PDF forms are available on our website at fncaringsociety.com/awards-scholarships.

- **The Peter Henderson Bryce Award** is named in honour of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce. This \$1,000 award honours the work of children and youth who demonstrate commitment to Indigenous children's health, safety, and wellbeing. **Deadline is April 30, 2022.**
- **The Spirit Bear Award** is named in honour of Spirit Bear, who is a symbol of reconciliation and equity for kids. This award goes to a group of young people who demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This year, two awards of \$500 will be given to groups of young people. **Deadline is March 31, 2022.**
- Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson, **the Jordan's Principle Scholarship** will be awarded to First Nations students studying children's health or children with disabilities. Thanks to generous donors, five scholarships (2×\$5,000, 3×\$2,500) will be awarded. **Deadline is March 31, 2022.**
- New! **The Shannen's Dream Scholarship** is named in honour of Shannen Koostachin, a courageous young leader from Attawapiskat First Nation who sparked a national movement for safe and comfy schools for First Nations students. The scholarship is a \$2,500 award to assist First Nations youth. See the full article for more information!



Apply Now! New Shannen's Dream Scholarship

The Caring Society is thrilled to announce that applications for the first-ever Shannen's Scholarship are now open! Made possible by a generous donation by the Collure family from Richmond Hill, Ontario, the Shannen's Dream Scholarship is a new award to assist First Nations youth aged 30 years and under with the cost of university, college, or trade school. As a "pay-it-forward" scholarship, winners must make a fair and measurable contribution to the Shannen's Dream campaign or related First Nations initiative as a condition of receiving the award. Learn more at fncaringsociety.com/shannens-dream-scholarship and help us spread the word!

The application **deadline for the Shannen's Dream scholarship is January 31, 2022.**

Caring Society and Friends Honour Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Beechwood Cemetery

To honour Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Caring Society partnered with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G), Project of Heart and Beechwood Cemetery to host an event on September 30. The day was an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about Canada's history in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, reflect on the legacy of the residential school system and take action. Keeping with COVID-safe protocols, over 1,300 people attended the event throughout the day. Even more people took part virtually across Canada!

The day included:

- the first-ever full public display of 57,000 tiles made by children and youth across Canada as Part of Project of Heart to honour children who attended residential schools;
- Reconciling History walking tours to view plaques marking the final resting places of key figures in the residential school system;
- readings of *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*;

- screenings of the animated film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*; and
- a letter-writing station for participants to write to the Prime Minister calling for the full implementation of all Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action!





Research Project Update

"Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't stand tall"

Reconciliation Education in the Elementary Classroom

Melisa Brittain, FNCARES

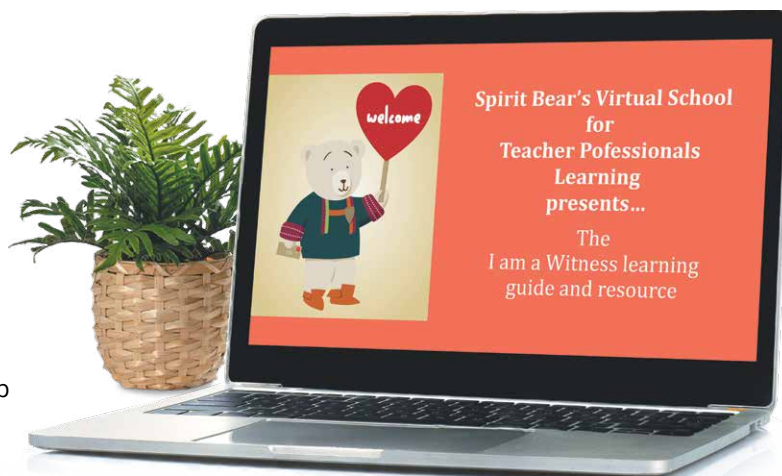
"Just because we're small" is a SSHRC-funded research project studying the impacts of social justice-based reconciliation education campaigns run by the Caring Society on elementary students and teachers. The project is a collaboration between the Caring Society, FNCARES, and the University of Ottawa.

In Phase I of the study, researchers found that, for the most part, teachers and students who engaged in the Caring Society campaigns had positive and transformative learning experiences, and that teachers would benefit a great deal from having access to learning guides specific to each campaign and access to mentors who could help guide them as they learn to teach the material.

In response to the findings from Phase I, the research team is developing The Spirit Bear Virtual School for Teachers. This interactive online resource will house the Spirit Bear Beary Caring Curriculum and lesson plans. In addition, the platform will provide teachers with access to webinars designed to help them teach the curriculum and provide access to mentors with experience teaching the Caring Society's campaigns.

Researchers are currently piloting the first learning guide with teachers. They also have one academic article under review for publication and are in the process of writing a second article.

Watch the Spirit Bear Virtual School Webinar to learn more: bit.ly/SBSchoolWebinar.



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 FNCFCFS Agency Membership (1-50 employees): \$500
- Large FNCFCFS 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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