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School is a Time for Dreams

The return to school is an exciting time for children and families. Kids are filled with hope and worry as they consider making new friends, learning new things, and growing throughout another school year. Teachers and educators work hard to make their classrooms a safe and welcoming space for children to thrive, grow, and learn. Every child in Canada has a right to quality education, but this right is not always upheld for First Nations children. As a result, many First Nations young people do not get the same opportunities to learn or achieve their dreams as other children because of inequities in First Nations education. School should be a time when young people can create dreams for their futures.

Shannen's Dream, named in loving memory of Shannen Koostachin, is about making sure that First Nations children and youth have the same education opportunities as others, including ways that respect their language and culture. School is a Time for Dreams invites people from all over the country to support equitable education for First Nations and all young people.

Whether you're in the classroom or learning remotely, you can celebrate this September and October by:

- sharing what you want to be when you grow up;
- hosting a socially distanced or online Shannen's Dream party;
- reading *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*;
- visiting shannensdream.ca to learn more about Shannen and her dream for safe and comfy schools; and
- sending letters to your elected officials and help raise awareness so that all young people in Canada can live their dreams!

Find out more ways to participate at fncaringsociety.com/school-time-dreams!



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day at Beechwood Cemetery

On September 30, 2013, Phyliss Webstad (née Jack) started Orange Shirt Day based on her experiences while attending the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, and it has been celebrated annually ever since. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn about the legacy of the residential school system and take action by wearing an orange shirt to show their commitment to reconciliation.

In honour of Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a newly recognized federal holiday, the Caring Society is honoured to partner with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G), Beechwood Cemetery and Project of Heart to host an event on September 30. The day will be 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.

The day will include:

- the first-ever full public display of 57,000 tiles made by children and youth across Canada to honour children who attended residential schools as part of Project of Heart;
- 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*; and
- screenings of the animated film, *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*.

To help practice COVID-safety, we ask all interested attendees to please register at landing.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/nationaldayoftruthandreconciliation.



Update on the Case for First Nations Kids

Another Win for the Kids!

On August 26, 2021, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) issued a letter-decision regarding Canada's failure to remedy discrimination in the provision of capital to ensure that child welfare services and Jordan's Principle services can be carried out in communities. Capital refers to the physical property required to operate programs and services, such as buildings, vehicles, and other infrastructure.

The CHRT has ordered Canada to:

- fund all FNCFS Agencies, including small agencies and/or First Nations, for the actual costs of the purchase of capital assets that support the delivery of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle services to children on-reserve, including in Ontario and the Yukon;
- fund the actual costs for the construction of capital assets that support the delivery of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle services to children on-reserve that are ready to proceed; and
- fund FNCFS Agencies and First Nations to conduct capital needs and feasibility studies regarding the purchase and construction of capital assets that support the delivery of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle service delivery.

For each of the above orders, Canada must advise FNCFS Agencies and First Nations "within 30 days of receipt of the

forthcoming reasons concerning this order" on how to access this funding.

The CHRT also provided clarity around the use of the *Financial Administration Act* (FAA), ruling that the CHRT's orders and the FAA should be used together, not against each other. If there is a conflict between a CHRT order and the FAA, the orders of the CHRT have primacy, which means they come first. This clarification prohibits Canada from denying services or refusing to implement orders based on their interpretation of the FAA.

For more information on this order and other CHRT orders, please visit fnwitness.ca.

Federal Court Hearings

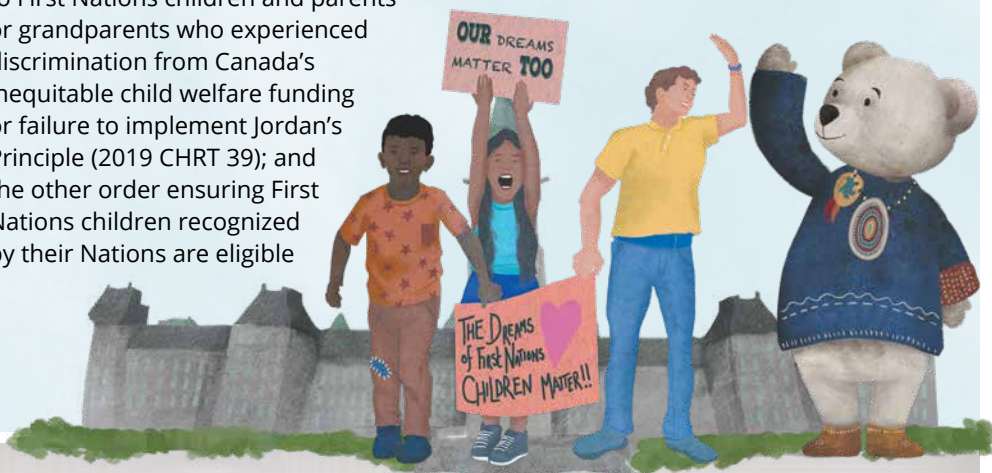
From June 14 to 18, 2021, the Caring Society was back in Federal Court, where the Honourable Paul Favel heard Canada's judicial reviews (appeal) of two of the CHRT orders – one order providing human rights compensation to First Nations children and parents or grandparents who experienced discrimination from Canada's inequitable child welfare funding or failure to implement Jordan's Principle (2019 CHRT 39); and the other order ensuring First Nations children recognized by their Nations are eligible

for Jordan's Principle (2020 CHRT 36). Importantly, the CHRT's orders on eligibility for Jordan's Principle remain in place until the Federal Court makes its decision.

The Caring Society partnered with the Ontario Children's Advancement Coalition to host an online talk on June 11 and June 21 to discuss the ongoing human rights case on First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle, as well as the federal court hearings. Participants heard from APTN digital reporter, Brett Forester, lawyers for the Caring Society, Anne Levesque, Sarah Clarke and David Taylor, and Cindy Blackstock. Special thank you to Cheyanne Ratnam for moderating!

To read more about the Federal Court hearings, please visit fncaringsociety.com/publications/june-2021-federal-court-hearings-information-sheet.

To watch the hearings, you can access APTN's recordings here bit.ly/FederalCourtHearings2021.



Bill C-92 Funding Sheets

The Caring Society is excited to announce that we have published a three-part series of information sheets on Canada's funding approaches relating to Bill C-92: *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.

Part I presents the Caring Society's position on Bill C-92 funding, particularly that if not properly

funded, the Caring Society fears that Bill C-92 will fail to address inequities and will exacerbate existing issues in First Nations Child Welfare. Part II outlines Canada's First Nations Child Welfare funding history and various funding models used by Canada. Part III addresses questions and concerns regarding Canada's funding approach for Bill C-92.

This three-part series and other information sheets can be found at fncaringsociety.com/information-sheets.



Scholarships and Awards

Coming Soon! NEW Shannen's Dream Scholarship

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a scholarship in honour of Shannen's Dream, coming later this Fall. Made possible through a generous donation by the Collure family, this \$2,500 award will assist First Nations youth with post-secondary education costs (university, college or trade school). As a "pay-it-forward" scholarship, winners must make a fair and measurable contribution towards the Shannen's Dream campaign or related First Nations initiative as a condition of receiving the award. More details to come; follow us on social media for updates on the launch date and how to apply!

Upcoming Awards and Scholarships

- The PH Bryce Award honours the work of those who demonstrate commitment to Indigenous children's health, safety, and wellbeing. Rotating between youth and adults, this year's award will go to a child, youth or group who makes courageous contributions to the best outcomes for First Nations, Métis and Inuit young people, whether it be in their school, professional, or community work. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2022.
- Named in honour of Spirit Bear, the Spirit Bear Award goes to a group of young people who demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2022.
- The Jordan's Principle Scholarship is awarded to First Nations students studying at a Canadian post-secondary institution who demonstrate commitment to Indigenous children's health and community service as well as academic commitment and achievement. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2022.



Nomination and application forms, as well as details and deadlines, will be live on the website later this Fall. For more information, please visit fncaringsociety.com/awards-scholarships.



The Good, the Bad, and the Unknowns – Part II

by Melisa Brittain

Bill C-92: *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, came into force on January 1, 2020. Since then, many have wondered how this new law will impact children, families, and communities. On April 22, 2021, FNCARES partnered with Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge and the Faculties of Law and Native Studies at the University of Alberta for our second presentation on Bill C-92.

During the webinar, Cindy Blackstock, Hadley Friedland, and Koren Lightning-Earle discussed emerging issues, including questions and concerns surrounding national standards, jurisdiction and implementation of the law, and what resources are available for ensuring equity in terms of self-determination. Cindy Blackstock discussed how Canada's ongoing non-compliance with elements of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's ruling on First Nations child welfare should raise alarm bells about whether Bill C-92 will afford jurisdiction to communities whilst shirking the responsibility of government to fund child welfare services adequately and equitably.

Thank you to the presenters, and to moderator Shelby Thomas, for an excellent panel discussion. And thank you to Aileen Reilly (Faculty of Law) and Jade Brown-Tootoosis (Faculty of Native Studies) for all their hard work to make this event a success.

- Watch Bill C-92, The good, the bad and the unknowns – Part I: youtube.com/watch?v=I7tMq0ta0D0
- Watch Bill C-92, The good, the bad and the unknowns – Part II: youtube.com/watch?v=NiVKyTB_c5U
- For additional resources on the implementation of Bill C-92, check out Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge's website, where they regularly share excellent resources: ualberta.ca/wahkohtowin/research-areas.html

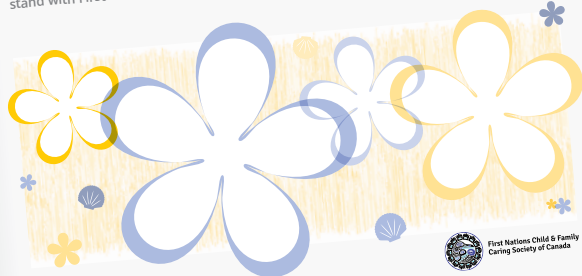


Clockwise from top right: Shelby Thomas, Hadley Friedland, Koren Lightning-Earle, Cindy Blackstock.

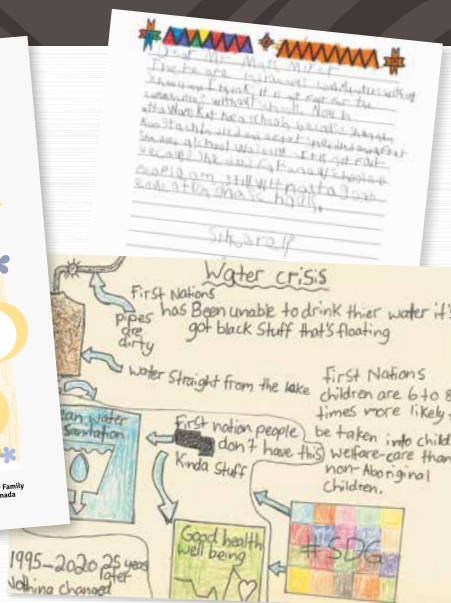
First Peoples Child & Family Review

2021
volume 16 number 1

Special Edition by Children and Youth ★ Our hopes and dreams for making **Shannen's Dream** come true ★ Understanding the unfair ways First Nations kids are treated ★ How we can stand with First Nations kids and youth ★ What we can learn from youth like Shannen ★



First Nations Child & Family
Caring Society of Canada



First Peoples Child & Family Review

The Caring Society is excited to announce a special edition by children and youth celebrating Shannen's Dream is now published! In this issue, kids and youth learn from Shannen's experience and action, explore the unfair ways First Nations kids are still treated by Canada, and articulate the change that is needed to ensure all First Nations kids and youth have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. The young authors in this issue remind us that children and youth understand colonial injustice and deserve opportunities to meaningfully participate in the learning and action required to end it. It is essential that we centre, learn from, and stand with youth like Shannen and the authors in this issue.

To read this issue, browse the archives, learn more, and upload submissions, visit fpcfr.com.



Caring Society's Annual Fundraising Gala

Alongside our partners and hosts, the Caring Society has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 annual fundraising gala and education workshop due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. The safety of children, families and communities remains the top priority.

We look forward to planning an event for 2022! For the latest information, please visit fncaringsociety.com/Gala.

Spirit Bear's 2022 Calendar

Spirit Bear is thrilled to announce the release of this fifth Guide to Reconciliation Calendar for 2022 in time for the holidays! The calendar features ways that children, youth and families can engage in reconciliation-based activities through a year-long journey full of free ways to make a difference! Highlighting the art of Spotted Fawn Productions, the 2022 calendar is a beautiful and provocative reminder to engage in truth and reconciliation on a daily basis.

Please watch for purchasing options by visiting fncaringsociety.com/shop.



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