



On June 11, Help Dreams Become Reality for First Nations Children

OTTAWA, ONTARIO - May 31, 2012 - On June 11, 2012, join with communities coast-to-coast to show support for Our Dreams Matter Too, a national walk and letter writing campaign calling on the federal government to give First Nations children the same chance to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and proud of their cultures.

You can make a huge difference on June 11 by hosting or participating in an Our Dreams Matter Too walk in your school, community or place of business. Your walk will end at a mail box in your community, where letters will be sent to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament to support culturally based equity for First Nations children.

Our Dreams Matter Too is an initiative of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (the Caring Society), a leading national advocate for First Nations children, young people, families, communities, and nations. The campaign coincides with the June 11 National Day of Reconciliation, the anniversary of the Prime Minister's apology for Residential Schools. The Residential School system removed Aboriginal children from their families and sent them to schools often far from their communities in an attempt to strip children of their heritage and to force them to assimilate into the dominant culture.

"First Nations children continue to get less funding for services like education, health, and child welfare than all other children enjoy. This makes it hard for First Nations children to achieve their dreams and grow up proud of who they are," says Cindy Blackstock, the Executive Director of the Caring Society. "The Our Dreams Matter Too walk is to show how many people across Canada support First Nations children receiving the same opportunity to succeed as all other children in ways that respect their cultures and languages."

The June 11 walk supports three Caring Society campaigns: Shannen's Dream (www.shannensdream.ca) for "safe and comfy schools" and quality education; Jordan's Principle (www.jordansprinciple.ca) to ensure equitable access to all government services; and the "I am a witness" campaign (www.fnwitness.ca) to help First Nations children grow up safely at home.

UFCW Canada is hosting a walk at our National Union headquarters in Toronto on June 11. To obtain more information about this walk or to participate see www.ufcw.ca/ourdreamsmattertoo.

Take the step to make a difference. To learn more about Our Dreams Matter Too and how you can participate in your community see www.fncaringsociety.com/our-dreams-matter-too.

Contact Information

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