



# Taking Pawsitive Action with Spirit Bear!

## THE CARING SOCIETY'S RECONCILIATION INITIATIVE AND EVENT GUIDE

No matter who you are or where you're from, you can take part in caring and respectful actions to help make a better Canada for First Nations children and their families. Here are a few ways you can participate.

### Reconciliation Ambearristers - Year-Round

The Caring Society's Reconciliation Ambearristers program invites groups to host a Reconciliation Ambearrister (ambassadors + barristers) who will guide you through years of free ways to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and make a positive difference for First Nations children, youth and families.

The Ambearrister are meant to build relationships with local First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities to work toward a shared vision of reconciliation. There is a phased approach to the Reconciliation Ambearrister initiative that recognizes where groups are at in terms of relationship-building with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities in their territories.



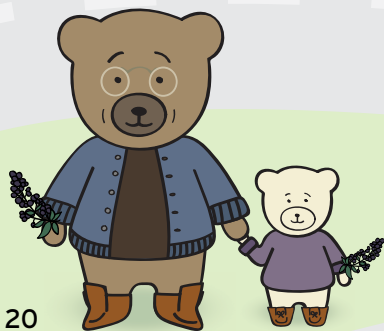
### Have a Heart Day

#### Have a Heart Day - February 14

First Nations children on reserve receive less funding from the federal government for education, child welfare and health services than other children receive from the provinces and territories.

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 services they need to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are. Anyone can take part by sending a Valentine's Day card or letter to your elected official, hosting a Valentine's Day party to raise awareness.

**#HaveaHeartDay #JourneeAyezUnCoeur**



### Elderbeary Day - March 20

Elderbeary Day honours and celebrates the contributions of our Elders who do so much to teach and raise our little ones. Celebrate by thanking your Elders for all that they do for you and for your community by writing them letters, drawing them pictures, or in any way you believe best represents how much you care.

**#ElderbearyDay #JournéeOursonAîné**

### School is a Time for Dreams - March-April

#### Shannen's Dream Day of Action - April 27

Every child in Canada has a right to quality education, but many First Nations young people do not get the same opportunities to learn or to achieve their dreams as others do because of inequities in First Nations education.

Shannen Koostachin, founder of Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools, wanted all children to be able to live their dreams. Shannen Koostachin is the founder of Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools and she wanted all children to be able to live their dreams. Everyone can make equitable and fully funded education for First Nations students pawssible by calling on decision-makers to make Shannen's Dream come true.

**#ShannensDream #RêvedeShannen**



### Bear Witness Day - May 10

May 10 is Spirit Bear's *be*arhday and an important date in the history of Jordan's Principle at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle and legal rule named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures that First Nations children receive the services and supports they need when they need them.

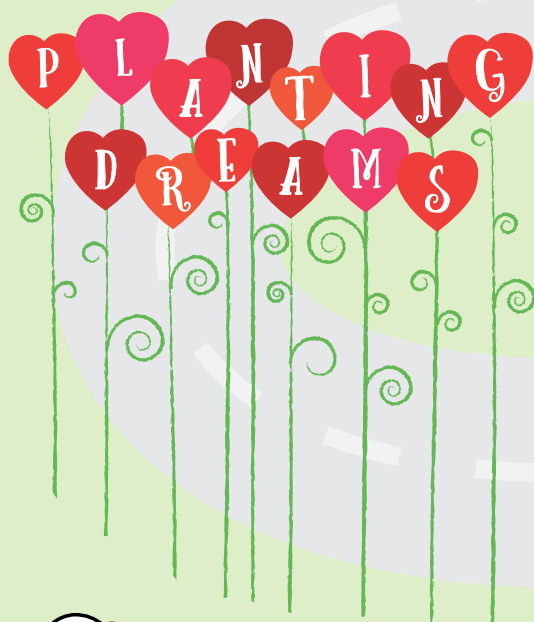
You can also call on decision-makers to make Bear Witness Day a holiday in your province or territory! The Province of Manitoba already has May 10 as a holiday, and it is known as Spirit Bear Day.

Supporters of all ages can celebrate Bear Witness Day by bringing their teddy bears to work, school, or even daycare to "bear witness" and support the full implementation of Jordan's Principle in honour of Jordan River Anderson.

**#JordansPrinciple #BearWitnessDay #PrincipedeJordan #JournéeOursonTémoïn**



## HONOURING MEMORIES



### Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams - May-June

Individuals and groups are invited to plant Heart Gardens in memory of the children lost to the residential school system and to honour residential survivors, their families, as well as the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**#TRCHeartGarden #CVRJardindeCoeurs**



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

[fncaringociety.com/events](http://fncaringociety.com/events)