

newsletter

@SpiritBear

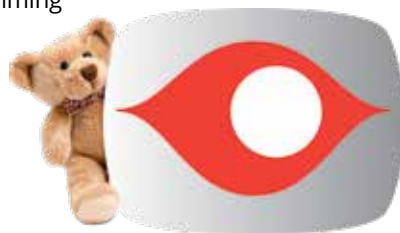
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Update on the Human Rights Case for First Nations Kids Canada and the Assembly of First Nations File for Judicial Review of the Tribunal's Letter-Decision on the Class Action Final Settlement Agreement

On October 24, 2022, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal) issued a Letter-Decision finding that the class action Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) signed by Canada, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and other class action parties, does not fully satisfy its compensation orders stemming from 2019 CHRT 39 and upheld by the Federal Court in 2021. The Tribunal's compensation orders ruled that Canada must pay the maximum compensation (\$40,000) allowable under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* (CHRA) to First Nations children and their parents or grandparents who were affected by Canada's discriminatory treatment under the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program since January 1, 2006, or who were denied or experienced delays in other services under Jordan's Principle from December 12, 2007 to November 2, 2017.



The Letter-Decision found that the FSA substantially satisfies its orders, acknowledging that the FSA would provide more compensation for some victims and includes victims going back to 1991 (which the Tribunal could not do, as the window within which it can remedy certain harms is time-limited by the CHRA). However, the Letter-Decision points out that the FSA completely disentitles some victims who are already legally entitled to \$40,000 in human rights compensation, reduces the amounts for others, or makes their entitlements uncertain. The Tribunal recommended a path forward for revising the FSA so that it would fully satisfy the Tribunal orders to compensate all victims entitled to human rights compensation.

On November 23, 2022, Canada and the AFN applied separately for

a judicial review of the Tribunal's Letter-Decision on the FSA. The Caring Society is disappointed with the decision to continue litigating despite the clear orders and direction from the Tribunal and the Federal Court, which confirm Canada's obligation to pay a minimum of \$40,000 in human rights compensation to all eligible victims covered by the Tribunal's orders. The Caring Society is not a party to the class action FSA, nor are we seeking any benefit relating to the compensation. The Caring Society is committed to seeing all victims of Canada's discrimination immediately receive the human rights compensation and supports that they have already won, and we remain ready to work with Canada and the AFN to resolve these issues.

For further information, including the Caring Society's statement on the matter, information sheets, and briefing materials, please visit fnwitness.ca.

Save the Date: Have a Heart Day 2023!

Mark your calendars: Our 12th annual Have a Heart Day is on the horizon!

Led by children and youth since 2012, Have a Heart Day has been celebrated each year on February 14 as a way of bringing together caring young people to ensure that 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.

Be sure to visit haveaheartday.ca for all the latest updates over the coming months, as well as tips on how to participate virtually!



Happy Holidays

from Spirit Bear and
the Caring Society team!



Spirit Bear's Updates

Spirit Bear's 2023 Guide to Reconciliation Calendar

Spirit Bear is *beary* happy to announce that his sixth Guide to Reconciliation Calendar is here! Recently updated with a new look and feel, Spirit Bear's calendar offers concrete ways for children, youth, and families to meaningfully engage in reconciliation-based activities throughout 2023. The 2023 edition captures the importance of living out the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and serves as a reminder for people of all ages to incorporate acts of reconciliation into each and every day. The calendar is also available to order in French!

You can order your copy of Spirit Bear's 2023 Guide to Reconciliation Calendar by visiting the Caring Society's shop at fncaringsociety.com/shop.

The calendar is accompanied by a free activity book that supporters can fill out by following Spirit Bear's adventures. The activity book can be downloaded by visiting fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/calendar.



We hosted two private screenings of the film for over 500 students from the Ottawa-Gatineau region in early December. We are grateful for the *beary* special guests like Serena and Raven Koostachin, Shannen's sisters, and Theland Kicknosway, the voice actor of Spirit Bear, who came to speak with the students about Shannen and her dream for safe and comfy schools. Each show began with opening remarks

by Elaine Kicknosway, Theland's momma bear, who shared her knowledge and wisdom with the kids to help start the showings in a good way.

We also had a visit from MP Charlie Angus who sang "Diamonds in the Snow," an original song he wrote for the Shannen's Dream movement. Caring Society team member Daxton Rhead is also a voice actor in the film, and he spoke to the kids about how he first got involved with the Caring Society as a child and has now been doing this important work for half of his life. Throughout the whole event, students and their teachers wore bear crowns and promised to write letters to their elected officials to make Shannen's Dream come true.

From left to right: Theland Kicknosway, Raven Koostachin, Serena Koostachin and Cindy Blackstock at one of the community showings of Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams.



Spirit Bear Returns to the Big Screen!

It has been a *beary* busy year for the Caring Society and our partners at Spotted Fawn Productions. Spotted Fawn Productions is an Indigenous-led and community-oriented film studio led by Michif Artist, Amanda Strong.

Though its official premiere is still to come, we are thrilled to announce the completion of Spirit Bear's second film, *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams*, which honours Shannen's Dream and the movement for "safe and comfy schools" for all First Nations children and youth across Canada.

Children Empowered by the Caring Society's Social Justice-Based Campaigns

Melisa Brittain, FNCARES

FNCARES recently partnered with researcher Dr. Lisa Howell at the University of Ottawa to produce a short video for social media that discusses some of the findings of our research project, *Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't stand tall: Reconciliation Education in the Elementary Classroom*. For this project, our research team studied the impacts of the Caring Society's social justice-based reconciliation campaigns on K-12 teachers and students.

Dr. Lisa Howell

As Lisa Howell reports in the video, our findings indicate that although many adults think that teaching children about residential schools and ongoing inequities will make children feel shame and guilt, the opposite is true. Instead, we found that when children learn about past and current injustices faced by First Nations children and families, they feel more empowered. They feel empowered to learn more and to stand in solidarity with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. And, most importantly, they learn that their voices have power, and that they can be agents of change.

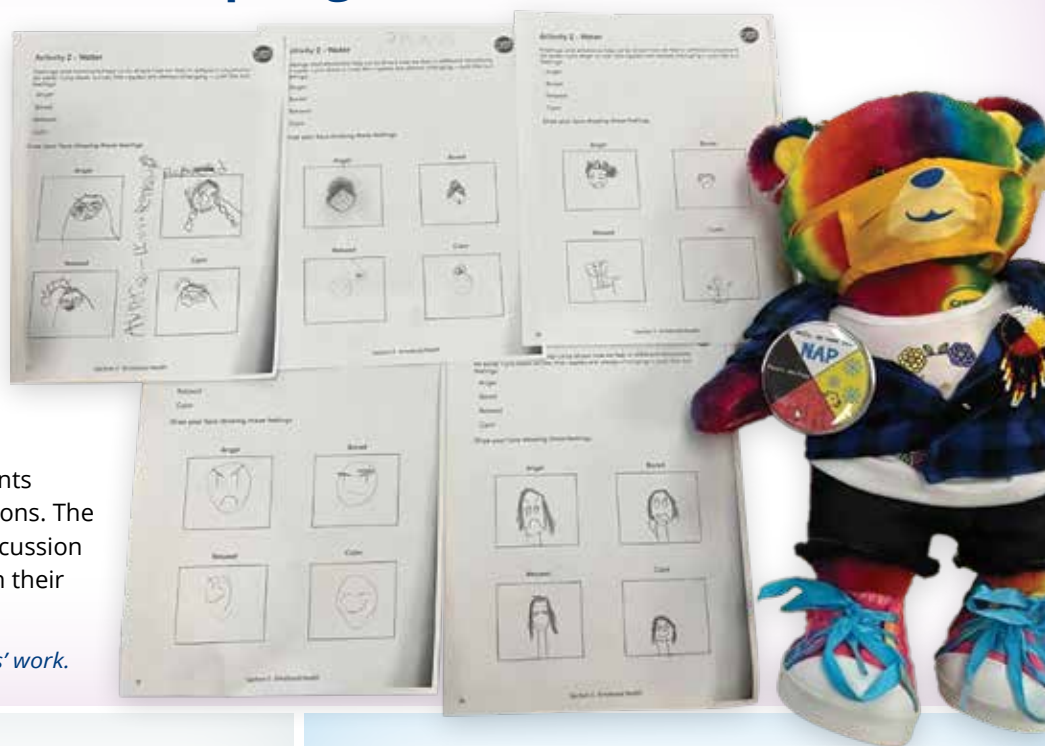
Watch the short video at bit.ly/JustBecauseWereSmallVideo. Read the research report at bit.ly/JustBecauseWereSmall.

Reconciliation Ambearrister Spotlight

This year, Ambearrister NAP is helping Jess Bailey's students at Assumption School learn about the Medicine Wheel, the meaning of the colours, and what each section can represent. They were fortunate to have a guest speaker join their class virtually to offer her knowledge about the cultural history of the Medicine Wheel. As a class, they discussed how the circle and its different sections represent bringing balance to one's life.

Featured here are some pictures students created to get in touch with their emotions. The class followed this activity up with a discussion about coping strategies for dealing with their feelings.

NAP with some of the Assumption students' work.

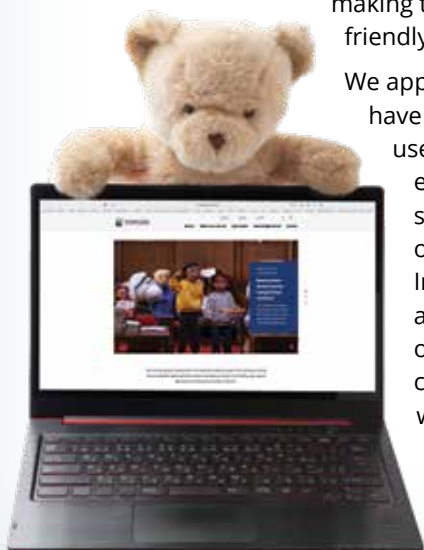


Update on our new website!

The Caring Society is excited to announce the September launch of our newly designed and updated website after months of hard work. With the last update being completed in 2018, we decided it was time to overhaul the website with a new design, navigation structure and search functions to make it more user-friendly!

We are proud to say that our campaign timelines, I am a Witness, Jordan's Principle and Shannen's Dream are now searchable. Website users can search by keyword and filter by year. Particularly for the I am a Witness timeline, a timeline chronicling the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case on First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle that has been ongoing since the complaint was filed in 2007 and substantiated in 2016, a search function is now a key tool in making the timeline more user-friendly and convenient.

We appreciate the patience we have received from website users as we continue to ensure all content is successfully migrated over to the new website. In the meantime, if you are looking for something on the new website and can't seem to find it, we welcome inquiries sent to info@fncaringsociety.com.



2023 Awards and Scholarships

Applications for the Shannen's Dream Scholarship, Jordan's Principle Scholarship, and the Spirit Bear Award are now open! You can find the application forms and more information available on our website at fncaringsociety.com/what-you-can-do/awards-scholarships



Shannen's Dream Scholarship

This scholarship is named in honour of Shannen Koostachin, and aims to help First Nations students aged 30 and younger with the costs of post-secondary education. This scholarship was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Collure family. **Deadline is March 31, 2023.**

Jordan's Principle Scholarship

Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson, the Jordan's Principle Scholarship is open to First Nations students studying children's holistic health and wellbeing. **Deadline is April 30, 2023.**



Spirit Bear Award

The Spirit Bear Award is awarded to a group of young people who demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation and bringing to life the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. **Deadline is April 30, 2023.**

Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Event

The Caring Society was fortunate to partner once more with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G) and Beechwood Cemetery to host another impactful Orange Shirt Day on September 30. Orange Shirt Day invites people of all backgrounds to learn about Canada's history in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, reflect on the legacy of the residential system, and take action.

This year, we hosted a number of different events at Beechwood Cemetery and downtown Ottawa in the days leading up to, and on September 30. We were so glad to see people of all ages come out and participate; between the two locations, over 1,000 people attended the following activities:

- The unveiling of a commemorative plaque of residential school whistleblower, Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, in front of the James Hope & Sons building at 61 Sparks St. James Hope & Sons is the publishing house that first

published Dr. Bryce's report on the conditions of residential schools.

- Showings of an episode of CBC *The Audience*, a radio play that originally aired in 1978, which detailed the story of Dr. Bryce and Duncan Campbell Scott and their involvement in the residential school system.
- Reconciling History walking tours at Beechwood Cemetery and throughout Downtown Ottawa. Youth from A7G with support from historians and educators from Defining Moments Canada conducted the tours, which showcased the resting spots of key historical figures involved in the residential school system and other significant landmarks.
- Showings of Spirit Bear's first film, *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*; and
- Action tables where participants could showcase their commitment to reconciliation by writing letters to elected officials.



Spirit Bear's Favourite Chocolate Chip Cookies



- 1 cup Butter
- 1 cup Brown Sugar
- 1 cup White Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 2 cups Flour
- 2½ cups Oats
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1½ cups Chopped Toasted Pecans/Almonds (optional)
- 1½ cups Chocolate Chips

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- 2 Lightly toast the nuts in the oven, let cool and chop – set aside
- 3 Mix butter, white sugar and brown sugar together.
- 4 Add in eggs and vanilla. Mix until it's fluffy.
- 5 In a separate bowl, mix flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and oats. Combine dry ingredients with the butter mixture until it's well mixed.
- 6 Add in chocolate chips and nuts.
- 7 Use a cookie scoop or a spoon to form cookies (about 2 level tsp per cookie) and place them on cookie sheet 2" apart.
- 8 Bake for about 14 minutes or until light golden brown. Place on a rack and let cool.

TIP: This recipe also makes an awesome raisin oatmeal cookie. Just replace the chocolate chips with 1 cup of raisins and add about 2 tsp cinnamon and 1 tsp nutmeg to the dry mixture.

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

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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