

newsletter

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Update on the Human Rights Case for First Nations Kids Tribunal issues full ruling on Canada and Assembly of First Nation Class Action Final Settlement Agreement

On December 20, 2022, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal or CHRT) issued its full order on why the class action Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) signed by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Canada, and other class action parties does not fully satisfy the Tribunal's compensation orders. This order, 2022 CHRT 41, follows the Tribunal's October 2022 letter-decision on the matter and provides the Tribunal's full reasons for the decision. A letter-decision is similar to an oral ruling from the bench, with reasons to follow.



The Tribunal found the FSA substantially satisfies, but does not fully satisfy, the Tribunal's orders given that some children and their families entitled to compensation by the Tribunal orders are either disentitled or would receive reduced compensation under the class action FSA. The Tribunal also denied the request by Canada and the AFN to

amend the Tribunal compensation orders to reflect the terms of the class action FSA. The Tribunal finds it cannot eliminate or reduce compensation, particularly given that the Federal Court upheld the Tribunal compensation orders in September 2021.

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. Canada and the AFN applied separately for judicial review of the Tribunal's Letter-Decision on the FSA in November 2022, and their applications for judicial review remain in place. The Caring Society is committed to seeing all children and their families affected by Canada's discrimination receive the human rights compensation and supports they have already won and we are ready to work with all parties to do so.

For more information on the Tribunal orders, including an information sheet on 2022 CHRT 41, please visit fnwitness.ca. For questions about compensation, visit fnchildcompensation.ca.

Save the Date Bear Witness Day

Recognized annually on May 10, Bear Witness Day invites people to call upon governments to respect the legacy of Jordan River Anderson and to fully implement Jordan's Principle to ensure First Nations children have the services and supports they need, when they need them.

There are many ways to honour Jordan River Anderson and to "bear witness" to ensure Jordan's Principle is fully implemented. For a full list of ways to engage children and youth in learning about Jordan River Anderson, Spirit Bear, Jordan's Principle, and how they can get involved, visit fncaringociety.com/bear-witness-day.



Bear
Witness
Day



May 10 is
also Spirit
Bear's
birthday!

In honour and memory of Landon Pearson and Joan Glode

We are saddened by the passing of Landon Pearson and Joan Glode.

Landon was a champion for the rights of children everywhere. She was a kind mentor to all who stood with children and a stalwart believer that children have a right to be heard and have a voice in change. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Joan was a fierce advocate for First Nations children. We are especially inspired by her longstanding advocacy for Jordan's Principle and ensuring that First Nations children have opportunities to grow up at home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and the Mi'kmaq community of Acadia First Nation.



Top: Landon Pearson attending a Teddy Bear Tea Party hosted by the Caring Society in 2017; Bottom: Joan Glode looking at pounamu in New Zealand

Honour School is a Time for Dreams Throughout March and April and Shannen's Dream Day of Action on April 27, 2023

School should be a time for dreams for all children! Every child has the right to quality education, which includes safe and comfy schools and education that honours their cultures and languages. But inequitable education funding still prevents many First Nations young people from being able to exercise this right.

School is a Time for Dreams invites people from all over the country to support equitable education for First Nations young people in the spirit of Shannen's Dream. Named in loving memory of Shannen Koostachin, Shannen's Dream is a movement to ensure that First Nations children and youth have culturally appropriate, equitable education opportunities. Learn more about Shannen and Shannen's Dream at shannensdream.ca.

For ways to participate in School is a Time for Dreams as an individual, class or community, visit fncaringociety.com/school-time-dreams. Shannen's Dream Day of Action takes place on April 27, so keep an eye on our website and social media in the upcoming weeks, as we will be sharing resources and special announcements on how you can take part in this day!



Have a Heart Day 2023

The Caring Society was thrilled to see so many children and young people standing up to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home and get a good education.

Nationally, we saw participation in the form of community events, letter-writing campaigns, and social media contributions from over 60 different schools and community organizations across British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and New Brunswick!

You can see what initiatives took place in your community by checking out the hashtags [#HaveaHeartDay](https://twitter.com/HaveaHeartDay)/[#JourneeAyezUnCoeur](https://twitter.com/JourneeAyezUnCoeur) or via our interactive map at fncaringociety.com/have-heart-day-map.

We were so excited to safely return to an in-person Have a Heart Day gathering with children and young people across Ottawa-Gatineau after two years of coming together virtually. The construction at Parliament Hill was no barrier to participation. Over 900 children and young people from 20 different schools and community organizations came out and used their voices for change at a special indoor event. A huge thank you goes out to the team at the Meridian Theatres @ CentrepoinTE for helping to put on this successful event.

The students wrote hundreds of letters to the Prime Minister, packed them into a giant mailbox made by students from Elgin Street Public School and the letters were delivered to the Prime Minister's Office shortly after. After the event, students said that they felt confident and proud after sharing their views and getting involved in the matters that affect them.



There is still time to apply for the Jordan's Principle Scholarship and the Spirit Bear Award!

The Jordan's Principle Scholarship and Spirit Bear Award are both accepting applications until **April 30, 2023**. Visit fncaringociety.com/awards-scholarships to learn more about the opportunities, their eligibility criteria and how to apply.



Save the Date: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams

Spring is in the air, which means that Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams is just around the corner! Each May and June, Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams invites people of all ages to plant heart gardens in memory of children lost to the residential school system, honour residential school survivors and their families, and support the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Participants are also encouraged to write their promises for reconciliation on paper hearts and plant them in their heart gardens. Like planting a garden, reconciliation requires ongoing attention and commitment. To learn more about Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams, visit honouringmemoriesplantingdreams.ca.

We also have new seed packets for your 2023 heart garden, coming to the online shop this Spring! Each packet contains perennial wildflower and grass seeds native to Ontario, but many of these plant species are native to a larger region than just Ontario. The benefit of growing plants native to your region is that native plants have co-evolved with all the other members of your local ecosystem.

Each packet contains Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Milkweed, Flat Topped Aster, Foxglove Beardtongue, Fowl Bluegrass, Yellow Prairie Grass, Little Bluestem, New England Aster, and Wild Bergamot.



Tips for Garden Success

- Many native plants take a few years to fully establish.
- Don't clean up in the fall!
 - Insects (including bees and caterpillars) use stems and leaves to overwinter.
 - Plant material will break down and go back into the soil.
 - Some plants such as Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) often behave as an annual and if seedheads are discarded, may not grow back the following year.
- Hand weed carefully so as to not accidentally pull your wildflower/native grass seedlings.
- These species do best in full-sun conditions.

Seeds will be available for purchase at fncaringociety.com/shop.

Shaking the Movers

On February 10, the Caring Society facilitated our very first Shaking the Movers workshop!

Shaking the Movers is an annual youth-led workshop designed by the Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights at Carleton University. The workshops give young people the chance to participate in matters that affect them and consider elements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of their lived experiences. Their words are then shared with key Canadian decision-makers to *shake up the movers* who have the power to implement positive change. Learn more about Shaking the Movers at carleton.ca/landonpearsoncentre/shaking-the-movers.

A special thanks goes out to the students of Jodie O'Halloran and Tarah Zulpo's Grade 5/6 classes at St. Anne School for allowing us to spend the morning with them as they discussed what needs to happen to create a world fit for young people today.

Stay tuned for the final report of findings, to be shared on our website in April!



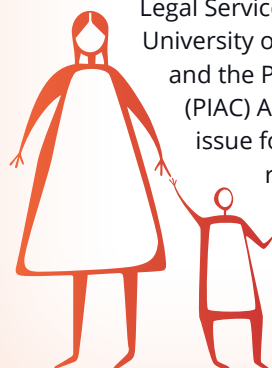
First Peoples Child & Family Review

The *First Peoples Child & Family Review* is proud to have published Issue 17(1) in December 2022 and Issue 18(1) in February 2023!

FPCFR 17(1) offers interconnected articles that disrupt Westernized approaches in social work and counselling practices to provide systemic solutions that integrate cultural wellness and lived experiences from Métis and First Nations, as well as non-Indigenous expressions.

FPCFR 18(1) was published as a special issue in partnership with the NSW/ACT Aboriginal Legal Service, Jumbunna and Law, University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) Australia. The articles in this issue focus critically on the important rule of Aboriginal voices in child protection decision-making.

To read the latest issues, browse the archives and learn more, visit fpcfr.ca.





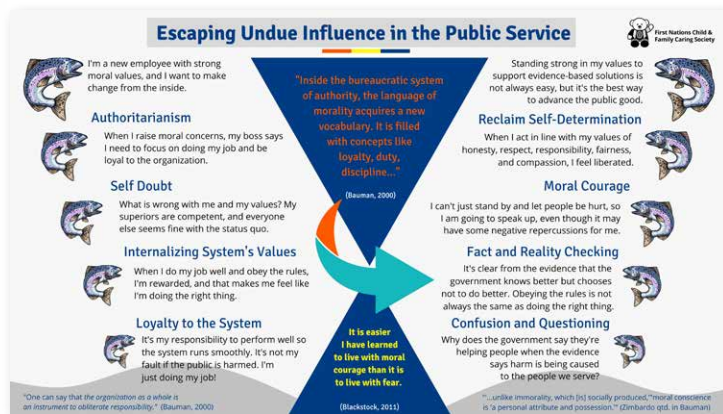
First Nations
Children's
Action
Research and
Education
Service

Escaping Undue Influence in the Public Service

Public service employees often start their employment thinking they can make a change from within. However, once inside, they are discouraged from questioning the system and their superiors, and they are encouraged to obey the rules to help the system run as smoothly as possible. To address this, we created an infographic that provides ideas about how to resist colonial undue influence in the public service through fact and reality-checking, and by acting in line with values that support evidence-based solutions to advance the public good.

You can download the infographic entitled "Overcoming Undue Influence" from fncaringsociety.com/publications/overcoming-undue-influence-public-service.

To access all of our resources on Mind Control & Colonization and Escaping Undue Influence, visit fncaringsociety.com/fncares/mind-control-colonization-escaping-undue-influence.



Upcoming Event – First Nations and Class Actions: Reconciliation or Wreckonconciliation?

Who: Dr. Cindy Blackstock of the Caring Society and Andrew Eckert of the Class Action Clinic at Windsor Law

When: April 18, 1 pm EST

Where: Online. Details TBA. Contact fncares@ualberta.ca to get on our contact list.

Speakers will discuss what a class action lawsuit is, what it can and cannot do, the rights of class members and representative plaintiffs, and so much more.

Follow FNCARES on Twitter: [@fncares](https://twitter.com/fncares)

Season 2 of the Spirit Bear Podcast

The Spirit Bear Podcast is the Caring Society's latest initiative for the mobilization of knowledge that supports and uplifts First Nations children, youth, and families in informative and engaging ways. We are grateful to the students of Dr. Veldon Coburn's "Indigenous Politics in Canada" course for producing Season 1, and we are so excited to announce the debut of Season 2, our "Ask an Expert" series.

So far, nine more episodes are lined up for Season 2, which involve interviews between Cindy Blackstock and various experts and advocates in the field of child wellbeing. We invite you to tune in as Cindy and the guests bust myths, examine the evidence, and discuss what actually works when it comes to supporting First Nations young people.

All episodes are available at fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear-podcast.



SPIRIT BEAR PODCAST

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 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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