

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Caring Society Gala

Behind Every  
Mask is a Story



**Friday, October 17, 2025**

North Centennial & Embassy Room  
Victoria Inn & Convention Centre

Hosted by



**Caring  
Society**



**Kinosao Sipi  
Minisowin Agency**

All proceeds go to the Caring Society to support equity for First Nations kids

Greetings from

# Clarence Paupanekis



Kinosa Sipi Minisowin Agency

Tansi,

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Kinosa Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA), welcome to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual First Nations Child & Family Caring Society Gala. This year marks the fourth gala hosted by KSMA. We acknowledge our predecessor, Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services, for co-hosting our first year and we thank the Opaskwayak Child and Family Services for taking up the torch and hosting next year's event. It has been an honour to host the gala, and our staff have gone all out to make this night extra special.

Tonight, we gather in the spirit of hope, unity, and purpose – to honour the progress we've made and to look ahead to the future we are building together for First Nations children. This Gala is more than a celebration; it is a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to justice, equity, and opportunity for every child. The work of Dr. Cindy Blackstock and the Caring Society continues to be a powerful force for change, shedding light on the systemic challenges facing First Nations families and driving meaningful action across Canada.

As we look to the future, we know there is still much work to do, but with your continued support, we can continue to move forward with purpose and strength. Together, we are helping to create a future where every First Nations child has the chance to thrive. Thank you for being here tonight and may this evening inspire us all to keep working toward a brighter future for our children. Enjoy the evening and thank you.

**Clarence Paupanekis**

Board Chair

Kinosa Sipi Minisowin Agency

Hosted by



Kinosa Sipi Minisowin  
Agency



# Rhonda Apetagon

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

On behalf of the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency team, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for joining us. Your presence has made this year's Caring Society Gala a meaningful and memorable success. We are deeply grateful for your support.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society for their unwavering dedication to advocating for First Nations children and families. Dr. Cindy Blackstock's tireless work has positively impacted countless lives, and it is an honour for us to stand alongside her in continuing that vital mission.

To our generous sponsors and long-time supporters, as well as those attending for the first time—thank you. Your involvement reaffirms the strength of our community and the importance of unity in supporting our children and families. You are an essential part of this evening, and we are truly grateful to have you with us.

## **Rhonda Apetagon**

Executive Director

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

# Dr. Cindy Blackstock



On behalf of the Caring Society, I am honoured to welcome you to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Caring Society Gala. The Gala originated as an emergency fundraising effort when the Caring Society lost all government funding after co-filing, with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the human rights case for First Nations children at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. As many of you are aware, the case remains before the

Tribunal, as Canada has yet to submit sufficient evidence to demonstrate that it has ended its discrimination against First Nations children and taken measures to prevent its recurrence. Most recently, Canada appealed a legal order (2025 CHRT 80) from the Tribunal that simply requires the federal government and the co-complainants, the Caring Society and AFN, to present a plan with evidence to permanently end Canada's discrimination against First Nations children outside of Ontario and to not apply a solution for Ontario to the rest of the country, which has different needs. The Caring Society strongly condemns Canada's appeal.

As 2025 draws to a close, it is truly uplifting to spend time in Manitoba among the agencies and other supporters who have stood with First Nations children from the beginning, and where the sacred gift of Jordan's Principle originates. 2025 is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jordan's Principle. Many of you in this room joined us earlier this year to celebrate Bear Witness Day at the beautiful event led by children and youth, hosted by Sagkeeng Child and Family Services and Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA), in collaboration with the Anderson family. To all those joining us again tonight for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, I am privileged to be in your company.

Lastly, I hope you will all join me in giving three cheers of appreciation to the KSMA for organizing the Gala again this year. KSMA has gone above and beyond in hosting four beautiful galas on behalf of the First Nations child welfare agencies of Manitoba to support equity for First Nations children. You make it look easy, but your hard work does not go unnoticed by any of us in the room tonight!

**Cindy Blackstock**

Executive Director,  
First Nations Child & Family Caring Society



*Best wishes for a successful fundraiser*



**OPASKWAYAK**

Child & Family  
Services

# Sponsors

## Title Sponsors



**OPASKWAYAK**  
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Services



## Auction Sponsors



# CHARITY AUCTION GROUP

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**Cree Nation Child and  
Family Caring Agency**



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GROUP OF COMPANIES



# YELLOW THUNDERBIRD LODGE



# Menu

Bakery Basket with a variety of fresh breads

## *Soup*

Roasted fresh tomatoes and fragrant basil  
with rich, flavourful, and comforting

## *Salad*

Fresh spinach leaves, candied walnuts and Mandarin oranges,  
drizzled with creamy poppyseed dressing

## *Main Course*

Lightly seasoned, roasted chicken breast topped  
with cremini mushrooms and a light white cream sauce.  
Grilled tenderloin steak with herb compound butter melting on top.  
Half-stuffed baked potato, baby carrots  
and bruschetta stuffed zucchini

## *Dessert*

Petites Gateaux: Layers of silky white, milk,  
and dark chocolate mousse.  
Freshly Brewed Coffee and Decaffeinated Coffee,  
Herbal Teas





# Programme

5 p.m.

**Doors Open**

5:30 p.m.

**Opening Prayer and Drum Song**

Prayer by KSMA Board Elder Advisor

Drum Song, Ray Stevenson

**Welcoming Remarks**

Norway House Cree Nation

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency,  
Board Chair and Executive Director

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society,  
Dr. Cindy Blackstock

**Dinner Service Begins**

**Entertainment**

Artist, Kendra Simpson

**Fashion Show Auction**

**Entertainment**

Artist, Hector Menow

**Live Art Auction**

**Entertainment** – Artist, Joseph Brightnose

**Blanket Dance**

**Passing of The Bear**

OCN Child & Family Services

**Entertainment**

Artist, Ken Henderson

Artist, Darren Bignell

**Closing Remarks and Final Song**

**Final Draws**

50/50 and Golden Ticket



*Best wishes for a successful fundraiser*



**Cree Nation Child and  
Family Caring Agency**

*Best wishes for a successful fundraiser*



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# CHARITY AUCTION GROUP

Supporting the community,  
**one bid at a time.**



**204-500-2733**

*Best wishes for a successful fundraiser*



# WELCOME TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY

The **First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority** is proud to be a titled sponsor of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Caring Society Gala. We gather to celebrate the strength, resilience, and unity of First Nation communities and to reaffirm our commitment to the wellbeing of all children and families.

Our journey is deeply rooted in the cultural values and traditions that have sustained First Nation communities for generations. We aim to empower First Nations to provide community-driven child and family services that promote safety, well-being and preservation of First Nations traditions and values. As we oversee the seven Northern Manitoba child and family services agencies, we honour their role with the grassroots family in restoring traditional family practices.

This gala is a testament to the power of collaboration and the positive impact we achieve when we unite for a common purpose. As you enjoy this event, we invite you to reflect on the stories, traditions, and aspirations that bring us together. Let us celebrate our progress, recognize the challenges ahead, and renew our shared commitment to building a brighter future for all First Nation children and families.

*Thank you for your unwavering support.  
Together, we thrive, grow, and inspire hope.*



*Best wishes for a successful fundraiser*



## YELLOW THUNDERBIRD LODGE



**Thank  
you for  
your  
support!**



**...tonight and all year round!**

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NOW!

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2026

calendar



**\$20** +tax  
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[fncaringsociety.com/shop](https://fncaringsociety.com/shop)



All proceeds go to support equity  
for First Nations children.



First Nations Child &  
Family Caring Society

# Become a member of the First Nation Children and Family Caring Society!

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP** signifies your support for the Caring Society and achieving culturally based equity for First Nations children and youth. The Caring Society is a non-profit organization and your membership supports independent and evidence-informed materials and resources that are free on our website and accessible to everyone!

Membership also includes quarterly newsletters with updates on events, conferences and issues related to First Nations child rights, etc, and potential to participate in the Caring Society's Annual General Meeting.

## **Memberships available:**

**\$75** ..... Individual Membership

**\$5** ..... Student Membership with ID or Elder

**\$500** .... Small Caring Society Agency Membership: 1–50 Employees

**\$1000** ... Large Caring Society Agency Memberships: 50+ Employees

**\$500** .... Small Associate Memberships: Groups 1–50 Employees

**\$1000** ... Large Associate Memberships: Groups 50+ Employees

Scan the QR code and become a member today!

**QUESTIONS?** Please email us at [info@fncaringsociety.com](mailto:info@fncaringsociety.com)



[fncaringsociety.com/what-you-can-do/become-member](https://fncaringsociety.com/what-you-can-do/become-member)