The Mary Teegee Caring Award

Award recognizing social workers and frontline workers who embody the love, courage, respect and dedication in support of children and youth in care.

About Mary Teegee

A Hereditary Chief and Chief Administration Officer of Carrier Sekani Family Services, Mary Teegee has dedicated her life to ensuring children and youth have the opportunity to grow up safely at home and in their communities, get a good education and be proud of who they are. Gitk'san and Carrier from Takla Lake First Nation, Mary is a proud member of the Luxgaboo Wolf Clan and holds the Hereditary Chiefs name Maaxswxw Gibuu (White Wolf). Mary holds many esteemed titles and roles, including board member of the Caring Society, Chairperson of Our Children Our Way, President of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, filmmaker, presenter at global and national conferences, and the voice behind the beloved character of Mary the Bear in Spirit Bear's books and films.

To help bring an end to Canada's discriminatory conduct in First Nations child and family services, Mary has gone beyond the call of duty and dedicated herself to advancing equity for First Nations children. Her work is grounded in her belief that services for First Nations children and families must be culturally grounded. By ensuring children are at the centre of conversations that affect them, Mary's advocacy work has extended provincially, nationally, and internationally. Mary has been at the forefront of the historic case for First Nations children at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Originally gifted to the Caring Society by Mary, Spirit Bear represents the 165,000 First Nations children impacted by Canada's discrimination and all of the children who take an active role in reconciliation. Mary's generous gift has served as a poignant reminder that the case is about children; a mindset Mary embodies in every facet of her work.

Held in high esteem by First Nations across the country because of her integrity and devotion to justice and equity for First Nations children, young people, and families, Mary embodies the definition of a trailblazer. Her advocacy and dedication to ending discrimination have called for persistence, courage to engage in difficult conversations, and unwavering resilience in the face of adversity. As a driving force making a profound difference in the wellbeing of First Nations children, youth and families, Mary gives the best of who she is to children, and for children.

The Award

Nominated by a First Nation, a First Nations child and family service agency or a First Nations child and family services organization, this award recognizes a social worker who embodies the love, courage, respect and dedication of Mary Teegee in support of children and youth in care, their families and alternative carers.

The recipient will be a person of exceptional character, be a courageous advocate who stands in the winds of change and provides excellent support to children and youth in care, their families and alternative carers.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be employed by a First Nation, First Nations child and family service agency, or First Nations child and family service.
- Have provided front line services to children and youth in care for five years or more.
- Goes over and above and provides courageous support to ensure children, youth and families are able to honour their strengths to overcome challenges.
- Honours the culture(s) and language(s) of the First Nations children and youth they work with.
- Is a positive role model who inspires their team members through their example and leadership.
- Caring Society Board Members and employees are not eligible.

Nomination Package Information

A completed nomination package should include:

- ☐ A complete nomination form;
- ☐ A detailed cover letter from the First Nation, First Nations child and family service agency or First Nations child and family services organization submitting the nomination. The cover letter should provide an overview of the individual's professional achievements, experience and relevant background;
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation that speak directly and specifically to how the individual meets the eligibility criteria.

Nominations must be completed online or mailed to the Caring Society office by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 9, 2026.**

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society
350 Sparks Street, Suite 202
Ottawa ON K1R 7S8
or info@fncaringsociety.com

Please note that only complete nomination packages will be accepted. While we are grateful for all nominations, only the successful recipient will be contacted.

For any questions please contact info@fncaringsociety.com or 613-230-5885.

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Mary Teegee Caring Award

Nomination Form

Nominator's Information*

First name*

Last name*

Your affiliation – First Nation, First Nations child and family service agency or First Nations child and family services organization*

Your email*

Your telephone number*

Nominee's Information*

First name*

Last name*

Nominee's affiliation – First Nation, First Nations child and family service agency or First Nations child and family services organization*

Nominee's e-mail*

Nominee's telephone number*

Eligibility Checklist

Check all the apply*

- [ ] Is a social worker or frontline worker employed by a First Nation, First Nations child and family service agency, or First Nations child and family service organization.
- [ ] Has provided front line services to children and youth in care for five years or more.
- [ ] Goes above and beyond to provide courageous support to ensure children, youth and families are able to honour their strengths to overcome challenges.
- [ ] Honours the culture(s) and language(s) of First Nations children and youth they work with.
- [ ] Is a positive role model who inspires their team members through their example and leadership.

(continued on following page)

Nomination Requirements

Please include a short biography of the nominee and their work (3 to 5 sentences).*

How long have you known the nominee and in what capacity?*

Completed Nomination Package

The complete nomination package (this nomination form, the cover letter, biography and letters of support as well as all supporting materials relevant to the nomination) must be received by **11:59 p.m. EST on October 9, 2026**.