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Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams

Celebrated each year in 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, to honour residential school survivors and their families, and to support the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Heart gardens can include decorated paper hearts, real flowers, and where appropriate, Indigenous plants and medicines. Inspired by the heart garden that children and residential school survivors planted during the 2015 TRC Closing Ceremonies, heart gardens represent our commitment to reconciliation.

Stay tuned for a new version of the learning activity, *Finding Our Place in Reconciliation!* This step-by-step guide is a great tool for individuals and organizations to learn about the impact of residential schools and engage with the TRC's Calls to Action. Participants get the chance to create a personal and specific goal that helps one Call to Action come true. This goal can be brought in to the heart garden by writing it on the back of a paper heart or saying it aloud while planting.

This year, we're also encouraging apartment-friendly planting! All you need is a small flowerpot and a sunny room. You can either paint the flowerpot to reflect your goal's area of action or plant a flower or paper heart in that colour. The list of colour associations is in the *Finding Our Place in Reconciliation* guide.

To access the learning activity, other resources, and to learn more, visit honouringmemoriesplantingdreams.ca.

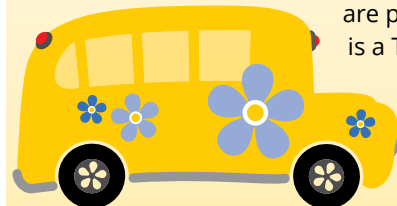


School is a Time for Dreams

As this school year wraps up and many begin to prepare for the next school year, the Caring Society invites you to participate in School is a Time for Dreams during the months of September through October! Shannen Koostachin, the founder of Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools, wanted all children to be able to live their dreams and to know that they matter. School is a Time for Dreams invites people from all over Canada to support equitable education for First Nations children and all young people in the country.

To learn how to participate, find resources and more information, please visit fncaringsociety.com/school-time-dreams.

Show your support for equitable education for First Nations children and how you are participating in School is a Time for Dreams by using the hashtags **#ShannensDream** and **#RêvedeShannen**.



Bear Witness Day

Every year on May 10, children, families, organizations, schools, and communities celebrate Bear Witness Day by showing their support for Jordan's Principle. Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson, Jordan's Principle is a legal rule to ensure that First Nations children get the services they need, when they need them. May 10 is also Spirit Bear's *bearthday*!

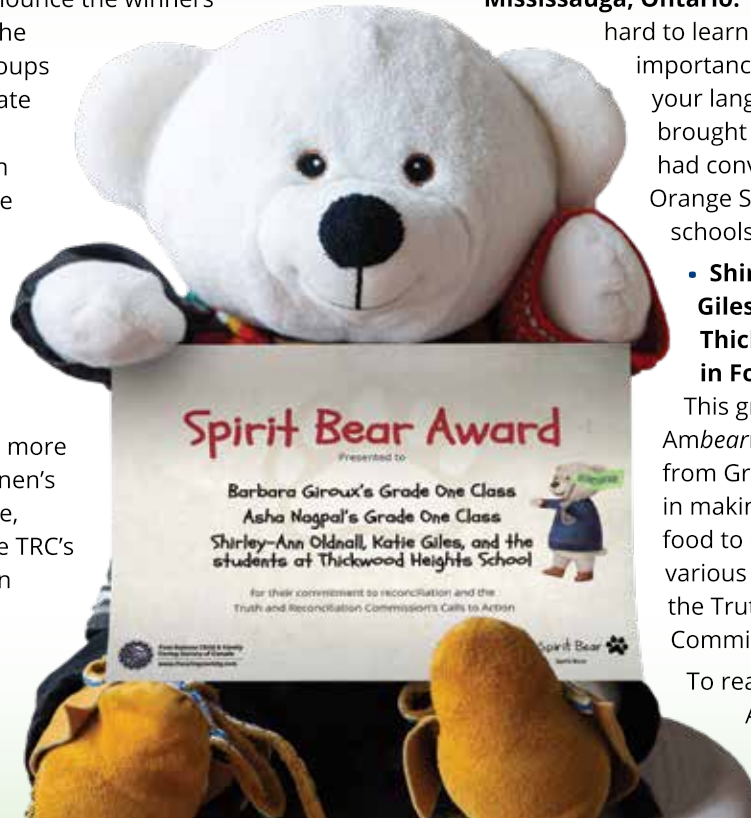
This year, supporters wrote letters to elected officials calling for Spirit Bear Day to be a holiday in each province and territory to raise awareness of Jordan's Principle, and schools and daycares hosted teddy bear tea parties with students and kids. Many watched *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* for free and read Spirit Bear's books too! Due to the outpouring of support, **#BearWitnessDay** and **#JordansPrinciple** once again trended on Twitter!



Spirit Bear Award

Spirit Bear is *beary* proud to announce the winners of the 2022 Spirit Bear Award! The Spirit Bear Award recognizes groups of young people who demonstrate a commitment to reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action. The winners are:

- **Barbara Giroux's Grade One Class from Holy Family School in Ottawa, Ontario.** This class has done exceptional work throughout the entire school year to learn more about Jordan's Principle, Shannen's Dream, Peter Henderson Bryce, treaties, human rights, and the TRC's Calls to Action. They have been helped by their Ambearrister Makoonse.
- **Asha Nagpal's Grade One Class from Whiteoaks Public School in**



Mississauga, Ontario. This class has been working hard to learn about discrimination and the importance of being allowed to speak your language. The students also brought home what they learned and had conversations with family about Orange Shirt Day and residential schools with family and friends.

- **Shirley-Ann Oldnall, Katie Giles, and the students at Thickwood Heights School in Fort McMurray, Alberta.** This group has also hosted an Ambearrister, Maskwa. Students from Grades 1 to 6 have participated in making a heart garden, delivering food to elders, and working on various class projects about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- To read more about the Spirit bear Award, visit fncaringociety.com/spirit-bear-award.

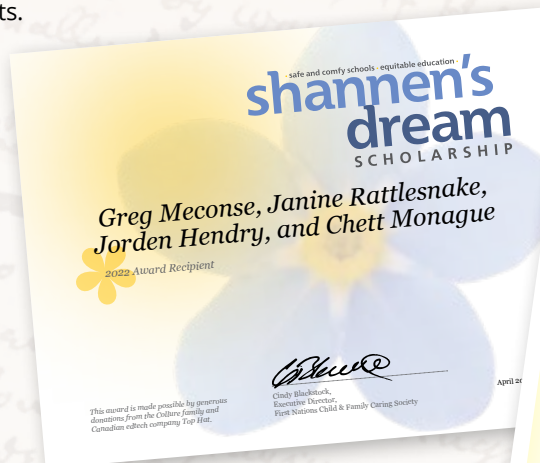
Shannen's Dream Scholarship

The Shannen's Dream Scholarship is named in loving memory of Shannen Koostachin from Attawapiskat First Nation, who sparked a national movement for safe and comfy schools for First Nations students.

An important part of the scholarship is the pay-it-forward component, which asks the recipients to give back to their community. It was made possible thanks to the Collure family from Richmond Hill, Ontario and the EdTech company, Top Hat!

We are honoured to be able to award the first ever Shannen's Dream Scholarship to **Greg Meconse, Janine Rattlesnake, Jorden Hendry, and Chett Monague**! We are so excited to see where these students go from here!

To learn more about the scholarship, visit fncaringociety.com/shannens-dream-scholarship.



Jordan's Principle Scholarship

In honour of their commitment to First Nations children's holistic health and wellbeing, we are thrilled to present

Anastacia Bradstreet, Nicole Tailfeathers, Miyah-Mae Stewart-Tuccaro, Sandra Hart, and Miranda Shannon with the fifth annual Jordan's Principle Scholarship. May they always hold Jordan River Anderson in their hearts and minds, and always stand up for Jordan's Principle and

equity for all Indigenous children.

To learn more about the Jordan's Principle Scholarship, visit fncaringociety.com/jordan-principle-scholarship.



Spirit Bear and Children Make History Film Updates!

Spirit Bear and the Caring Society are delighted to announce that we have made the film, *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* available to watch with both French and English closed captions and subtitles. We believe that it is *beary* important for us to ensure that Spirit Bear's messages of truth, reconciliation, and ending discrimination against First Nations children and youth ought to be accessible for everyone so that we can all engage in reconciliation together!

The film is available to rent through the Winnipeg Film Group at vucavu.com/en/winnipeg-film-group/2020/spirit-bear-and-children-make-history.



Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



On September 30, 2013, Phyllis Webstad (née Jack) started Orange Shirt Day based on her experiences while attending the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, and it has been celebrated annually ever since. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn about the legacy of the residential school system and take action by wearing an orange shirt to show their commitment to reconciliation.

Last year, in honour of Orange Shirt Day and the first annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Caring Society partnered with Ottawa-based community groups and organizations to host an event on September 30. We look forward to once again co-hosting an event on September 30 where people of all ages can learn about Canada's history in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, reflect on the legacy of the residential school system and take action.

Stay tuned to our social media channels and website for the latest information!

Research Report

"Just Because We're Small Doesn't Mean We Can't Stand Tall": Reconciliation Education in the Elementary Classroom

Melisa Brittain, FNCARES



This research project studies the impacts of the Caring Society's social justice-based reconciliation campaigns on elementary teachers and students who have actively

participated over the years to ensure equity for First Nations children. Inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* on education, the project seeks to understand the impacts of reconciliation education on First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and non-Indigenous students, especially at the elementary level, and whether or not current resources and practices facilitate the "respectful learning environments" required for the transformational shifts the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls for in order to "transform our country and restore mutual respect between peoples and nations" (TRC, *Final Report*, Volume 6, pp. 19, 122).

In response to research findings, the research team is developing an interactive online resource for teachers and educational professionals called *The Spirit Bear Virtual Schools for Teachers*. Find more information in our research report, which outlines the intentions, methodologies, research activities, and findings from the first four years. The project will be completed in 2023.

Read the Research Report at bit.ly/JustBecauseWereSmall.



Coming soon! Graphic Videos on Financial Literacy

The Caring Society believes strongly in sharing knowledge and information in different ways. We've been working with young people for the past few months to try something new: graphic videos! We are excited to be finalizing a series of three videos on financial literacy, highlighting topics identified by youth: Choosing a Bank and Opening an Account, Avoiding Predatory Financial Institutions, and Protecting Yourself from Scams. The videos build on the Financial Literacy for Indigenous Peoples Course developed by the Caring Society in partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada (see <https://www.rbc.com/indigenous/financial-literacy-for-indigenous-peoples.html>). Youth with lived experience of child welfare led the development. Warm thanks to Conner Lowes, who wrote the scripts and recorded the English audio, and Byanka Petrin for the translation and French recordings!

We will post the videos to the Caring Society YouTube Channel in English, French, and with captions later this summer. Follow us on social media for updates on their release!

FINANCIAL LITERACY: PART 1

Choosing a Bank and Opening an Account

WHAT YOU NEED to KNOW



Information Sheets on the Case for First Nations Kids

On December 31, 2021, the Parties to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal complaint reached an Agreement in Principle (AIP) on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and Jordan's Principle. The Parties are working towards a final agreement. Another AIP was signed for compensating First Nations children and families affected by Canada's discrimination in First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle. The Caring Society is not a signatory to this AIP but maintains that compensation must uphold the minimum standard set out in the Tribunal orders. The final agreement on compensation is in progress.

In an effort to make the information as accessible as possible, the Caring Society authored a series information sheets regarding the AIP on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program, and Jordan's Principle, as well as the AIP on compensation. The information sheet series includes:

- AIP on Long-Term Reform Information Sheet
- AIP on Long-Term Reform: Things to Consider
- AIP on Long-Term Reform: Timeline
- AIP on Compensation Information Sheet

In addition, the Caring Society authored an information sheet on the latest consent order issued by the Tribunal on March 24, 2022 (2022 CHRT 8). This consent orders Canada to provide \$2,500 per First Nations person on reserve and in the Yukon for child welfare prevention services and to fund at actual cost post-majority supports for federally funded youth aging out of care and First Nations young adults who have aged out of care up to age 26.

These information sheets can be found at fnwitness.ca or fncaringsociety.com/information-sheets.



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

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 FNCFS Agency Membership (1-50 employees): \$500

Large FNCFS 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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