

# Shannen's Dream and School is a Time for Dreams

## CEH Annual Conference Presentation

January 2023 | Presented by **Madelaine McCracken (she/her)**



First Nations Child & Family  
Caring Society of Canada

Société de soutien à l'enfance  
et à la famille des Premières Nations  
du Canada



# Plan for today

- Meet Spirit Bear
- The story of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce
- Shannen's Dream and School is a Time for Dreams
- The Spirit Bear Plan and Spirit Bear's books and free resources
- Group discussion
- Closing: Spirit Bear theme song



# Reconcili **ACTION!**

SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Dear Canada,

Dahoojal (That means "hello" in Carrier.)

The sea of orange shirts across Canada honouring the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (and Orange Shirt Day) on September 30 warmed my heart! This day of learning and acting is just one of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.

Here's how you can help implement the Calls to Action:

- Read the TRC report and visit the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website;
- Contact your elected officials and let them know the TRC Calls to Action matter to you;
- Work with local Indigenous organizations on their priorities;
- Find free learning resources and 7 free ways to help at [bit.ly/7-free-ways](https://bit.ly/7-free-ways)

Let's honour the survivors and the children who were lost by showing this generation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children that they matter - all year long.

Love Spirit Bear (Sus Zull,  
BSW (Bear So Wise), "Paw"hd  
[@SpiritBear](https://twitter.com/SpiritBear)

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[fncaringsociety.com](https://fncaringsociety.com)



sharmen's  
dream



## Meet Spirit Bear!

*"I am a Bearrister, which means when I see something wrong, I need to learn about it and help make things right."*



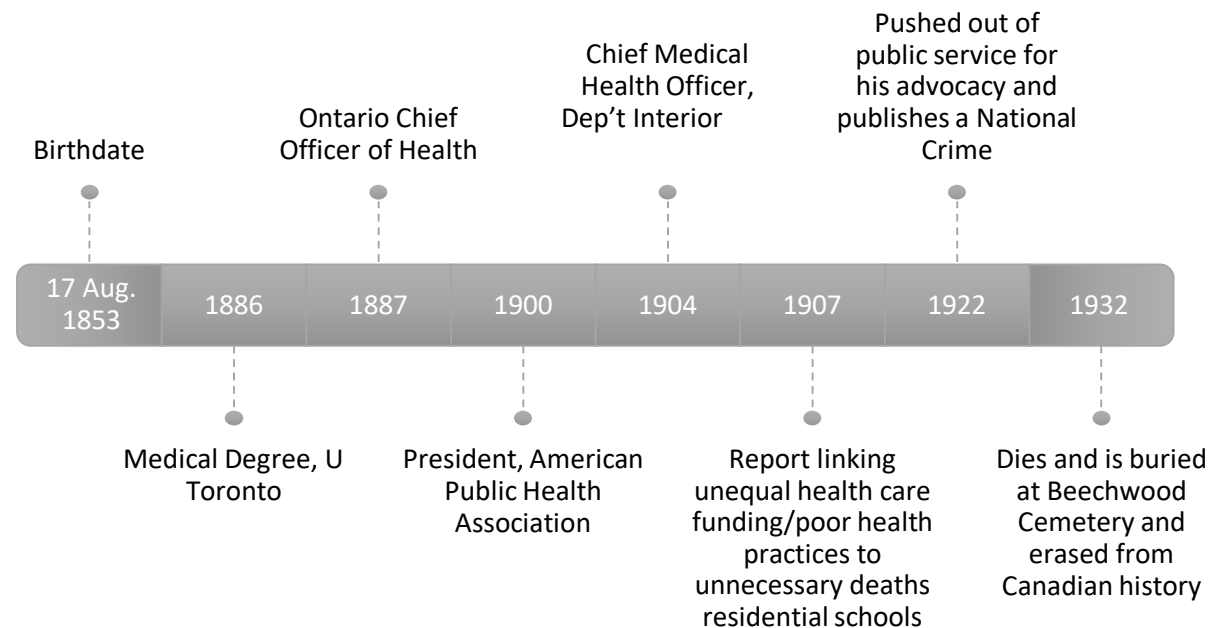
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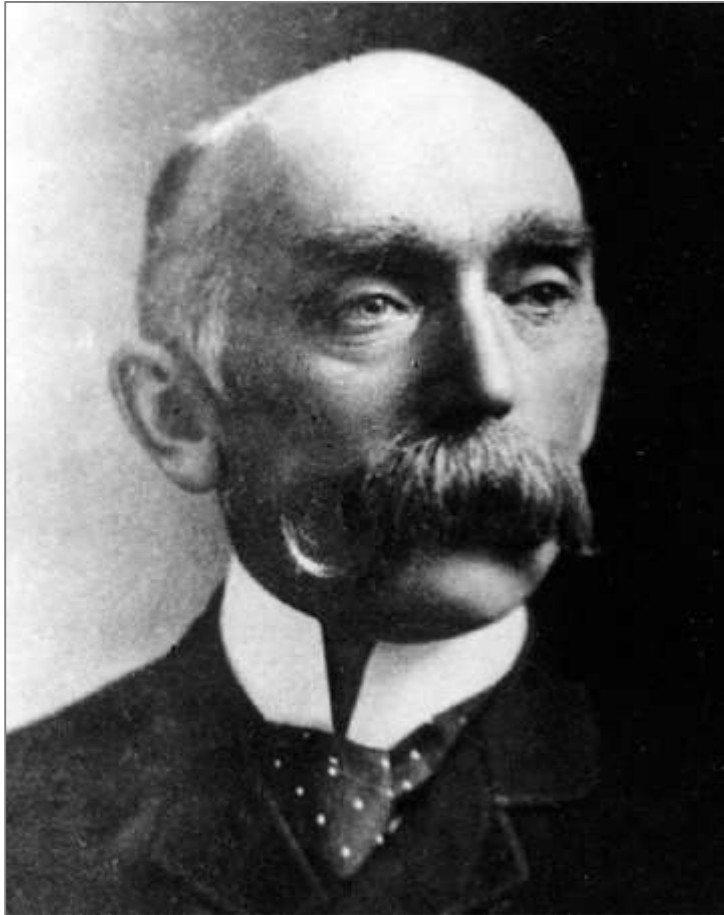


# Dr. P.H. Bryce: The man who knew better



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**Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce**

***Report on the Indian Schools of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories which is commonly known as The Bryce Report.***

*"Suffice it to say that of the 1537 pupils reported upon, 25% are dead of one school with an absolutely accurate statement 69% of ex pupils are dead... Dr. Bryce's description of the schools shows them to be veritable hotbeds for the propagation and spread of this disease."*

The Evening Citizen, November 15, 1907



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# TERRIBLE WRECK ON C.P.R. A DEATH LIST OF SEVEN

One Ottawa Man Is among the Dead and Several Others Are in the List of the Injured in Fatal Early Morning Collision.

Light Engine Crashed into the Soo Express Coming East and the Locomotives and Cars Caught Fire.

- KILLED.**
- J. O. NADON, Fireman, Chalk River.
  - A. BENDIRE, Engineer, North Bay.
  - D. A. CLARK, Express Messenger, Montreal.
  - J. E. IRVINE, Baggageman, Ottawa.
  - J. E. YOUNG, Engineer, North Bay.
  - T. PRENDERGAST, Webbwood.
  - H. Z. PRENDERGAST, Webbwood.
- INJURED.**
- Fred Hyland, Hull.
  - Alf. Robert, 64 Nelson St., Ottawa.
  - Madame Gellinas, Ottawa.
  - D. Lynch, Hintonburg.
  - E. Roberts, Ottawa.
  - St. Maloney, Mr. St. Patrick.
  - E. McGuire, Italy.
  - Wilfred Malone.
  - E. Labelle, Montreal.

Seven people were killed and cremated and eight others injured, but not seriously, in a frightful head-on collision on the Canadian Pacific railway at Moorlake at 12.30 this morning. The scene of the accident is 12 miles west of Chalk River, and 24 miles from Pembroke, on the North Bay division of the line.

A big locomotive, running light from Chalk River to North Bay, collided

likely to result fatally. There happened to be three physicians on the train, and these gentlemen rendered valuable assistance to the injured. As soon as the accident occurred the divisional points were notified and while wrecking auxiliaries were sent from Chalk River and North Bay, doctors were hurried from Pembroke and Mattawa. The most of those whose injuries were any way serious were taken to the hospital at Mattawa.

**DECEASED OTTAWAN.**

James S. Irvine, the baggageman on the Soo, was the only Ottawa man losing his life in the wreck. He resided at 601 Gilmour street, and was about 25 years of age. Mr. Irvine entered the employ of the Canadian Pacific in 1891 and was regarded as one of the most faithful and trustworthy employees. News of his tragic death had been received with the sincerest regret by all who knew him. The dead baggageman leaves a widow and a young son, who are the recipients of genuine sympathy in their painful bereavement.

David A. Clark, of Montreal, the express messenger killed in the accident, formerly resided in Ottawa, on Itchenester street. He used to run on the line between here and Pembroke, but in May last was transferred to Montreal. Since then his run has been on

well known in lower town, who does business at the above address. He had been up west on a business and cattle buying trip.

Madame Gellinas, mentioned in the list, is unknown, the only person of that name in the directory being Mr. P. Gellinas, of the public works department, none of whose family were on the train.

D. Lynch, of Hintonburg, is a freeman on the C. P. R. and is probably the one of the locomotive crew who escaped death. He resides on the Richmond road.

**A BAD TRAGEDY.**

(Special to the Evening Citizen.)

Montreal, Nov. 15.—D. A. Clark, the express messenger who was killed in the wreck, lived at 152 Laporte street, Montreal. He was a native of Gampe, Que., and before coming to Montreal a year ago spent several years in Ottawa. He had been married nearly two years and was to have celebrated the second anniversary of his wedding day on Monday, 18th. Preparations had been made for celebrating the event by a little gathering of friends at their home. Mrs. Clark was heartbroken when she learned the news of her husband's tragic death. She was completely overcome and a physician had to come in. Clark also leaves a little baby, nine months old. He has several married sisters in the city who have taken on charge of the widow. Clark was buried under the burning wreckage and was absolutely cremated, this fact being kept from his wife by Rev. Mr. Brown



THE OLYMPIC GAMES, 1908, AND COMPE

**DEFINES A**

Olympic Games, 1908, and Compe

Col. Hintonburg will...  
The extract from the Olympic games of London, 1908, is as follows:  
International Skating Union—A skater is not recognized as an amateur if he has since January 1st, 1921:  
(a) Practiced in his own person any sporting bodily exercise as a means of gain (gymnastic and fencing instruction excepted).  
(b) Practiced or taught skating for money (the bare repayment of hotel and travelling expenses by his own club or association excepted).  
(c) Sold or pledged prizes won in sporting competitions.

## COMES OUT FOR TARIFF REFORM

"In that Canada fails to obviate the preventable causes of death it brings itself into unpleasant nearness with manslaughter" SH Blake (1908)

## LOCAL BRIEFS

The annual meeting of the Ottawa City Hockey League will be held on the evening of the 25th inst., at the C. A. A. C.

In the list of members attending the meeting in the board of trade last evening, the name of Ald. George's parish will be held next day evening in the parish hall at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of the W. A. S. Association.

William Blissett, head up for trial in the city police court, called by Judge Gunn and elected to be by a judge. His case will be on Monday morning.

Elective Mc... Montreal, who injured yesterday afternoon while driving to the street car, reported to the Russell street.

## SCHOOLS AID WHITE PLAGUE

**Startling Death Rolls Revealed.**

**—AMONG INDIANS**

**Absolute Inattention To Bare Necessities of Health.**

In his report upon the Indian boarding schools in Manitoba and the Northwest, Dr. P. H. Bryce, chief medical officer of the Indian department, emphasizes the absolute necessity for greater care in the selection of pupils and for sanitary precautions in the schools to prevent the spread of disease. During his recent tour of inspection Dr. Bryce instructed the principals of all the schools to report to Ottawa direct upon the past history and present condition of the health of the children who have been pupils at the schools.

Summarising the statistical statement thus obtained Dr. Bryce says, after alluding to the defective records of the schools: "It suffices for us to know, however, that of a total of 1,547 pupils reported upon, nearly 25 per cent. are dead, of one school with an absolutely accurate statement, 69 per cent. of pupils are dead, and that everywhere the almost-invariable cause of death given is tuberculosis."

Dr. Bryce's description of the schools shows them to be veritable hotbeds for the propagation and spread of this disease. In fact, in only one school which the medical inspector visited was attention paid to the most ordinary requirements of ventilation of the dormitories.

The total school attendance in Indian schools of every class was 1,621 last year. Only about 51 per cent. of Indian children between the ages of seven and seventeen attend school, and the attendance at the industrial schools is decreasing.

## PERSONAL

High-Guthrie, M.P., South West, is in the city of departmental affairs.

Wm. Harry, M.P., Kingston, is on business with the department of railways and canals.

Hon. Arthur Turgeon, M.L.A., Bellefleur, in the city and had an interview today with Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

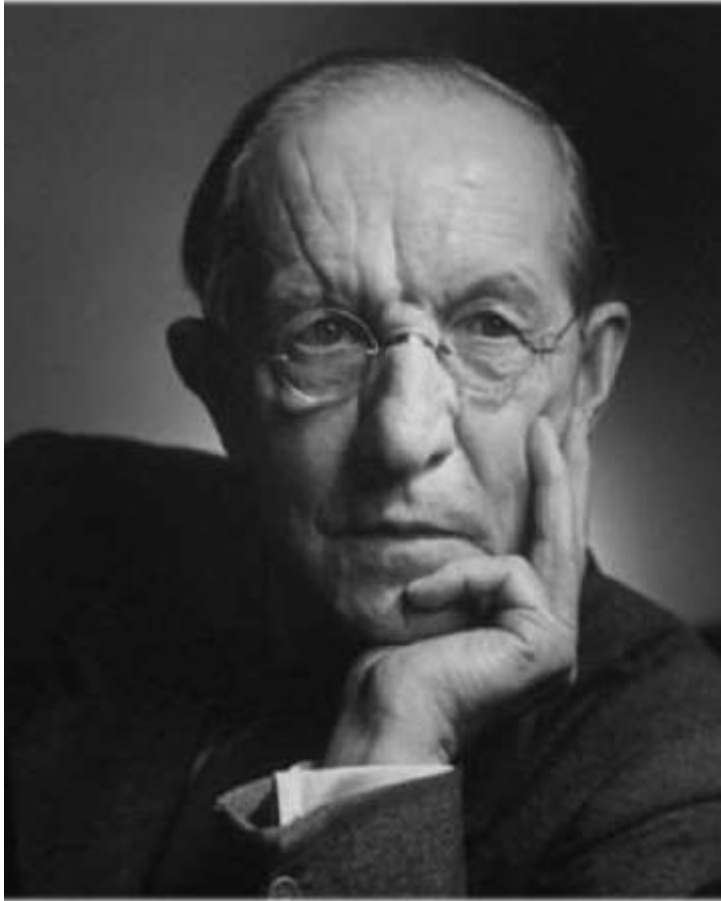
Mr. C. L. Owen, M.P., of Campbellford, is in the city, registered at the Russell.

## MARRIED IN INDIA

Stanley Fillion Marries a Buckingham Store.

Waterproof Home Covers  
Birkenhead's Waterproof Floor Covers





*"Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question, and no Indian department."*

Duncan Campbell Scott, 1920

**Duncan Campbell Scott, Superintendent of Indian Affairs**



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# Cost to implement Dr. PH Bryce's reforms: \$10,000 to \$15,000

Duncan Campbell Scott's reaction to Dr. PH Bryce's report: Reforms too expensive and not implemented.

In 1920, Scott made attendance at residential schools for all children aged 7-15 mandatory.



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# Key barrier to reconciliation:

# Not doing better when we know better.

Read more at [fncaringociety.com/reconciling-history](https://fncaringociety.com/reconciling-history)

1895

Duncan Campbell Scott requests a warrant to remove "Indian" children from their homes for "educational" purposes.

1907

Dr. P.H. Bryce's report to federal government: children in residential schools are dying; deaths are preventable.

1922

Dr. P.H. Bryce publishes the book, "The Story of a National Crime" outlining the failure of the federal government to act.

1967

Caldwell Report: 80% of residential school students are child welfare cases; recommends investing more in First Nation family support services.

1996

RCAP finds that the majority population of child welfare cases are Indigenous.

2000

Government commissions Joint National Policy Review: First Nations kids receive 78 cents on the dollar for child welfare compared to non-Indigenous children.

2007

Jordan's Principle passes in the House of Commons: Equity in public services for all First Nations kids.

2007

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Caring Society files human rights complaint against the federal government.

2008

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government of Canada, offers an apology for the residential school system.

2013

Documents obtained by Access to Information confirm inadequate child welfare funding and its critical impact on First Nations children.

2014

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) hears from 25 witnesses, including 7 federal government officials, over 72 days.

2015

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission releases its 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance reconciliation. Includes calls to redress child welfare and implement Jordan's Principle.

2016

CHRT rules that the Government of Canada is discriminating against 165,000 First Nations kids



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# Shannen's Dream



***"School should be a time for dreams.  
Every kid deserves this."***  
- Shannen Koostachin

**Named in honour of Shannen  
Koostachin, a courageous young leader  
from Attawapiskat First Nation who  
sparked a national  
movement for safe and comfy schools  
for First Nations students.**



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Share your dream with others  
in your classroom or on Facebook,  
Twitter, and Instagram using the  
hashtags #ShannensDream  
#RevedeShannen.





## Spirit Bear Plan

### End Inequalities in Public Services for First Nations Children, Youth and Families

First Nations children and families living on reserve and in the Territories receive public services funded by the federal government. Since confederation, these services have fallen significantly short of what other Canadians receive. This injustice needs to end and Spirit Bear's Plan will do just that.

#### Spirit Bear calls on:

- 1 CANADA** to immediately comply with all rulings by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordering it to immediately cease its discriminatory funding of First Nations child and family services. The orders further require Canada to fully and properly implement Jordan's Principle ([www.jordansprinciple.ca](http://www.jordansprinciple.ca)).
- 2 PARLIAMENT** to ask the Parliamentary Budget Officer to publicly cost out the shortfalls in all federally funded public services provided to First Nations children, youth and families (education, health, water, child welfare, etc.) and propose solutions to fix it.
- 3 GOVERNMENT** to consult with First Nations to co-create a holistic Spirit Bear Plan to end all of the inequalities (with dates and confirmed investments) in a short period of time sensitive to children's best interests, development and distinct community needs.
- 4 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS** providing services to First Nations children and families to undergo a thorough and independent 360° evaluation to identify any ongoing discriminatory ideologies, policies or practices and address them. These evaluations must be publicly available.
- 5 ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS**, including those at a senior level, to receive mandatory training to identify and address government ideology, policies and practices that fetter the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

#### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

- SPREAD THE WORD ON TWITTER** using #SpiritBearPlan and copy @CaringSociety
- CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** and ask them to support the Spirit Bear Plan
- CONTACT US** to learn more at [info@fncaringsociety.com](mailto:info@fncaringsociety.com)



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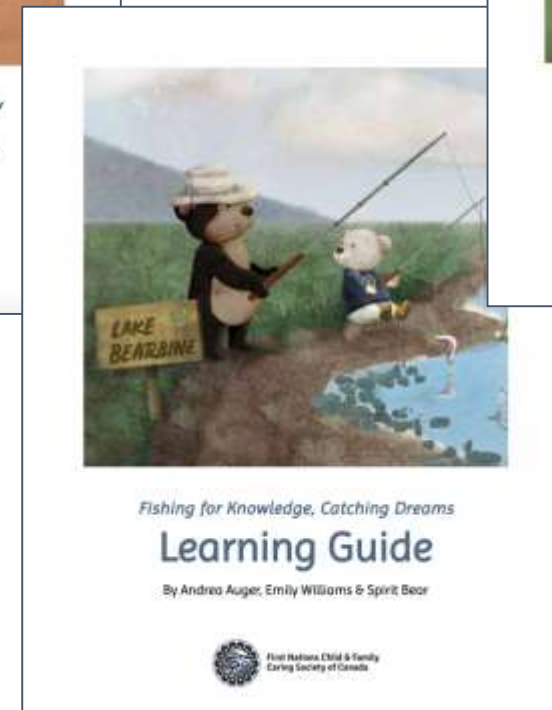
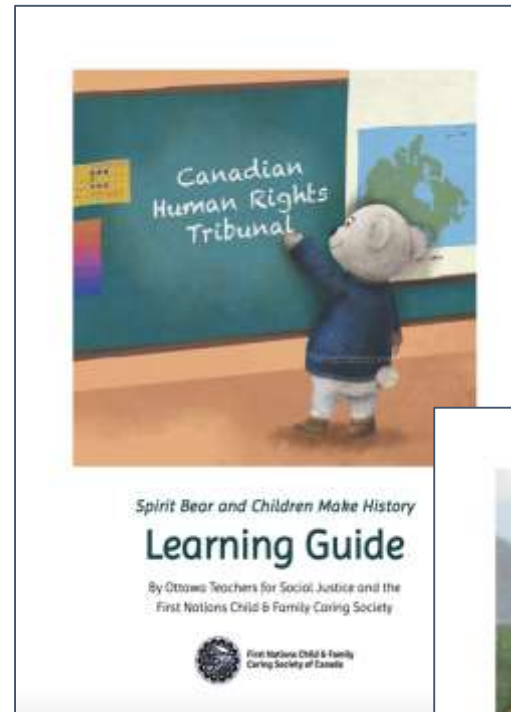
<https://youtu.be/sryAQdxAlI8>



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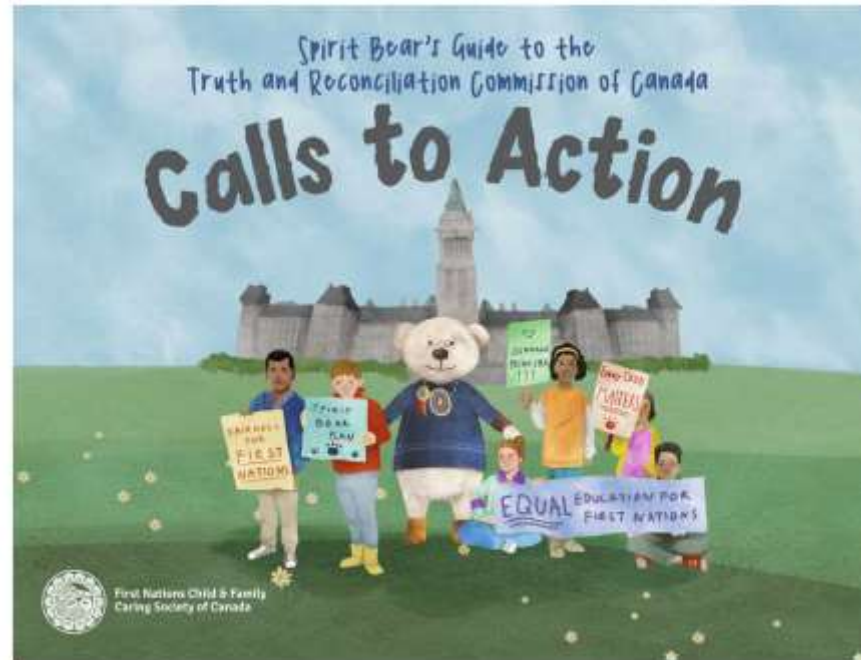
[www.fncaringociety.com/SpiritBear](http://www.fncaringociety.com/SpiritBear)



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# Spirit Bear's Guide to the TRC Calls to Action



[www.fncaringociety.com/SpiritBear](http://www.fncaringociety.com/SpiritBear)



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# Upcoming Events

**Have a Heart Day:**  
February 14, 2023



**Elderberry Day:**  
March 20, 2022



**Bear Witness Day:**  
May 10, 2022



**Honouring  
Memories, Planting  
Dreams:**  
May - June 2022



<https://fncaringsociety.com/events>



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# Films by the brilliant Alanis Obomsawin



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# Discussion

- What you are taking away from this presentation?
- How do you plan to implement what you have learned?
- Any questions you have for the Caring Society?





# Spirit Bear theme song



<https://youtu.be/0jwEfp2FuYA>



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