

Spirit
Bear's

GUIDE TO RECONCILIATION

2023

CALENDAR

Thank you for supporting the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada with your purchase of Spirit Bear's Guide to Reconciliation Calendar 2023!

Our calendar can support all people living in Canada to take *pawsitive* actions toward reconciliation in *beary* caring and respectful ways year-round! We also hope you will participate in our reconciliation campaigns and events including Have a Heart Day, Elderbeary Day, Bear Witness Day, Reconciling History, School is a Time for Dreams, Reconciliation Ambearristers, and so much more!

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SMALL DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T STAND TALL!


**Follow us on social media and share
your actions toward reconciliation with us!**

 @SpiritBear  @CaringSociety  CaringSociety  spiritbearandfriends



Witness
Day





IN JANUARY, I will read the book and watch the film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History*. Doing this will help me write letters to decision-makers in Canada! In my letters, I will ask them to commit to the *Spirit Bear Plan*.

I will also take time to learn about the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case for First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle.

January

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 International Day of Education	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

On this day in 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that the Government of Canada was discriminating against First Nations children.



ON FEBRUARY 14, I will take part in Have a Heart Day! I will stand with First Nations kids and their families. I plan to send a Valentine's Day card or letter asking decision-makers in Canada to stand tall for First Nations kids and their families.

February

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

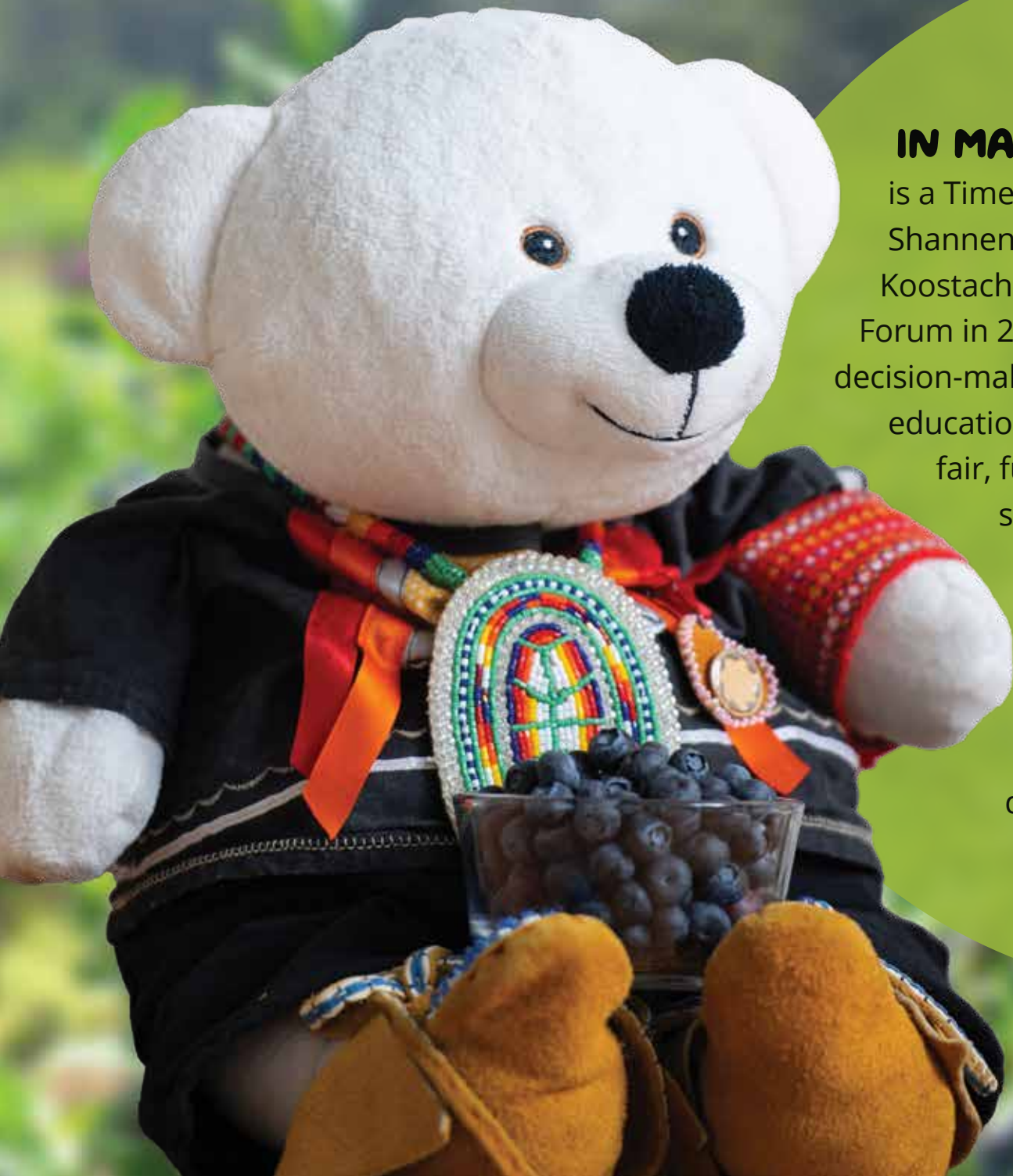
saturday

			1	2	3	4
				Groundhog Day		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Have a Heart Day Valentine's Day				Isra and Mi'raj Maha Shivaratri
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Family Day (BC, AB, SK, ON, NB) Islander Day (PEI) Louis Riel Day (MB) Nova Scotia Heritage Day (NS)		Ash Wednesday		Yukon Heritage Day (YK)	
26	27	28				

On this day in 2012, Shannen's Dream passed in the House of Commons.

On this day in 2007, the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society (Caring Society) filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission alleging that Canada is discriminating against First Nations children by providing less child welfare funding on reserves.

On this day in 2013, the hearings began for the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case.



IN MARCH, I will participate in School is a Time for Dreams and learn more about Shannen's Dream by watching Shannen Koostachin's speech at the Attawapiskat Youth Forum in 2008. After I do this, I will write letters to decision-makers in Canada. I will ask that they make education for First Nations kids across Canada fair, fully funded, and safe and comfy so that all students know that they matter.

I plan to thank my Elders on *Elderbear* Day! I will make them thank you cards, draw them pictures, or bake them cookies to show them I care. I'm *beary* thankful for what they do for all of us!

March

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

			1 Beginning of School is a Time for Dreams	2	3 World Wildlife Day	4
5	6 Purim Begins	7 Purim Ends	8 International Women's Day Holi		10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins	13	14 Pi Day	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 Elderbeary Day Spring Equinox	21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22 World Water Day Ramadan Starts	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Ramanavami	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility	

IN APRIL, I will continue to learn about School is a Time for Dreams and send letters to decision-makers in Canada. I plan to take care of the land too! Uncle Huckleberry told us in the book *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* that we can all do things to take care of the land.

He says, "You can recycle, support fish hatcheries, prevent forest fires, and make sure not to put bad stuff on the earth or in the water. You can also learn from First Nations peoples – they know how to look after the land and the animals."



April

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
						1 April Fools' Day
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5 Passover Begins	6	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter	10 Easter Monday	11	12	13 Passover Ends	14	15
16	17 Lailat al-Qadr	18	19	20 Ramadan Ends	21	22 Earth Day Eid al-Fitr
23	24	25	26	27 Shannen's Dream Day of Action	28 National Superhero Day	29
30 Ending of School is a Time for Dreams						

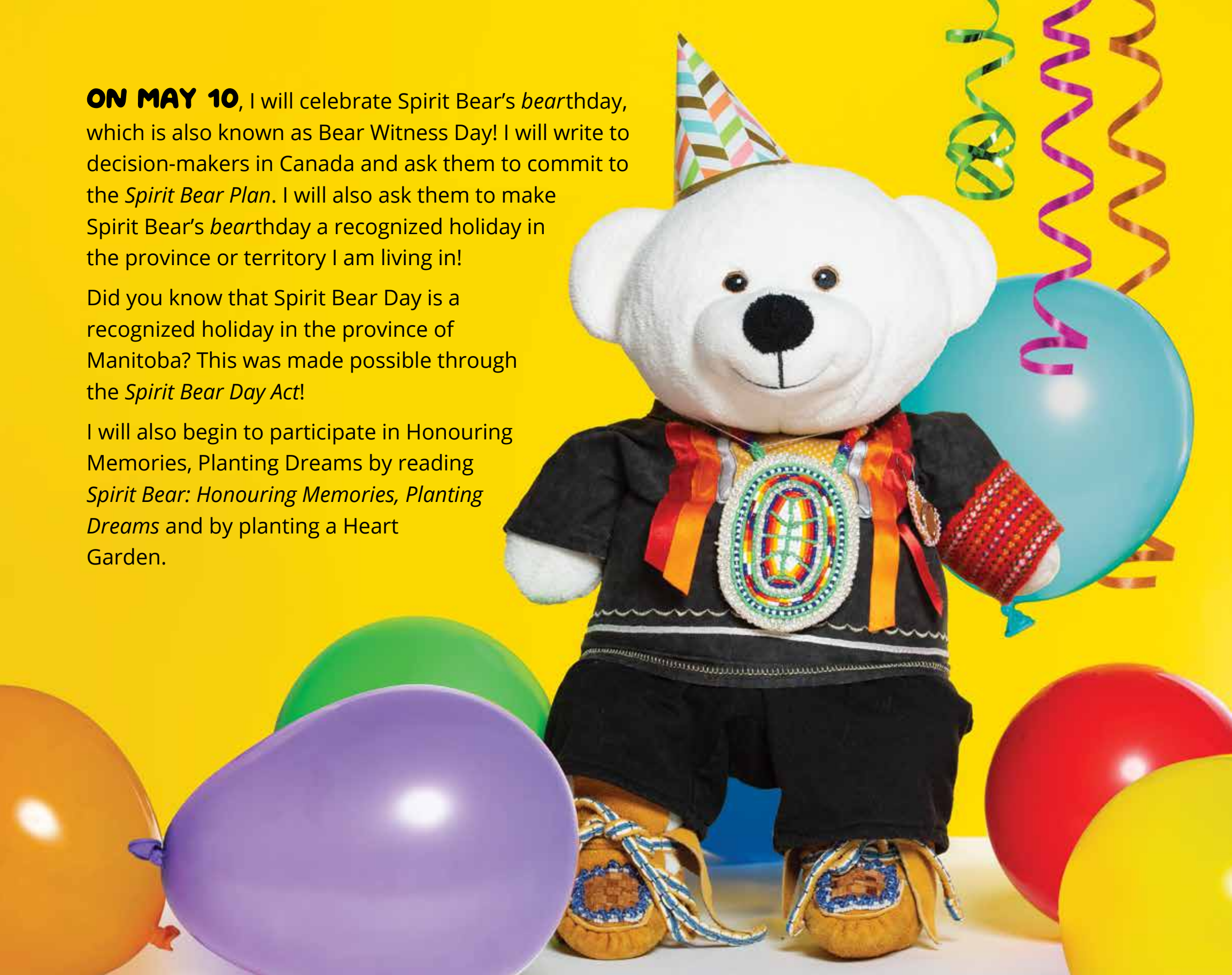
On this day in 1922, Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce published *The Story of a National Crime*.

Since 2011, April 27 has been known as Shannen's Dream Day of Action.

ON MAY 10, I will celebrate Spirit Bear's *beirthday*, which is also known as Bear Witness Day! I will write to decision-makers in Canada and ask them to commit to the *Spirit Bear Plan*. I will also ask them to make Spirit Bear's *beirthday* a recognized holiday in the province or territory I am living in!

Did you know that Spirit Bear Day is a recognized holiday in the province of Manitoba? This was made possible through the *Spirit Bear Day Act*!

I will also begin to participate in Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams by reading *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams* and by planting a Heart Garden.



May

On this day in 1998, the initial meeting to discuss the creation of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society happened.

On this day in 1999, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada was created!

	1 May Day Beginning of Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams	2	3	4	5 National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S)	6
7	8	9	10 Spirit Bear Day (MB) Bear Witness Day Spirit Bear's Bearthday	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day Children and Youth in Care Day (ON)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Victoria Day	23	24	25 Shavuot Begins	26	27 Shavuot Ends
28	29	30	31			

On this day in 2008, Shannen and her friends marched on Parliament Hill for safe and comfy schools for First Nations children and youth!

IN JUNE, I will continue to participate in Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams and I will plant a Heart Garden in honour of residential school Survivors and the children who did not make it home. I will read the activity guide called *Finding our Place in Reconciliation* and I will make a promise toward reconciliation in response to *Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action*. I will write my promise on a paper heart and plant it in my Heart Garden.




June

The Closing Ceremonies for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) inquiry were held on this day in 2019.

On this day in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Closing Ceremonies happened.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 Beginning of Indigenous History Month Beginning of Pride Month	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth (US)	20	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day Summer Solstice	22	23	24 St. Jean Baptiste Day (QC)
25	26	27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day	28	29 Eid al-Adha	30 Ending of Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams	



IN JULY, I will honour Shannen Koostachin. I will watch Alanis Obomsawin's film *Hi-Ho Mistahey!* to learn about the life of Shannen Koostachin and her home community of Attawapiskat First Nation. I will also read *Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams* to learn about how Shannen's Dream was created.

July

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	1 Canada Day
9	10	11	12 Shannen Koostachin's Birthday	13	14	15
16	17 World Day for International Justice	18	19 Muharram	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



IN AUGUST, I will learn about the traditional and ancestral homelands and territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as well as the original place names of major cities and towns across Canada. I will make sure I know the original place name of where I am currently living and learn more about how this name came to be.

August

sunday

monday

tuesday


wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Civic Holiday (ON, PEI, NWT, YT) Saskatchewan Day (SK) Natal Day (NS) Heritage Day (AB) New Brunswick Day (NB) British Columbia Day (BC) Terry Fox Day (MB)	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11	12 International Youth Day
13	14	15	16	17 Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce's Birthday	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 International Dog Day
27	28	29	30	31 Alanis Obomsawin's Birthday		



IN SEPTEMBER, I will participate in Reconciling History by sending a letter to Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce at Beechwood Cemetery located in Ottawa, Ontario. I will read the book *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*. After reading the book, I will also write a letter to decision-makers in Canada asking them to commit to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and to the *Spirit Bear Plan*.

September

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

On this day in 2013, *Hi-Ho Mistahey!*, directed by Alanis Obomsawin, premiered at TIFF.

On this day in 2016, *We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice*, directed by Alanis Obomsawin, premiered at TIFF.

On this day in 2007, the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

					1	2
3	4 Labour Day	5	6	7	8 International Literacy Day	9 National Teddy Bear Day
10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12	13	14	15 Rosh Hashanah Begins	16
17 Rosh Hashanah Ends	18	19	20	21 International Day of Peace	22	23 Autumn Equinox
24 Yom Kippur Begins	25 Yom Kippur Ends	26	27 Mawlid al-Nabi	28	29 Sukkot Begins	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day

IN OCTOBER, I will honour Jordan River Anderson. I will watch Alanis Obomsawin's film *Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger* to learn about the life of Jordan River Anderson. I will also read the book and watch the film *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* to learn about how Jordan's Principle was created.



October

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 Sukkot Ends	2 International Day of Non-Violence	3	4	5 World Teachers' Day	6 Simchat Torah Begins	7
8 Simchat Torah Ends	9 Thanksgiving Day	10 World Mental Health Day	11 International Day of the Girl National Coming Out Day	12	13	14
15 Navaratri Begins	16	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18	19	20	21
22 Jordan River Anderson's Birthday	23 Navaratri Ends	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				



IN NOVEMBER, I will honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans by learning about their legacies and all that they have done for Canada. Reading *Spirit Bear: Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams* will help me to do this. I also plan to find out how I can support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans in my community.

November

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

On this day in 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

			1 All Saints' Day	2	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Ends	6	7	8 National Indigenous Veterans Day	9	10	11 Remembrance Day
12 Diwali	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance	21	22	23	24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
26	27	28	29	30		

On this day in 2010, Shannen's Dream campaign was launched by youth in Attawapiskat First Nation.

IN DECEMBER, I will reflect on all the promises for reconciliation that I have made this year and think about what I can do for next year. To do this, I will read *Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action* and make new promises toward reconciliation for 2024.



December

On this day in 2005, Jordan's Principle passed unanimously in the House of Commons.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					1	2
3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 National Cookie Day	5	6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	7 Hanukkah Begins	8	9
10 International Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15 Hanukkah Ends	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

On this day in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released their Final Reports and the Calls to Action.

THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA

works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through educational activities that engage individuals of all ages in reconciliation and by providing quality resources to support First Nations communities. The Caring Society works proudly with our partners far and wide to promote the rights of Indigenous children.

All proceeds go to helping ensure First Nations kids can grow up safely at home, get a good education, and be healthy and proud of who they are.



**First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society**

fncaringsociety.com