

Caring Society Strategic Directions 2024–2029



Mission Statement

Provide reconciliation-based public education, policy guidance, research, advocacy, and support to promote the safety and wellbeing of First Nations children, young people, families, communities, and Nations.

Vision Statement

Supporting First Nations children, young people, families, communities, and Nations so that First Nations children can grow up safely with their families, get a good education, be healthy, and feel proud of who they are.

Core Values

- Love, courage, respect, honesty, transparency, and integrity in our work and relationships.
- Recognizing the sacredness of children and the rights of Indigenous children, youth, and families pursuant to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Embracing evidence-informed approaches and measuring progress against outcomes.
- Intergenerational substantive equality and respect for distinct First Nations cultures, languages, contexts, and aspirations.
- Honouring caring peoples and organizations who work respectfully with First Nations children, young people, families, communities, and Nations.
- Ensuring all people, including children, can meaningfully participate in reconciliation.
- Being independent and non-partisan.



Future Directions and Planning Strategies

1. Truth Telling

Ensure the safety and wellbeing of First Nations children, young people, and families by facilitating the transfer of traditional and historical knowledges and community-based solutions to guide and support families and others caring for First Nations children and young people. Work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to meaningfully engage in reconciliation.

- **Reconciling History:** Collaborate with First Nations knowledge holders, Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth, scholars, educators, and public-, voluntary-, and private-sector actors to provide accurate historical information that prepares people to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Actions, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, and other reconciliation-based recommendations.
- **FNCARES:** Create and curate evidence-informed information on the structural drivers of child, youth, and family disadvantage and related interventions.
- **Spirit Bear Virtual School:** Educate non-Indigenous peoples, educational institutions, and other organizations on the importance of respecting and supporting First Nations cultures, languages, knowledges, and rights.

2. Acknowledging

Value the guidance, support, and collaboration from First Nations children, young people, families, communities, and Nations, and the many caring children, young people, adults, professionals, and organizations that work with us.

- **Integrity:** Ensure Caring Society values and ethics continue to be foundational to all aspects of our work.
- **Child and youth voices:** Ensure the Caring Society continues its strong practice of respecting and honouring child and youth voices and meaningful participation. This includes working on areas of priority as identified by young people and supporting their organizations and aspirations.
- **Diversity:** The Caring Society respects persons of all diversities, including intersecting diversities, and has a particular commitment to upholding the human rights of members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and persons with disabilities.
- **Good governance:** Commit to integrity in Caring Society governance and administration that aligns with our values.
- **Learning:** Implement measures, including staff and volunteer training, to receive and act on feedback and advice from Elders, knowledge keepers, children, young people, families, communities, and Nations.

3. Restoring

Address the evidenced-based causes of disadvantage for First Nations children, young people, families, communities, and Nations by building on cultural strengths and supporting effective interventions.

- **Structural disadvantage and systemic racism:** Expand public education on the causes of disadvantage and systemic racism and effective interventions.
- **Wellness:** Expand resources on addiction, mental health, and healthy relationships to inform community interventions for children, youth, and adults.
- **Reconciliation actions:** Assume a life-long learning and engagement approach to reconciliation by developing and promoting actions that persons of all ages can implement.
- **Reconciliation for newcomers:** Increase reconciliation education and engagement with newcomers.
- **Spirit Bear Plan:** Promote viable and evidence-based solutions to address challenges including the implementation of the *Spirit Bear Plan* and strategic litigation.
- **Canadian Human Rights Tribunal:** Continue work to ensure that Canada effectively takes measures to stop the discrimination found by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and prevent its recurrence.
- **National awards and scholarships:** Recognize excellence in child- and youth-focused reconciliation, and support students and young people through our scholarships and awards.

4. Relating

Promote relationships between First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples aligning with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as reflected in General Comment 12.

- **Honouring youth and young adults:** Empower youth and young adults to meaningfully participate in reconciliation and address other human rights issues of vital importance to youth.
- **Honouring the diversity:** Recognize and honour diversity among and between First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples including persons with intersecting identities.
- **Non-Indigenous reconciliation:** Empower caring people in all sectors of society to learn from the past so they can address contemporary injustices faced by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and celebrate the contributions and strengths of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.
- **Accountability:** Ensure the Caring Society models accountability and promotes accountability, particularly as it is defined by youth and young adults.
- **Moral courage:** Model, support, and engage in courageous conversations and morally courageous actions that are necessary for ensuring the rights of First Nations children, youth, young adults, and families are recognized.