

14th Annual Caring Society Gala

• Live Entertainment • Four Course Meal • Live Art Auction • Fashion Show • Silent Auction • Photo Booth •



Promoting the Wellbeing of First Nations Children & Families

Friday, January 17, 2025
North Centennial & Embassy Room
Victoria Inn & Convention Centre

All proceeds go to the Caring Society to support equity
for First Nations kids

Hosted by



**Caring
Society**



**Kinosao Sipi
Minisowin Agency**

Greetings from

Clarence Paupanekis



Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

Tansi!

Greetings on behalf of the board of the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA) and our staff. Welcome to the 14th Annual First Nations Child & Family Caring Society Gala. In 2023, we were honoured to host the Gala on our own for the first time and we are proud of the work our staff put into ensuring its success. This is a special evening where we come together not just to celebrate, but to make a lasting impact in the lives of the children and families that benefit from the work done by Cindy Blackstock and the Caring Society.

As we gather in this beautiful setting, we are reminded of the incredible work that has been accomplished through your generosity, commitment, and partnership. Tonight is a reflection of the collective effort that moves us forward in our shared vision. The Caring Society has played an important role in bringing national and international recognition to the inequalities experienced by First Nation children and families, and we commend all they have done to bring equitable programs and services to our communities.

The work ahead is challenging, but I am confident that, with your continued support, we will continue moving forward in a good way. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and ensure that our children's future is bright. Thank you for your presence tonight and for being an essential part of our journey. Let's make this evening a memorable one.

Enjoy the evening and thank you!

Clarence Paupanekis

Board Chair

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

Hosted by



Kinosao Sipi Minisowin
Agency



Rhonda Apetagon

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

Welcome!

On behalf of the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency team, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to each person who has come out to join us. Your presence has made this year's Caring Society Gala a success and we are so grateful for your support.

I would like to thank the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society for their ongoing commitment to advocating for First Nation children and families. Dr. Blackstock's tireless efforts have impacted the lives of so many of our children, and it has been an honour to contribute to the continuation of her work.

Thank you to our sponsors and to the many organizations that have supported this event for years, as well as those who are joining us for the first time. Your presence reaffirms our belief in the power of community and the importance of coming together to support our children and families. You are an essential part of this year's Gala and we could not do this work without you.

Rhonda Apetagon

Executive Director

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency



Dr. Cindy Blackstock



On behalf of the Caring Society, I am honoured to welcome you to the 14th Annual Caring Society Gala. I give thanks for the privilege of gathering on Treaty 1 Territory, the original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene Peoples and homeland of the Métis Nation, and my warmest appreciation to the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA) for organizing the Gala again this year.

As many know, the Gala originated as an emergency fundraising effort in 2008. The Caring Society lost all government funding after filing the human rights case for First Nations children at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. It was proceeds from the Gala that kept us afloat during those early years of the case. Almost 20 years later, we are proud to say that we continue to operate without government funding. The Gala continues to be a significant source of support for the Caring Society as we maintain financial independence.

It feels significant to begin 2025 in Manitoba, close to the hospital where Jordan River Anderson received care. 2025 is the 20th anniversary of Jordan's Principle. Jordan's legacy, his family, and the gift of Jordan's Principle have been transformative for many First Nations children, and we also know there is still much to do. As we honour 20 years of Jordan's Principle, I can think of no better way to begin 2025 than in the company of child and family service and Jordan's Principle experts, and caring supporters in Manitoba.

Cindy Blackstock

Executive Director
First Nations Child & Family
Caring Society



Best wishes for a successful fundraiser

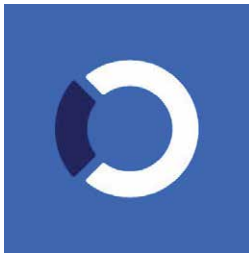


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CARRIER SEKANI
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YELLOW THUNDERBIRD LODGE



WORKPLACE
Solutions



TIPI
GROUP OF COMPANIES

• Menu •

Bakery Basket with a variety of fresh breads

Soup

Super creamy squash soup,
with ginger, rosemary and sage, full of fall flavour

Salad

Leaf lettuce wrapped in a cucumber ring and
dressed with choice of Poppyseed or Italian dressing

Main Course

Roasted chicken breast topped with diced bacon, onion
and mushrooms, with a light white cream sauce
Scalloped au gratin and seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Crème Caramel, classic vanilla custard
with a sweet, caramelized sugar top

Freshly Brewed Coffee and Decaffeinated Coffee, Herbal Teas

Best wishes for a successful fundraiser



**YELLOW
THUNDERBIRD
LODGE**

• Programme •

4 p.m. Doors Open
Meet & Greet/Live Painting/Silent Auction

Master of Ceremonies Conway Kootenay

**Opening Prayer
and Drum Song** Beatrice Queskekapow,
KSMA Board Elder Advisor and
Ray (Coco) Stevenson

Welcoming Remarks Province of Manitoba
Norway House Cree Nation
Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency
First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Entertainment Hector Menow and Youth Singers

6 p.m. Dinner

Fashion Show Auction

Entertainment Singing Bears

7 p.m. Live Art Auction

Closing Remarks Rhonda Apetagon, KSMA Executive Director

Closing Prayer Beatrice Queskekapow,
KSMA Board Elder Advisor

Closing Entertainment

Draws



SAGKEENG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES INC.

Mission Statement

To ensure children are safe, protected and given opportunities to reach their full potential.
To provide Child & Family Services that promote family wellness.

To encourage community participation and responsibility by providing an integrative teamwork approach through collaborative delivery of services.



Core Values

Children are sacred gifts and as a community it is our responsibility to ensure their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs are being met. Children and families are the foundation of our community and they have the right to respect, dignity and self-determination.

Every child has the right to reach their full potential within their family and community. Our work is guided by the following principles and teachings: Honesty, Respect, Humility, Courage, Love, Wisdom, and Truth.

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Best wishes for a successful fundraiser



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Michelle Urbanowski, GBA
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one bid at a time.



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Best wishes for a successful fundraiser



WELCOME TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY

The **First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority** is proud to be a titled sponsor of the 14th Annual Caring Society Gala. We gather to celebrate the strength, resilience, and unity of First Nation communities and to reaffirm our commitment to the wellbeing of all children and families.

Our journey is deeply rooted in the cultural values and traditions that have sustained First Nation communities for generations. We aim to empower First Nations to provide community-driven child and family services that promote safety, well-being and preservation of First Nations traditions and values. As we oversee the seven Northern Manitoba child and family services agencies, we honour their role with the grassroots family in restoring traditional family practices.

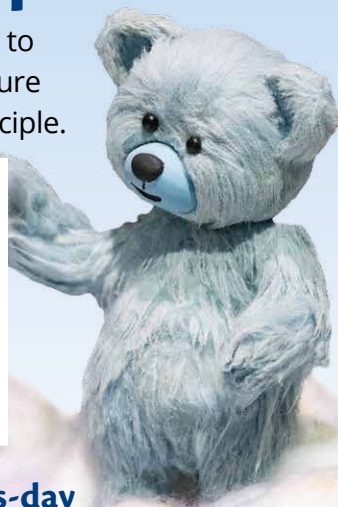
This gala is a testament to the power of collaboration and the positive impact we achieve when we unite for a common purpose. As you enjoy this event, we invite you to reflect on the stories, traditions, and aspirations that bring us together. Let us celebrate our progress, recognize the challenges ahead, and renew our shared commitment to building a brighter future for all First Nation children and families.

*Thank you for your unwavering support.
Together, we thrive, grow, and inspire hope.*



2025 is the 20th Anniversary of Jordan's Principle

On May 10, celebrate Bear Witness Day to honour Jordan River Anderson and ensure the full implementation of Jordan's Principle.



fncaringsociety.com/bear-witness-day

Photo of Jordan from *Jordan River Anderson, the Messenger*, a film by Alanis Obomsawin © National Film Board of Canada

Thank you for your support!



See you
in the fall!
October 17, 2025

...tonight and
all year round!

Work where
culture is at
the centre
of everything.



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Best wishes for a successful fundraiser

MNP

CORPORATE FINANCE INC.

Become a member of the First Nation Children and Family Caring Society!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP signifies your support for the Caring Society and achieving culturally based equity for First Nations children and youth. The Caring Society is a non-profit organization and your membership supports independent and evidence-informed materials and resources that are free on our website and accessible to everyone!

Membership also includes quarterly newsletters with updates on events, conferences and issues related to First Nations child rights, etc, and potential to participate in the Caring Society's Annual General Meeting.

Memberships available:

\$75 Individual Membership

\$5 Student Membership with ID or Elder

\$500 Small Caring Society Agency Membership: 1-50 Employees

\$1000 ... Large Caring Society Agency Memberships: 50+ Employees

\$500 Small Associate Memberships: Groups 1-50 Employees

\$1000 ... Large Associate Memberships: Groups 50+ Employees

Scan the QR code and become a member today!

QUESTIONS? Please email us at info@fncaringsociety.com



fncaringsociety.com/what-you-can-do/become-member