

15th Annual Caring Society Gala

Behind Every
Mask is a Story



Friday, October 17, 2025

North Centennial & Embassy Room
Victoria Inn & Convention Centre

Hosted by



**Caring
Society**



**Kinosao Sipi
Minisowin Agency**

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

Greetings from

Clarence Paupanekis



Kinosa Sipi Minisowin Agency

Tansi,

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Kinosa Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA), welcome to the 15th Annual First Nations Child & Family Caring Society Gala. This year marks the fourth gala hosted by KSMA. We acknowledge our predecessor, Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services, for co-hosting our first year and we thank the Opaskwayak Child and Family Services for taking up the torch and hosting next year's event. It has been an honour to host the gala, and our staff have gone all out to make this night extra special.

Tonight, we gather in the spirit of hope, unity, and purpose – to honour the progress we've made and to look ahead to the future we are building together for First Nations children. This Gala is more than a celebration; it is a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to justice, equity, and opportunity for every child. The work of Dr. Cindy Blackstock and the Caring Society continues to be a powerful force for change, shedding light on the systemic challenges facing First Nations families and driving meaningful action across Canada.

As we look to the future, we know there is still much work to do, but with your continued support, we can continue to move forward with purpose and strength. Together, we are helping to create a future where every First Nations child has the chance to thrive. Thank you for being here tonight and may this evening inspire us all to keep working toward a brighter future for our children. Enjoy the evening and thank you.

Clarence Paupanekis

Board Chair

Kinosa Sipi Minisowin Agency

Hosted by



Kinosa Sipi Minisowin
Agency



Rhonda Apetagon

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

On behalf of the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency team, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for joining us. Your presence has made this year's Caring Society Gala a meaningful and memorable success. We are deeply grateful for your support.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society for their unwavering dedication to advocating for First Nations children and families. Dr. Cindy Blackstock's tireless work has positively impacted countless lives, and it is an honour for us to stand alongside her in continuing that vital mission.

To our generous sponsors and long-time supporters, as well as those attending for the first time—thank you. Your involvement reaffirms the strength of our community and the importance of unity in supporting our children and families. You are an essential part of this evening, and we are truly grateful to have you with us.

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 15th Annual Caring Society Gala. The Gala originated as an emergency fundraising effort when the Caring Society lost all government funding after co-filing, with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the human rights case for First Nations children at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. As many of you are aware, the case remains before the

Tribunal, as Canada has yet to submit sufficient evidence to demonstrate that it has ended its discrimination against First Nations children and taken measures to prevent its recurrence. Most recently, Canada appealed a legal order (2025 CHRT 80) from the Tribunal that simply requires the federal government and the co-complainants, the Caring Society and AFN, to present a plan with evidence to permanently end Canada's discrimination against First Nations children outside of Ontario and to not apply a solution for Ontario to the rest of the country, which has different needs. The Caring Society strongly condemns Canada's appeal.

As 2025 draws to a close, it is truly uplifting to spend time in Manitoba among the agencies and other supporters who have stood with First Nations children from the beginning, and where the sacred gift of Jordan's Principle originates. 2025 is also the 20th anniversary of Jordan's Principle. Many of you in this room joined us earlier this year to celebrate Bear Witness Day at the beautiful event led by children and youth, hosted by Sagkeeng Child and Family Services and Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA), in collaboration with the Anderson family. To all those joining us again tonight for the 15th Annual Gala, I am privileged to be in your company.

Lastly, I hope you will all join me in giving three cheers of appreciation to the KSMA for organizing the Gala again this year. KSMA has gone above and beyond in hosting four beautiful galas on behalf of the First Nations child welfare agencies of Manitoba to support equity for First Nations children. You make it look easy, but your hard work does not go unnoticed by any of us in the room tonight!

Cindy Blackstock

Executive Director,
First Nations Child & Family Caring Society



Best wishes for a successful fundraiser



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YELLOW THUNDERBIRD LODGE



Menu

Bakery Basket with a variety of fresh breads

Soup

Roasted fresh tomatoes and fragrant basil
with rich, flavourful, and comforting

Salad

Fresh spinach leaves, candied walnuts and Mandarin oranges,
drizzled with creamy poppyseed dressing

Main Course

Lightly seasoned, roasted chicken breast topped
with cremini mushrooms and a light white cream sauce.
Grilled tenderloin steak with herb compound butter melting on top.
Half-stuffed baked potato, baby carrots
and bruschetta stuffed zucchini

Dessert

Petites Gateaux: Layers of silky white, milk,
and dark chocolate mousse.

Freshly Brewed Coffee and Decaffeinated Coffee,
Herbal Teas





Programme

5 p.m.

Doors Open

5:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Drum Song

Prayer by KSMA Board Elder Advisor

Drum Song, Ray Stevenson

Welcoming Remarks

Norway House Cree Nation

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency,
Board Chair and Executive Director

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society,
Dr. Cindy Blackstock

Dinner Service Begins

Entertainment

Artist, Kendra Simpson

Fashion Show Auction

Entertainment

Artist, Hector Menow

Live Art Auction

Entertainment – Artist, Joseph Brightnose

Blanket Dance

Passing of The Bear

OCN Child & Family Services

Entertainment

Artist, Ken Henderson

Artist, Darren Bignell

Closing Remarks and Final Song

Final Draws

50/50 and Golden Ticket



Best wishes for a successful fundraiser



**Cree Nation Child and
Family Caring Agency**

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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.*



Best wishes for a successful fundraiser



YELLOW THUNDERBIRD LODGE



**Thank
you for
your
support!**



...tonight and all year round!

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All proceeds go to support equity
for First Nations children.



First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society

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



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