

First Peoples Child & Family Review

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Foreword

Coordinating Editors of First Peoples Child & Family Review

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Indigenous Children, Youth and Families in the Next 150 Years :
special Edition by Children and Youth

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Foreword

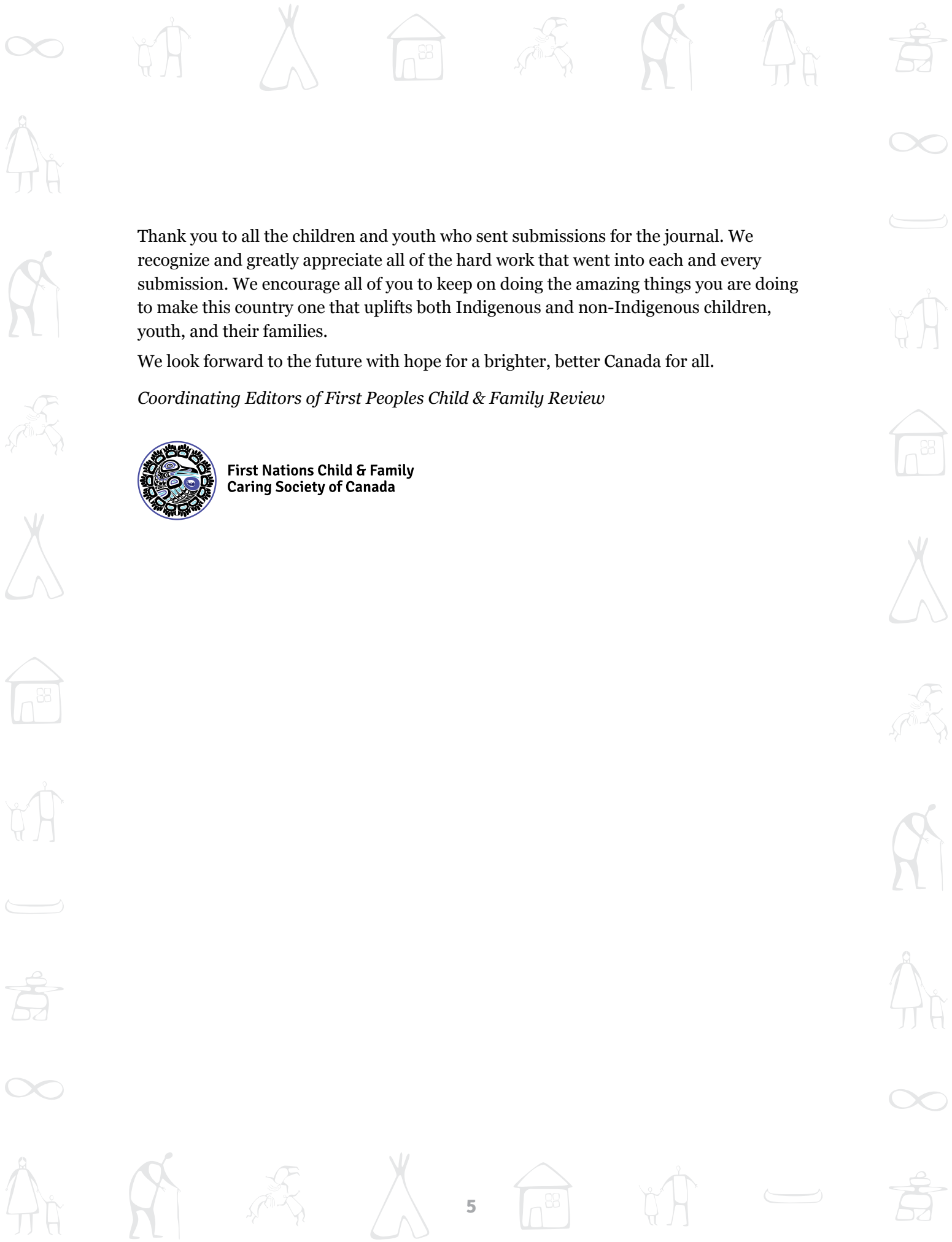
Young people are experts in love and fairness, and leaders in the reconciliation movement. It is our great pleasure to present this special child and youth edition of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review*. Meaningful reconciliation *must* engage young people in learning about Canada's history of colonization, encourage creative thinking about the future, and provide opportunities for children and youth to make a difference. Engaging young people in reconciliation and social justice nurtures compassion and moral courage, and bolsters self-confidence. Adults have much to learn from the wisdom of children and youth.

In 2017, Canada celebrated its 150th birthday. However, the events of the past century and a half have not always been cause for celebration. From the residential schools system and the 60's Scoop, to today's overrepresentation of Indigenous children in child welfare, it is important to acknowledge the discrimination that Indigenous children continue to face. We asked Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth across Canada to reflect on the past 150 years, along with their hopes for the future, and to share their thoughts and aspirations in the form of creative writing, poetry, drawing, and other creative mediums.

Readers may notice drawings of Spirit Bear throughout the journal. A member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Spirit Bear represents the 165,000 First Nations children impacted by the First Nations child welfare case at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, as well as the thousands of other children who have committed to learning about the case and have taken part in peaceful and respectful actions in support of reconciliation and equity. In December 2017, Spirit Bear hosted a teddy bear tea party in Ottawa with children and youth from the region to celebrate the launch of his illustrated children's book *Spirit Bear and Children Make History* (fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear). These drawings are from children who attended the teddy bear tea party and were inspired to share a powerful message, "Every Child Matters!"

Another theme that emerged is Jordan's Principle (www.jordansprinciple.ca). Named in honour of Jordan River Anderson from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, Jordan's Principle makes sure that when a First Nations child needs services they get them right away. This applies to all services and to all First Nations children, on or off reserve. In early 2018, students from Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Gatineau, Quebec, created a series of public service announcements about Jordan's Principle. We are honoured to share a link to these videos in this edition of the journal.

Each submission in the journal was reviewed by another young person to ensure the publication is respectful and conveys fairness, togetherness, respect, and love. Thank you to the Child and Youth Circle for your thoughtful reviews.



Thank you to all the children and youth who sent submissions for the journal. We recognize and greatly appreciate all of the hard work that went into each and every submission. We encourage all of you to keep on doing the amazing things you are doing to make this country one that uplifts both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, youth, and their families.

We look forward to the future with hope for a brighter, better Canada for all.

Coordinating Editors of First Peoples Child & Family Review



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