

First Peoples Child & Family Review

An Interdisciplinary Journal Honouring the Voices, Perspectives, and Knowledges of First Peoples

Artworks

Volume 16, Number 1, 2021

Special Edition by Children and Youth in Honour of Shannen's Dream

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1088881ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1088881ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

ISSN

1708-489X (print)

2293-6610 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

(2021). Artworks. *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, 16(1), 14–48.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/1088881ar>

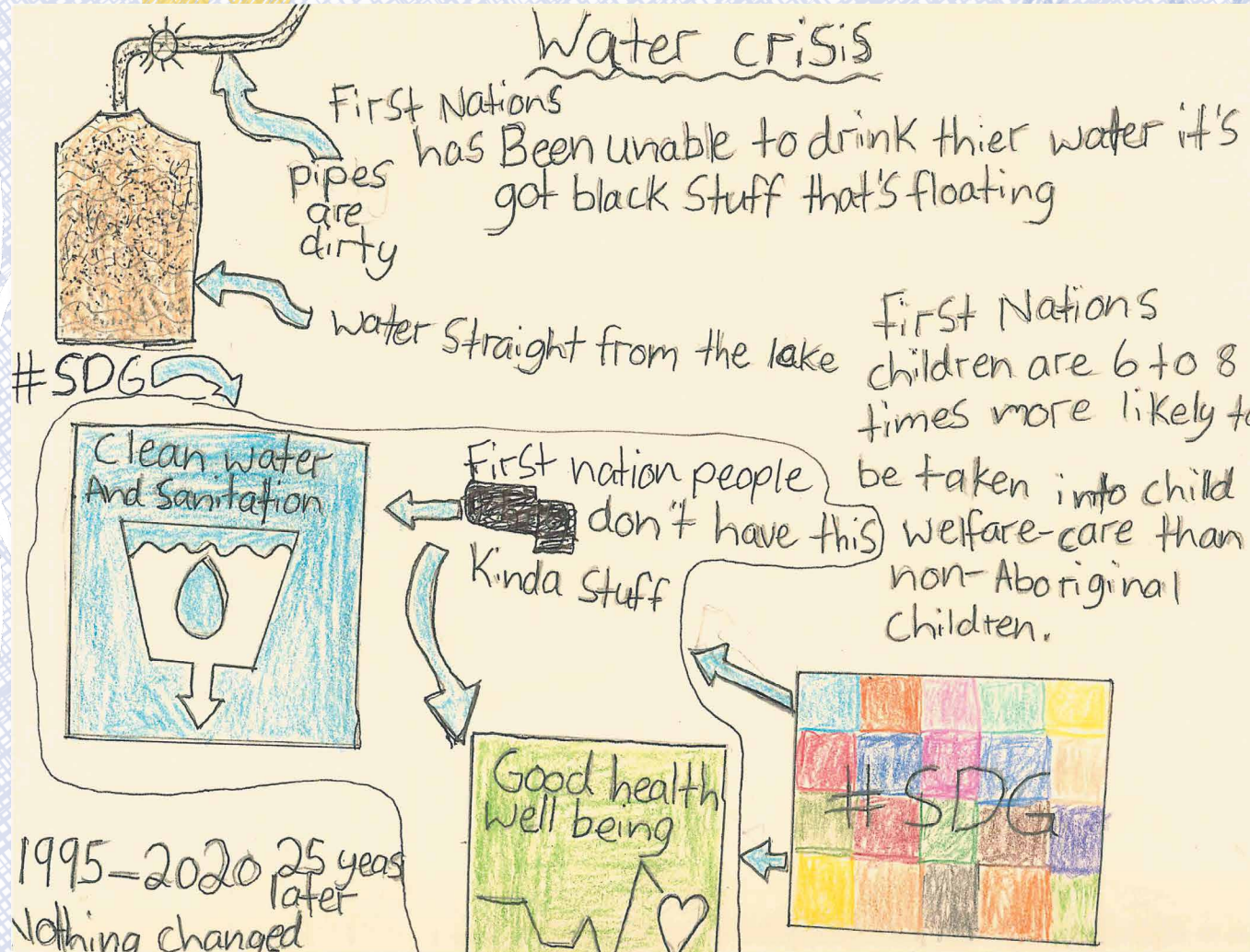
By Macie

Shannen's Dream

Roses are red,
 Violets are blue,
 Every child deserves a school.
 Black or white isn't,
 That alright?
 Shannen was brave,
 Shannen had might,
 She knew things,
 Weren't fair so she
 Made them right.
 North, south, East and
 West we are all Canadian,
 Don't we deserve the
 The best? Young have power
 Young have might. Just,
 Like Shannen they can,
 Make things right. She wanted,
 Opportunities. Shannen was extraordinary
 Shannen was unique. She got put in
 Portables because of a terrible oil leak.
 She speak to the Prime Minister about how thing
 Weren't fair. A few years later after shannen's death a new
 School was built in Attawapiskat.



Macie, age 9



Wilford, age 12



Shannen wanted every Canadian child to have a school.
Have a heart and do your part to take place in 'Shannen's dream'.
Attawapiskat doesn't want help, they want opportunities.
Now Attawapiskat has a school, why didn't they get it when Shannen asked the way?
Never forget about Shannen Koostachin.
Every child should get a school to have proper education.
Now there is a school named Shannen Koostachin Elementary school

Know that Shannen Koostachin is a hero to all First Nation communities.
Over and over, the government refused to listen to Shannen and her dream.
Oh my, the children must have been cold when they had to walk to play school and back.
Shannen Koostachin wanted to change things and she succeeded to do so.
The children were not able to have library classes.
Attawapiskat is cold, some of the kids might have gotten sick.
Change is what Shannen wanted and she got what she wanted.
Her school was J.P. Nakogee that got closed down because of the oil spill.
In Attawapiskat they have to move every year in the spring because of flood.
No indigenous communities should be treated differently than us we are all Canadian children.
Shannen cared about her dream and we do too!

Dream anything possible, like Shannen did.
Really stand up when you know something isn't right.
Even know Shannen is no longer with us, her story lives on.

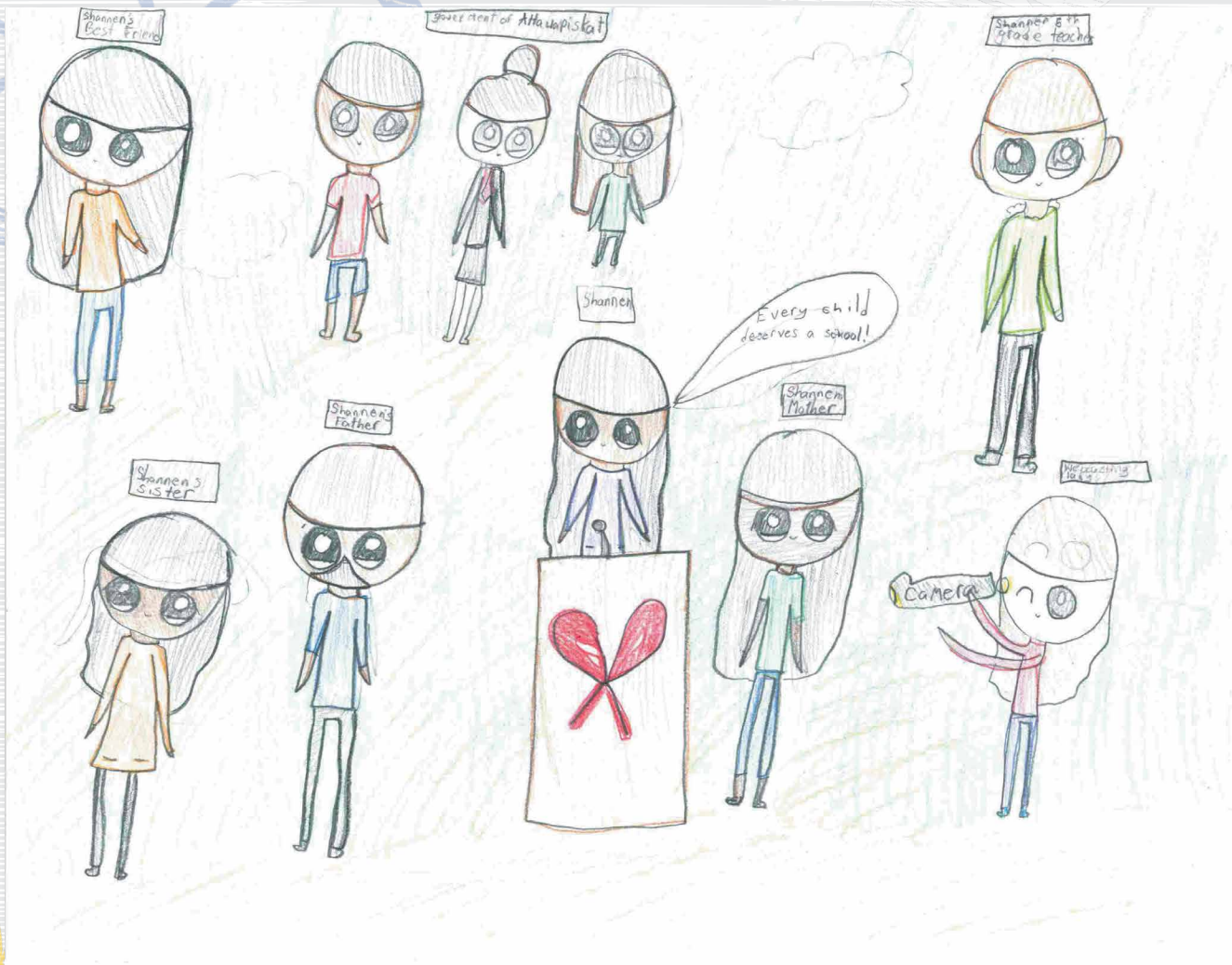


Attawapiskat is a cold place where you need to boil water to drink.
Maybe someday you can make your own dream come true, just like Shannen did!

By: Claire



Claire, age 9





She is stuck inside of my head.

Help First Nation's people.

A spark is in her.

Not fair that we get a school and they dont

never again shold have no school

ever:en deserves

Now!!!

by: Mason



Mason, age 9

WATER CRISIS

CAUSE THEY SHOUDN'T HAVE TO !!!

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

CLEAN WATER

1 x 20

Some people have to buy about 20 water jugs a week.

DONT WASTE WATER

The government wasted 3.5 million \$ on a water supply that doesn't work and hired a random guy that isn't trained to work there.

Now the government are fighting to fix what whos going to fix water supply just what they did to Canada, (Canada is one of the worlds richest in water resources).

Why cant Indigenous people buy and filter there own water.

The water that they get is pumped right from the lake not filtered not anything it comes from nasty pipes. Why should a child or Mother struggle for water. In California, cancer causing contaminants in the water.

Nour K., age 12



Isla, age 9



Dear Mr. Marc Miller,

My name is Isla and I stand up for Shannen. Shannen's Dream is a big deal. Her dream is also special. I heard about Shannen's story and it hit me. I thought about this and you should too. If you were Shannen Koostachin you would want to give your friends in your school and out of your school, the real experience of a school, not only portables. You also would feel really sad and mad if Shannen said you don't deserve a school. You would not feel very good and I promise you that. Sometimes you can't only think about yourself. Shannen's dream should not have taken her death to only get a new school. It wasn't fair. Just because you are the Minister of Indigenous Services does not




mean you can treat them like that. I also made you a poem...


Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
Young kids can
make a difference.
And so can you!


Sincerely,
Isla




Water Crisis


Water comes directly from the non-purified lake. 

Dirty water with black stuff. 


The non-purified water contains coliform, E.Coli, cancer causing Trihalomethans. 

Can die because of the dirty water.

Treatment facility is ignored by the government. 


Pipes are not working they are all rusted and broken. 

Now is = 2020
They are not working from = -1995
25 years

Have to \$ buy really big water bottles. 

lack of water.

Really bad water.

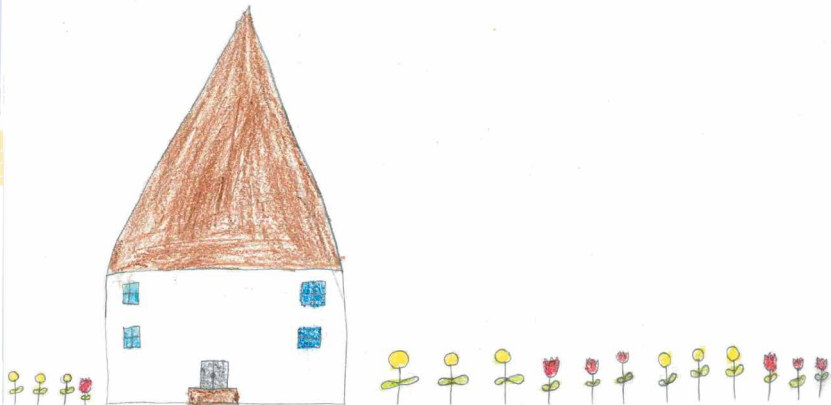
Some people have to leave homes. 

Now stopped testing the water because of the pandemic

174 Advisories

Noor F., age 12

Kattawapiskat elementary School



Every child deserves a school. I'm so happy that there is a new school called Kattawapiskat elementary school but there is still children that have no school. I think every child deserves a school like Shannen. Back then when Shannen was alive she wanted a real school. I think she should of had a real school not a portable. Sorry for the loss of Shannen Kooostachin but im happy that Shannes dream came true and she got a new school called Kattawapiskat.

sincerely Lola



Lola, age 9



My name is Lauren and my and my teacher Mrs. Theunissen for know to the children of Attawapiskat who had her as a teacher in the early 2000's Mrs. Filton who actually taught Shannen and she saw a spark in Shannen and she was right! I think Shannen's dream was an amazing one and we need to make sure everyone gets a school for children to feel safe and happy. I don't think it's fair for me to go to a real school in Nova Scotia without a portable in sight and also have safe water to drink out of a tap while Attawapiskat and many other First Nations communities have to boil their water. I feel like it's unbelievable children had to protest for a simple playground. I



Know Shannen's Dream was an important dream and we need to raise money and fight until every single portable school gets a real school!

By: Lauren

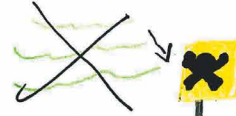


Lauren, age 9

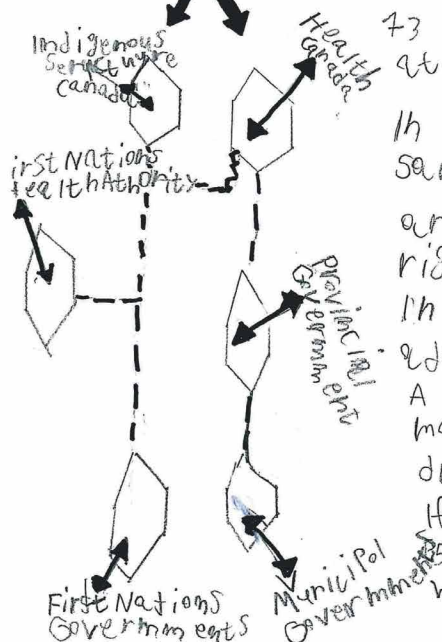
BjAmro

Water Water Crisis in First Nations communities

We all need clean water



Water governance structure



Some of the advisories date as far back as 1995 - like Shog Lake 40 First Nation.

43 per cent of first Nations' water systems are at high or medium risk of contamination. In 2010, the United Nations declared water and sanitation human rights, acknowledging they are essential to the realization of all other rights.

In May 2012, there were 17 drinking water advisories in over 100 First Nations.

A single drinking water advisory can mean as many as 5,000 people access to safe, clean drinking water.

If Canada raises corporate tax rates from 15 to 25.5 percent, all First Nations' could have working water systems.

Amro, age 12



Shannen's dream will come true.
Schools are helpful to make people
happy. Shannen needs a big
neighbourhood so she has space.
Kids in Canada need a school!
Everybody needs a school in the
world. Shannen needs people to have
a school. Shannen reserves a
school because she doesn't have a
school and it's not fair for Shannen
and her friends. Shannen died in a
terrible car accident. Shannen
Koostachin died in June 1st, 2010.
In Shannen's school there was
an oil spill at the school so
they had to go in a port-a-belle so
they can stay safe and not
be sick. All of the people were
getting really sick and that's why the
people in the school had to go in to a
port-a-belle.



Olivia, age 9



For Ms. M... Miller // From Charlotte

Charlotte, age 9



Dear Mr. Marc Miller,
 I think it is so unfair that the First Nations do not have, clean water, schools or fresh fruit and vegetables. It is also unfair that the First Nations people have to boil dirty water to drink it and they could get sick. Over here in Dartmouth, we can just turn on the tap and fresh clean water and that is very unfair to the First Nations people. In some communities, they do not even have school for children to learn in and they should have the same education as us. First Nations people should have, clean water, fresh food, clothes and good homes. All of Canada should have the same things as us. First Nations people matter too!! Shannen Koostachin should have been listened to before she died. It is like she needed to die before understand what was going on. She tried so hard to get a school, but now they do in Attawapiskat, but there are still communities that only portables and not real schools for the children to learn in. First Nations People Matter too!!



Shannen Koostachin Do First Nations Deserve Portables? NO

Help First Nations Remember, all kids matter

All kids matter Everyone has a story

None will stop us. More happiness, more happy children.

None will not come to school.

Everyone has power

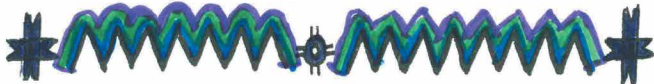
Nation

By Charlotte





Dear Mr. Marc Miller,
I hope Shannen's dream continues on by people making speeches, letters or even making a sign. Shannen's dream was important because every town in Canada should get a full school no matter what. I want to continue on Shannen's dream by making people notice these types of towns, and what they don't get. Attawapiskat and any other town who doesn't have rights deserves to have schools, clean water or anything else that we get and they don't. Shannen didn't do this for the same. She did this to have rights. I'm making this letter to try to make a difference in the first nation communities. If wasn't until her death when the finally realised that a portable is not good for a child's education. It's wrong that they had to put their warm clothing on every time they went to physics, computer lab or anything else. I couldn't imagine walking to school and not



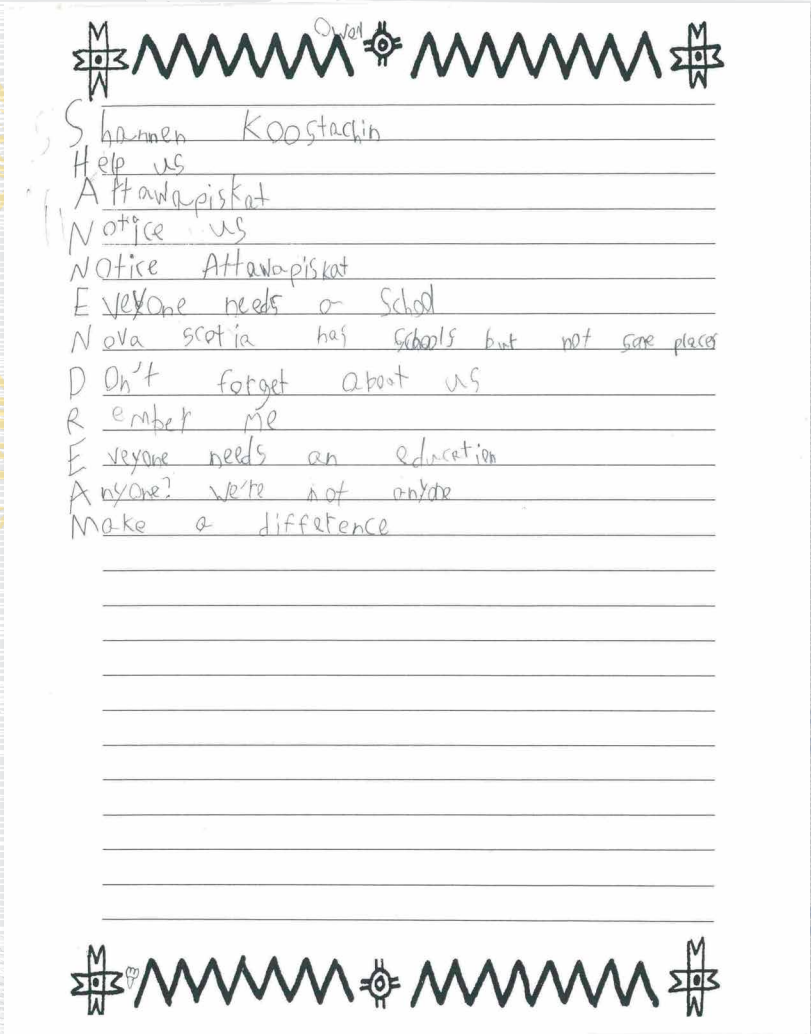
getting to go in a school building. I think Shannen was very brave to fight for rights for her town. It's time for every child to deserve rights, no matter their culture or where they live in Canada.

Sincerely
Whitney
Mekim



Whitney, age 9

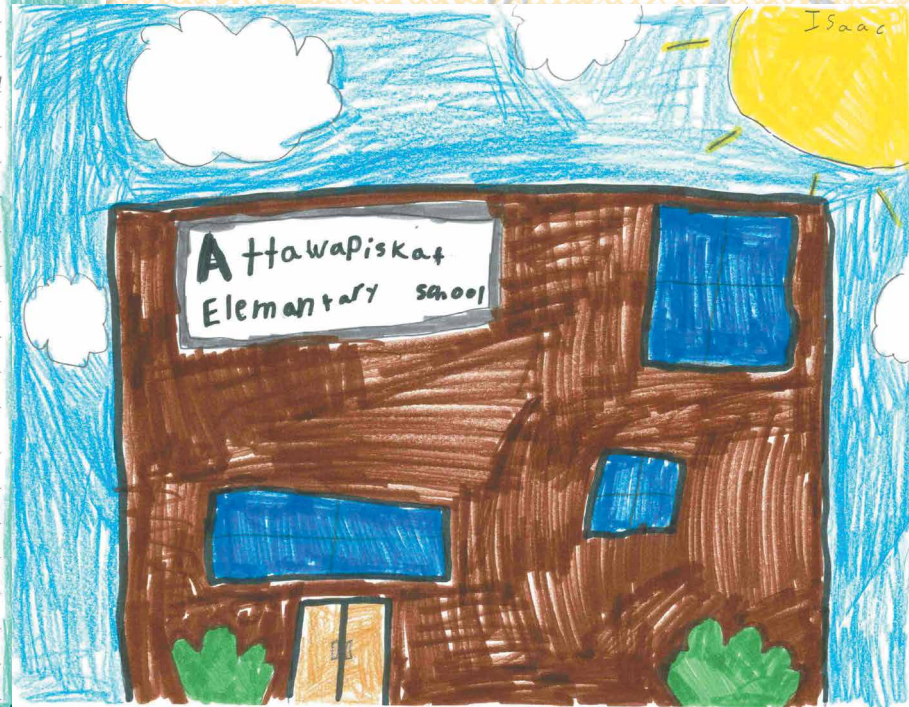




Shannen Koostachin
Help us
Attawapiskat
Notice us
Notice Attawapiskat
Everyone needs a school
Nova Scotia has schools but not some places
Don't forget about us
Remember me
Everyone needs an education
Anyone? We're not anyone
Make a difference

Owen, age 10

Schools matter
Help the kids that have no school
Attawapiskat
NO Kids should not have a school
Not fair
Every child should have a school
Never give up your dream



Isaac, age 9



Dear Mr. Marc Miller,
I go to Colby Village Elementary School and I think that it is not fair that kids in Nova Scotia like me get to have a nice big warm school, but the kids in Attawapiskat had to get stuck in portables because of the oil spill at their old school. Shannen KooStachin had to lose her life just for her to be able to go to school, while we get to wake up and go right to our school. I hope that Shannen's dream comes true because young people have just as much power as older people do. All Shannen wanted was a school after she died her dream came true and she was pretty young. I can make a difference by making posters, protesting for equal schools and even sending a letter like I am now. My hope for Shannen's dream is to get more schools in First Nations communities because every child's education matters. Shannen KooStachin did not only want schools for Attawapiskat she wanted schools



for all Canadian children. Isn't that nice how a young special kid did what she did? It is not fair at all how we can just go to gym and computer lab without having to get all geared up while the kids in Attawapiskat had to put on their warm gear just to go to gym class or computer lab. Just imagine all of the little kids who had no library and just wanted to learn how to read. What is really special is that the Indigenous people did not want to be given things they want to do it by their selves and be proud. I feel sad because of her story but I feel proud of her. I know that we can make a difference and you know it too.

Sincerely Brooklyn



Brooke, age 9



Meweda

WATER CRISIS IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

- 870,000 people under a water crisis
 $\frac{174 \text{ Advisories}}{\times 5000 \text{ people each}} = 870,000$

Some people get brown dirty water from their taps

Some people find unknown little black things in their water

Government
 The government provide a water treatment facility that costed 3.6 million but it didnt even work.

The council of Canadians learned that the federal government has

WATER TREATMENT

- The water advisers started in 1995

2020 (this year)
 - 1995 (when it started)
 = 0025 years

This adviser is saying that the water is undrinkable

First nations shouldn't have to pay for water like other places in Canada. In order to drink safe water they use big jugs of water.

suspended water quality monitoring activities since the beginning of the pandemic which was on march. This causes the people who live in reserves not to know whether or not the water is safe to drink

Sustainable Development Goals that could help in this problem

#3 Good health and well being because everybody needs to have access to clean water so they can stay healthy

#6 Clean water and sanitation because every one needs to have access to clean water and sanitation

#16 Peace Justice and strong institutions because everyone should be

The water that First Nation Community gets is from the lake directly to their taps

These houses directly get water from the lake

Contaminants in the water include coliform, E-Coli, cancer-causing Trihalomethans and Uranium

73% percent of first nations water systems are at high or medium risk of contamination

Meweda, age 12



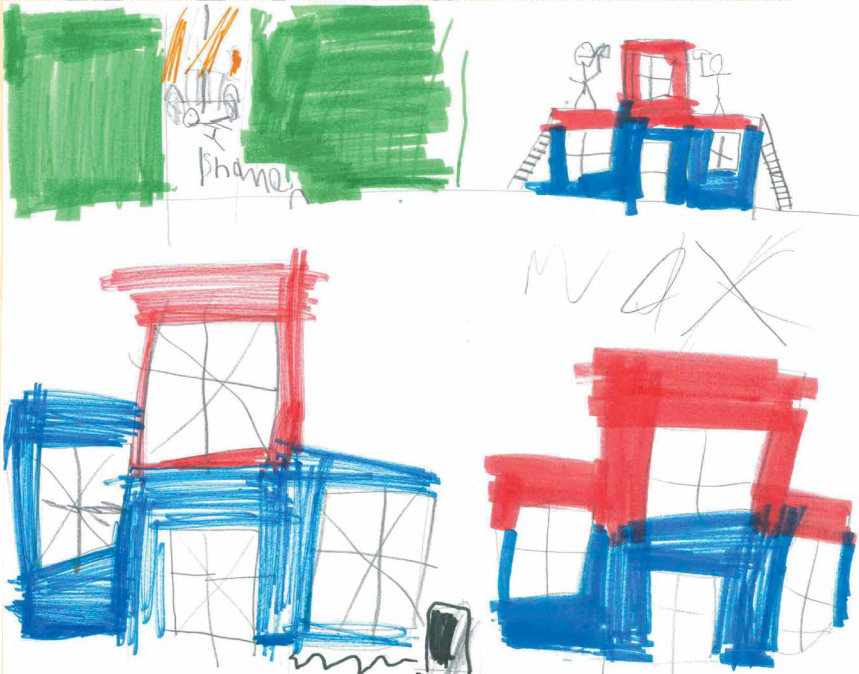
Hello my name is Maddy and I wanted to let you know every child deserves a school. There was person named Shannen Koostachin and she was first nations. She did not have a school any more because there was an oil spill so they had to learn in portables our teacher taught Shannen Koostachin. There are still 45 schools to be built!

After her death they built a school and she lived in Attawapiskat. If you do something about it Canada could be a better place my point is we have a warm school clean water some people don't. I am not just writing this to you just because I want this to happen it's also because it's the right thing to do. What if you were in a portable with no clean water it's really not fair you're so lucky you have all these things other people don't have my point is every child deserves a school.

Yours truly maddy



Madison, age 9



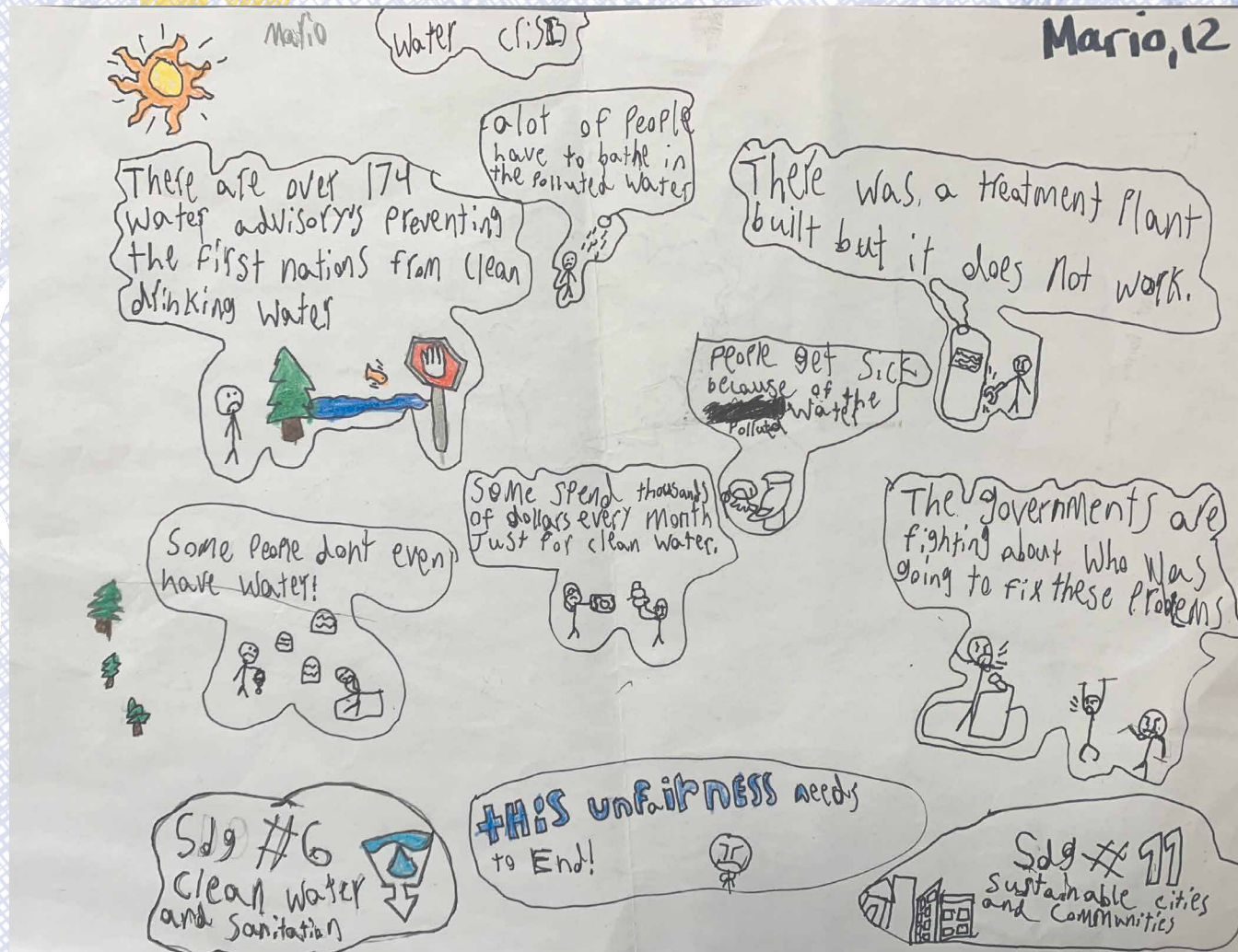
Dear Mr Matt Mixer
The re are indigenoys communities without
schools and I think it is not fair for the
communities without schools. Now in
atla Wars Kat has a school because shannen
koo Stachin died and after she died and after
she dies a school was built. It is not fair
because she died for a new school and
people are still with no a good
education on these schools.

Sincerely

Max



Max, age 9



Mario, age 12

WATER CRISIS

The water many Indigenous communities depend on is contaminated, difficult to access or risky due to faulty treatment system.

Contaminants: The contaminants in the water include Coliform, E.coli, and cancer causing Trihalomethanes.

Each water advisory, at least 5,000 people lack of access.

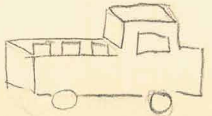
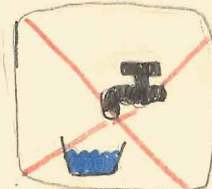

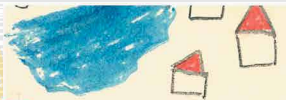
In 2018, there were 174 water advisories.

$5,000 \times 174 =$
870,000 people

25 years - ago
Some advisories date as far back as 1945 - Like Shoal Lake.

They have to order water.
↳ might get delayed in winter

Right now, there's covid the First Nations are in a huge disadvantage.



Jaela, age 12

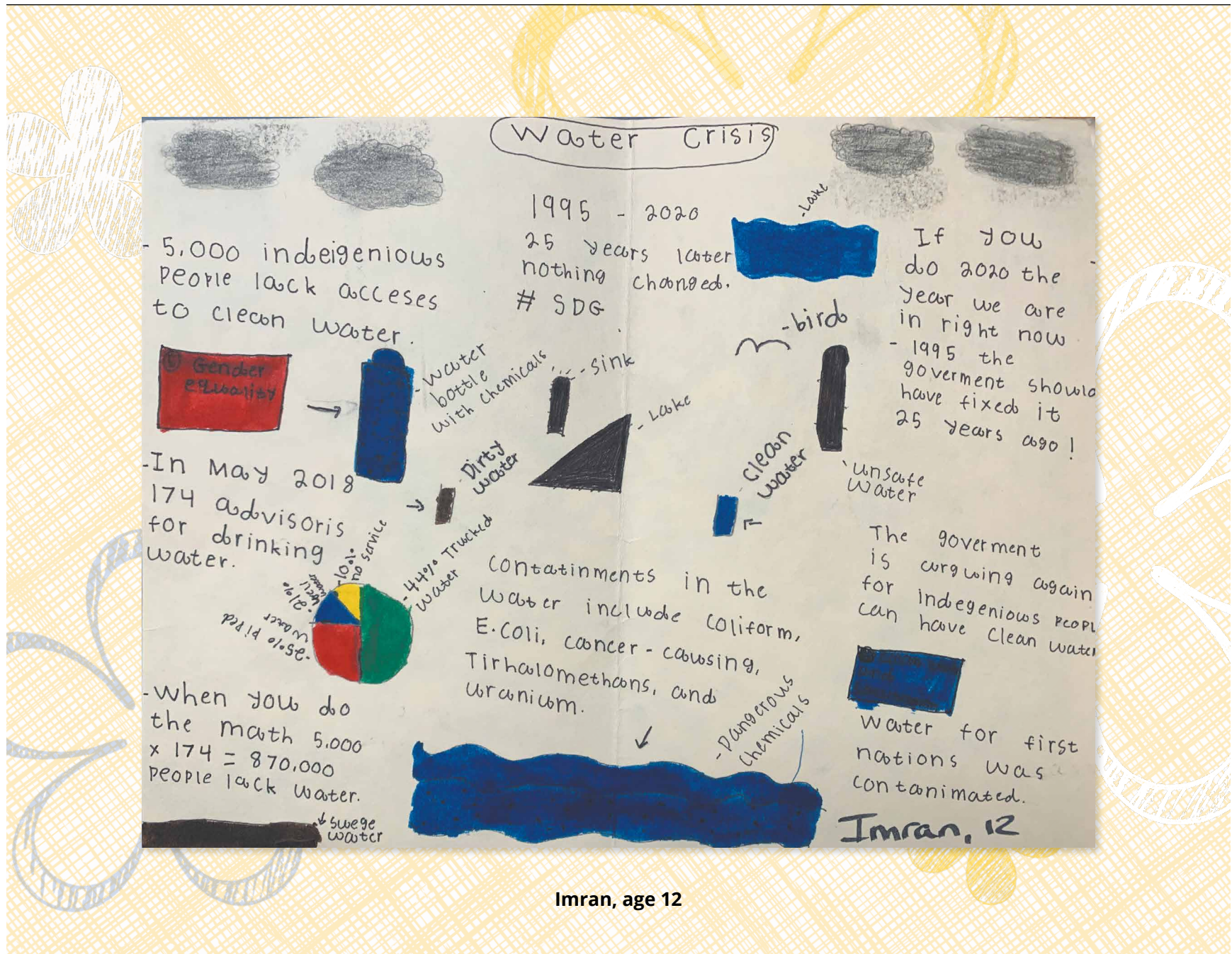


Roses are red, violets are blue,
 Indigenous people deserve opportunities
 too. You don't care, but other people
 do, just give them a chance please
 do, they are just like us like
 me and you. Normal people just
 walking in the blue, they need
 opportunities like me and you, not
 lots of gifts, they should be
 proud of the way they live. It's
 up to you to change your chance.
 I have a hard life and
 they should too, you should
 see now that it's not very
 fair, not fair at all to the
 people out there, just
 walking without a home
 or food too. They are
 very special special
 indeed their colour doesn't
 matter it's what's underneath.

BY Mary



Mary, age 9



Imran, age 12



Shannens dremes,
help First Nation communities.
And help children that are in poverty.
Need help.
Need fresh water,
ending no school build more.
Nation are meaner we have to sit together to help our country
Sitting for a long time in a portland is not for

Dreaming for a new school,
ending they don't have a library,
education is important,
make more schools.
Education has a big meaning to them.
Save our country with schools.



Matteo, age 10



My name is Lauren and my and my teacher Mrs. Theunissen for known to the children of Attawapiskat who had her as a teacher in the early 2000's Mrs. F.loon who actually taught Shannen and she saw a spark in Shannen and she was right! I think Shannen's dream was an amazing one and we need to make sure everyone gets a school for children to feel safe and happy. I don't think it's fair for me to go to a real school in Nova Scotia without a portable in sight and also have safe water to drink out of a tap while Attawapiskat and many other first Nations communities have to boil their water. I feel like it's unbelievable children had to protest for a simple playground. I



Know Shannen's Dream was an important dream and we need to raise money and fight until every single portable school gets a real school!

By: Lauren



Lauren, age 9

WATER CRISIS



Meaning of Water Crisis:

- Lack of water
- Can't drink it
- Wasting water
- Not enough water
- Really bad

Never Had clean Water for 25 years.

2020
- 1995
= 25 years

-atima.M



Sustainable Development Goals

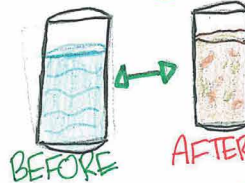
5000
x 174
= 870,000 - all together

INDIGENOUS FAMILIES AT RISK:

870,000 indigenous people lack access to water in the Reserves.

73%
73 Percent of First Nations' water systems are at high risk of Contamination.

- Contaminants in water include:
- Cancer-causing
 - Coliform
 - Uranium
 - Trihalomethanes
 - E. Coli



NAZKO FIRST NATION WATER TREATMENT

The filters and backup generations broke and failed to work.



GOVERNMENT doesn't pay for the water treatment

Water comes from Lake -unclean

Fatima, age 12

Alexey, 12 water crisis

146 cases of No clean water
Some places go to have had a case
1995

- government is not doing any thing about it
- they made treatment water filter that cost 3.0m/1 that does not work.
- the town asked the government to repair the water treatment place but the government did not respond water is being payed for by the town people
- the water effects gas cancer causing.
- the water is dangerous most kids live with no water
- kids and adults get sick from the water
- they don't get rain water the first nations are being treated poorly.
- the towns have chugson water the only thing that can be clean is chugson water

Solutions
and staff that they could

- the government should be more aware.
- the government needs to be more helpful like the water giving them more money
- one thing that the government do to help is donate or give money.
- the government should be giving money to the towns
- the government could also make the people
- the government should give water for free

- the government is stopping spending water quality monitoring.
- towns are being put into jeopardy because the first nation
- a lot of towns are at risk and they
- some places on reserves are at risk because the water and other problems.
- some places need other supplies too.

Alexey, age 12



Mila
Roses are red, violets are blue
every child deserves a school too.
Some people are black, people
are white, everybody is different isn't
that alright, from east to west, North
or South, Everbody is great inside and out
42 schools left to be built, shallent
the government feel tot's of guilt.
Children are struggling, can't you
see, let them feel good, help them
be free. It's just so sad, it's so
uncool, it took Shannen's death to
build the kids a school. It's just
a colour, the colour of your skin.
don't you realise what your
doing is a sin! Imagine not being allowed
to read, the creators of the
reserve are so full of greed.



Mila, age 9

As a non-indigenous youth, I don't know what it feels like to be discriminated against. I have always had a good education and access to good health care. But there isn't equality in Canada and not everyone has these same rights and that needs to change. That's why I want to be an ally, because I know that what's happening currently and what's been happening in Canada isn't right. Here are some children's rights around the world: education, health care and safe drinking water. Those rights don't all apply for children living on reserves. There is discrimination and systemic racism in this country and that has to end now.



We are all kids who have plans and dreams for the future. We are all kids who want to have a good life with a good job and family. Why is that so hard to achieve for indigenous children? People need to hear their story and the side of Canadian history that is often forgotten. I, and many others, hope for a future when everyone is equal and there is no discrimination towards indigenous peoples. But before that, there needs to be change. Shannen had a dream so let's make it happen.

Liv, age 14