



Newsletter



May Update

Mnaasged is thrilled to welcome new staff to our team this month, and we look forward to connecting with you at upcoming community events! To help honour significant upcoming dates, we have provided brief summaries below for Red Dress Day, Bear Witness Day, and the Moose Hide Campaign.

In alignment with our recent Stage C Designation, we are currently finalizing our strategic budget for the 2026/27 fiscal year. Because First Nations and the Ministry have entrusted us with expanded responsibilities, we are actively ensuring our operational capacity meets the needs of the families we serve. To support this vital work, we will be releasing several additional job postings throughout the summer months.

Upcoming Dates

May 5th - Red Dress
May 10th - Bear Witness Day
May 14th - Moose Hide Campaign Day

- Suckerfish Moon (Namebine-giizis)
- Planting Moon (Latiy^thos)
- Planting Moon (Ehahkiiheet Niipaahum)

Member Nations

Mnaasged is proud to have partnership
with our communities
"Working together, we can move forward"



A message from Executive Director

As we enter May, we take time to reflect on several important days of advocacy and remembrance that are deeply connected to the heart of our work at Mnaasged. Throughout this month, we honor Red Dress Day, holding space for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S). We observe Bear Witness Day in support of Jordan's Principle. We also stand in solidarity with the Moose Hide Campaign, committing to the movement to end violence against women and children. These vital observances remind us of the critical importance of safety, equity, and healing within our communities.

Grounded in the values of our Member Nations, this is also an exciting time of growth for Mnaasged. Fueled by our recent funding additions, we are deeply focused on agency progress and the strategic expansion of our capabilities. A major part of this momentum involves actively growing our team so we can successfully advance the Stage C designation process. As we prepare to integrate new leadership and frontline staff, we look forward to sharing these new career opportunities with you throughout the coming months.

We are incredibly honored to continue this journey of growth and transformation. Above all, we remain steadfast in our commitment to working alongside our Member Nations, ensuring that our progress directly supports and uplifts the children, families, and communities we serve.

Thank you,

Melissa Patriguin



Red Dress Day May 5th

Honoring Red Dress Day: Remembering Our Stolen Sisters and Two-Spirit Relatives

May 5th, marks Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). The empty red dresses we see hanging in trees, on porches, and across our communities serve as a powerful and heartbreaking visual reminder of the mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, and Two-Spirit relatives who have been taken from us.

At Mnaasged Child and Family Services, this day resonates deeply with the work we do every day. The systemic issues that gave rise to the MMIWG2S crisis are deeply intertwined with the intergenerational trauma our communities continue to heal from.

Every child deserves to grow up safe, loved, and protected.

How You Can Participate on May 5th:

Wear Red: Wear a red shirt, dress, or ribbon to show your solidarity and raise awareness.

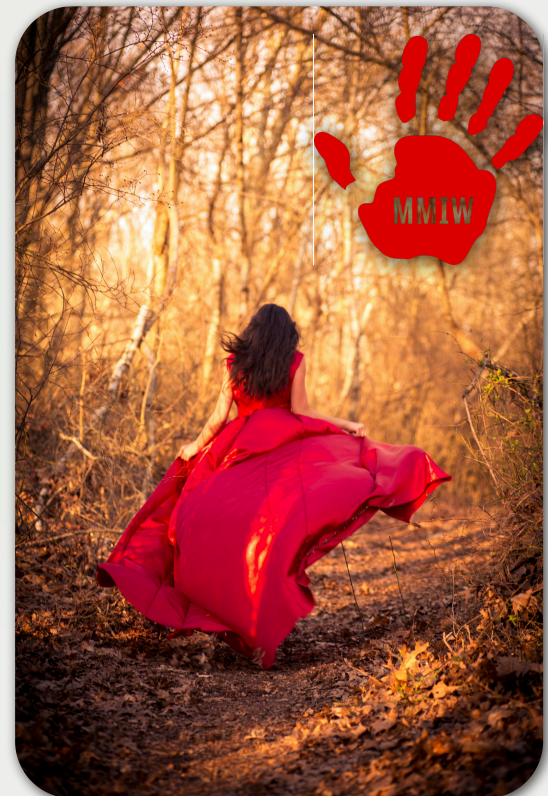
Hang a Red Dress: Hang a red dress outside your home, in a window, or in your yard to honor the spirits of those who are missing or murdered.

Attend a Local Event: Join community walks, sacred fires, or vigils taking place within our Nations.

Read the Calls for Justice: Take time to read or revisit the 231 Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG.

Let us stand united in honoring the spirits of those we have lost, demanding justice, and wrapping our arms around the families who continue to grieve. We remember them today, tomorrow, and always.

MMIWG Support Line is an independent, national, toll-free support line available to provide assistance 24/7.
Call: 1-844-413-6649



Bear Witness Day May 10th

2026 is the 21st anniversary of Jordan's Principle.



First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society
Société de soutien
à l'enfance et à la famille
des Premières Nations

On May 10, Mnaasged joins communities across the country in observing Bear Witness Day, a vital day of action and reflection led by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society. This day honours the life and legacy of Jordan River Anderson and calls for the full, unwavering implementation of Jordan's Principle.

Jordan's Principle is a fundamental, child-first legal rule ensuring that First Nations children have equitable access to the health, social, and educational services they need, exactly when they need them without jurisdictional delays or denials.

This year holds special significance: on February 5, 2026, the Canadian Senate passed a motion officially recognizing May 10 each year as Bear Witness Day, cementing it as a national day of action. It is a powerful reminder that the fight for equity and the wellbeing of First Nations children requires all of us to stand together.

How You Can Participate:

We encourage our team, partners, and Member Nations to "bear witness" and show support for First Nations children on May 10. Here are a few ways to get involved:

Bring a Bear: Bring your favourite teddy bear or stuffed animal to work, school, or daycare, or place a bear in your front window at home to show your visible support to the community.

Host a Teddy Bear Tea Party: Gather with colleagues, family, or friends to share snacks and learn about Jordan's Principle together.

Learn with Spirit Bear: Explore the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society's Spirit Bear books, documentaries, and learning resources, which beautifully tell the story of Jordan's Principle from a child's perspective.

Raise Awareness: Spread the word and share photos of your bears on social media using the hashtags #JordansPrinciple and #BearWitnessDay.

<https://www.fncaringsociety.com/bear-witness-day>



Moose Hide Campaign Day May 14th

Standing Together: Moose Hide Campaign Day



MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN
CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE

Following Red Dress Day, our commitment to ending violence in our communities continues on Thursday, May 14th, with Moose Hide Campaign Day.

Founded by Paul Lacerte and his daughter Raven along British Columbia's Highway of Tears, the Moose Hide Campaign is an Indigenous-led, grassroots movement. It calls on all Canadians, with a specific focus on engaging men and boys, to take a stand against violence towards women, children, and all those along the gender continuum

At Mnaasged Child and Family Services, we know that ending the cycle of violence requires the active involvement of our men and youth. Fostering healthy masculinity and healing intergenerational trauma are vital steps in keeping our families whole and our children out of harm's way. When our men step forward as protectors, advocates, and equal partners in healing, the entire community grows stronger.

How You Can Get Involved on May 14th:

Wear the Pin: Wearing a small square of moose hide is an everyday, visible commitment to honor, respect, and protect the women and children in your life.

Join the Fast: Fasting is a traditional Indigenous practice of purification, empathy, and deep reflection. The campaign invites supporters to participate in a one-day fast from sunrise to sunset to deepen their personal commitment to the cause.

Tune into the Livestream: Communities across the country will join the national Moose Hide Campaign Day virtual plenary, featuring keynote speakers, traditional ceremonies, and interactive workshops.

Start the Conversation: Use the pin as a starting point for dialogue. Talk to your sons, nephews, partners, and friends about accountability, respect, and what it means to create safe spaces for everyone.

To learn more about the movement, order free pins for your family or workplace, or register for the national livestream, please visit moosehidecampaign.ca.

Mnaasged Director of Corporate Services Update

Overview of 2026/2027 Annual Budget Process

A critical milestone to advance to full designation is the approval of the permanent funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The Ministry's budget process for funding is based on a fiscal cycle that ensures dollars are planned, approved, and allocated to support programs and services.

Determining this year's budget involves preparing detailed spending plans for operational and capital costs that reflect our growth and new responsibilities. The budget proposal is reviewed in detail with the Ministry and adjustments made to fit within the overall fiscal requirements prior to Board approval.

The 2026/2027 budget process is expected to last another several weeks before it is finalized.

Lori Clark, Director of Corporate Services



Additional Questions?

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