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Tikinagan

Child & Family Services



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**HONOURING
OUR CHILDREN**
ԿՐԿԵՆՆԵՐԻՆ **JUNE 24TH DAY**

Honouring our Children Day 2023 Staff Toolkit



A CHILD LOVES EVERYBODY FIRST

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JUNE 24TH ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ DAY



About Honouring our Children Day, #HOCDay, and this toolkit

Honouring Our Children Day is a time to celebrate our children, and remind them that they are special, as well as supported and cared for by their community. First celebrated in 2009, the intention of this day is to celebrate our children and acknowledge their strength, bravery, and resilience. Honouring Our Children Day is an opportunity for your community to come together to show our children that they are part of their circle of care.

This year, we are also taking this opportunity to promote our #YouthKnow Team, Tikinagan's youth advisory team. This team is formed with youth from our 30 First Nations and support Tikinagan by providing input about youth culture, social media, and living in their communities. We want to engage, empower, and equip our First Nation youth by hearing their ideas, utilizing their skills, and challenging them as leaders.

This toolkit is intended to support the participation of various stakeholders, including Tikinagan, our communities, our families, our Foster Parents, and our youth. Join us on June 24th or whenever is suitable for your community. This toolkit includes:

- Key Messaging
- How to Participate
- How to Plan an Event
- Social Media Messaging
- Contest Information
- A Radio Script
- Event Poster

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Goals of Honouring our Children Day

- To acknowledge the children in Tikinagan care for their strengths and unique identities.
- To show children and youth in Tikinagan care that their communities are part of their circle of care.
- To de-stigmatize views about children and youth in and from care by increasing public awareness and understanding.

Key Messages for Honouring our Children Day

- Tikinagan's 13th Annual Honouring Our Children Day, on June 24th, is all about honouring the children in care throughout the 30 Northwestern Ontario First Nations that the agency serves.
- Honouring Our Children Day is an opportunity to demonstrate Mamow Obiki-Ahwahsoowin - "Everybody working together to raise our children" - and show our children and families they are important.
- Honouring Our Children Day is about being a community that holds our children up and carries them forward.
- Honouring Our Children Day is an opportunity to celebrate children and acknowledge their strength, bravery and resilience.
- Honouring Our Children Day is important as it gives our communities the opportunity to show our children they are supported and loved.
- By celebrating Honouring Our Children Day, our community is showing children in Tikinagan care and their families that we are part of their circle of care.
- Honouring Our Children Day is a time to celebrate our children, and remind them that they are special, supported and cared for by their community.
- Honouring Our Children Day celebrates the accomplishments of our children and youth, intentionally timed right around the end of the school year to celebrate their accomplishments through their hard work and efforts through the year.

#YouthKnow Team - Key Messages

- #YouthKnow is Tikinagan Child and Family Services' youth advisory committee made up of youth from our communities.
- We're calling it the #YouthKnow Team, because we know youth know. They know about youth culture, social media, living in their communities, and even about Tikinagan.
- Youth voices can better advocate for children's rights and a better future for our children and youth in and out of care. We want to tap into that resource.
- The #YouthKnow Team will engage, empower, and equip our First Nation youth by hearing their ide-as, utilizing their skills, and challenging them as leaders.
- Tikinagan Child and Family Services is looking for First Nation youth connected to our First Nation communities, ages 15 -29 to join our youth advisory committee. We will seek input about youth culture, social media, living in their communities, and even about Tikinagan. They can be living in their home community, or in an urban area like Thunder Bay or Sioux Lookout.

How to Participate

- Raise awareness. Like and share our Facebook posts, put up posters in your community, and tell everyone you know;
- Attend your community event put on by Tikinagan or organize one of your own;
- Invite children and youth to participate in our two contests; and
- Take a moment share with your children how important they are too you. Teach your children about children in care and allow them to become part of someone else's circle of care.

Social Media Content

Spread awareness about Honouring Our Children Day on social media on June 24 and all summer!

Hashtags

#HOCDay

#YouthKnow

Website

Tikinagan.org/HOCDay

Tikinagan.org/YouthKnow

Reminder: The Tikinagan Communications Department creates and posts all Tikinagan events onto social media and our website. Once posted, you can share to your community or personal pages. This allows our Team to respond to comments or questions from the agency's page.

Radio Script

If your community has a local radio station, the below script can be used to announce your Honouring our Children Day event:

Children and youth need to be celebrated and honoured from time to time, especially those who are in care and away from their families.

They need to see there is a caring, supportive community, standing with them and cheering them on.

We invite you to join us on [date] from [time] to [time] at the [Location] for [event name/details] at the [Location].

Let's all work together to raise our children and bring joy to the future of our community. Learn more about Honouring Our Children Day at [Tikinagan dot org slash H-O-C Day](http://Tikinagan.org/HOCDay).

Plan an Event

Celebrate Honouring Our Children Day in your community with a community event! Use the steps below to plan your event.

Decide what activities you need to make your community's event successful

- Food - BBQ or Feast?
- Games & Activities - Relay races, jumping balloons, water fights, or other games that bring the community together;
- Events - Talent shows, movie night, pow wow.

Decide what time, date, and place best suits your event.

Consider the activities you want to see happen...

- how long will the activities will you planned take?
- how long food will take to prepare and eat?
- how much time is needed for socializing?
- how many people are coming?
- Is there somewhere that accommodate everyone?

Preparing for your event

Before your event, prepare a list of things you need gather, people/resources you need to host your event, and purchases you need to make. Things to consider:

- When will you prepare your food? what groceries will you need? and will you need anyone to help you prepare?
- For your activities, will you need supplies delivered? will you need to rent any resources like jumping balloons or face painters?
- Swag and prizes - will any of your events require prizes? Do you want the communications team to send you Honouring our Children's swag? Let the Communications Team know ASAP.

Let everyone know about your event!

Use our poster template to inform your community about the event. Contact the Communications Team at communications@tikinagan.org and we'll share your event onto your communities social media and anything else we can do to let everyone know about your event. Invite us to your event and we'll take pictures and videos of the event for the memories.

Need help?

Contact the Communications Team or the prevention unit and we'll try to help you as best we can!



Contests

Super You

Have you ever thought of how you might look if you were a superhero? Here's a chance to show the world Super You!

We are looking for drawings created by children and youth from our 30 First Nations! Draw yourself as a hero and tell us about your superhero. Pictures will be featured on our website. One submission per youth. The winning designer will receive their hero enlarged as a framed print.

For ages 3-18.

Deadline: August 31, 2023

Logo Design Contest

Design the logo that will represent Honouring Our Children Day.

The logo will be digitized and used for all Tikinagan materials related to Honouring Our Children Day. The winning designer will receive their logo enlarged as a framed print as well as seeing their logo used every year moving forward.

For ages 6-18.

Deadline: August 31, 2023

Posters can be found at the back of this toolkit.

Did you know?

Although June 24th is officially Honouring our Children Day, our communities celebrate all summer!



Honouring Our Children Day Posters



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For ages 6-18.

Deadline: August 31, 2023

Send submissions to communications@tikinagan.org or through our submission form on tikinagan.org/HOCDay



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super YOUTH!

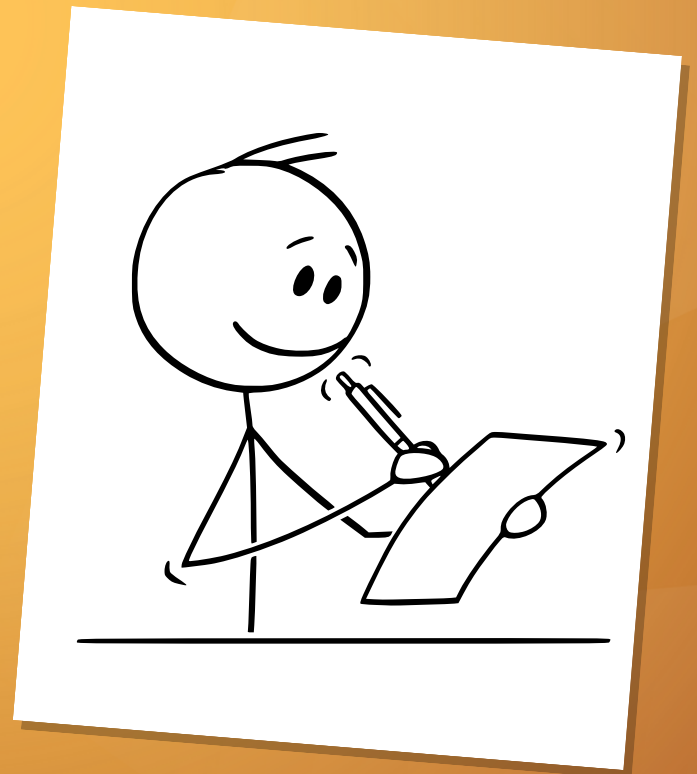
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FIRST NATIONS
HEY, YOUTH!

**WE
KNOW
YOU
KNOW**

SO **#GETPAID** FOR KNOWING.
JOIN THE **#YOUTHKNOW** TEAM.



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APPLY TODAY AT
TIKINAGAN.ORG/YOUTHKNOW