



## News Release

February 23, 2022

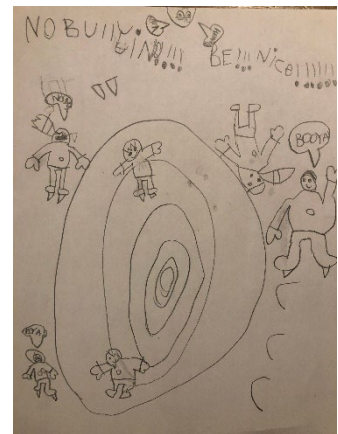
### BC Indigenous Youth Celebrate Pink Shirt Day Through Art Art contest showcases Indigenous youth anti-bullying stance



Colette, 13  
(First Place, Age 12 to 19  
Category)



Dylan, 9  
(First Place, Age 7 to 9  
Category)



Ben, 4  
(First Place, Age 2 to 6  
Category)

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society (Xyólheméylh) asked British Columbia children and youth to tell us how they stand up with kindness and lift others up. Over 50 children and youth entered the contest in three age categories with artwork, videos, and writing. The submissions were voted on by a panel of Elder advisors and Board of Director members.

The children and youth expressed the importance of not tolerating bullying, of being inclusive, and looking out for each other. “The entries show that the message of being kind and lifting each other up is really getting through to children and youth,” said Dr. Wenona Hall, President of the Xyólheméylh’s Board of Directors. “That is very beautiful and encouraging.”

Here are some of the things the children said:

“Kind is cool” – Dylan, 9

Kindness is one size fits all” – Trinity, 9

“Don’t bully. If someone is hurt, help them” – Bentley, 10

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children & Family Services Society

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## **The Winning Entries**

### **Ages 2 to 6**

- 1) Ben, 4; 2) Kaitlin, 5; 3) Caleb, 5

### **Ages 7 to 11**

- 1) Dylan, 9; 2) Sloan, 11; 3) Trinity, 9

### **Ages 12 to 19**

- 1) Colette, 13; 2) Calita, 14; 3) Dayton, 12

“We want to express our gratitude to all the children and youth who submitted their art, as well as the teachers who helped facilitate the contest by using it as a classroom project,” said Penny Trites, Xyólheméylh’s Executive Director of Staff and Community Relations. “It was truly inspiring.”

### **About Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society**

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society (FVACFSS) is a fully delegated Aboriginal child welfare agency providing culturally appropriate and holistic services through prevention, community development and child welfare programs to Aboriginal (Status, Non-Status, On Reserve, Off Reserve, Stó:lō and other First Nation, Inuit, and Métis) children, youth and their families residing throughout the Fraser Valley.

Our programs and services are created and executed with a special attention on strengthening culture and identity. We focus on keeping families together, reintegrating children back with their families, and discovering and strengthening cultural connections. We work to ensure children are connected to their family, and community while striving to ensure their inherent rights to heritage and identity are upheld in all we do.

***LÉTSE MÓT TÉ SQWÁLEWEL – “With a good mind, a good heart, and good feelings”***

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