

Zine & HEARD

Amplifying Voices of Youth From Care

MARCH 2025
ISSUE #26



PHOTO BY
KENNEDY HIGGANBOTHAM

We respectfully acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 6 Territory; traditional lands of many First Nations & Metis people & we are committed to learning the true history of Canada & the true meaning of truth & reconciliation.

WHO

Youth from care speaking out & making a difference.

WHAT

A zine to amplify our voices & raise awareness.

WHEN

We publish around the 15th of every month.

WHERE

We are based in Edmonton but are for youth from care everywhere.

WHY

Because we can. Our voices have been silent for too long.



THE
STRONGEST
HEARTS
HAVE
THE MOST
SCARS



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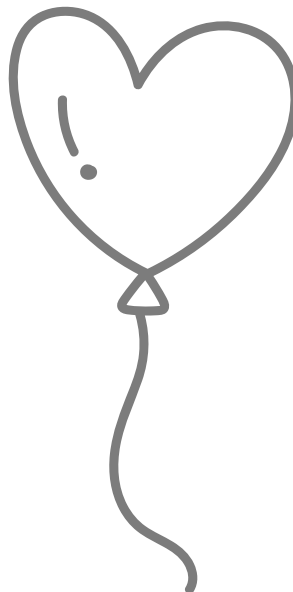
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COVER

NIPIY ISKWEW

JOLIE FLETT

WHO'S INSIDE

A4YC CONFERENCE

ASHLEY RHODES-COURTER

BRENDAN

MEGAN

KATE WERKMAN

PUNK INDIGENOUS

NAMES WITHHELD

BLUE JEAN JACKET DAY

BRADLEY LAFORTUNE

"pakoseyimowin"

AN ANTI-RACISM SYMPOSIUM

BERNADETTE IAHTAIL

CREATING HOPE SOCIETY

JOLIE FLETT

NIPIY ISKWEW

QUIN BUCK

RED DRESS DAY

THE SKATE ZINE COMETH

INDIGENOUS BOYS MATTER TOO

WELLBRIETY

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

YOUTH IN CARE CHRONICLES

ZINE FEST!

This is not Red Tape Reduction. This is Truth Reduction.

Or, call it what you want. Numbers Game. Cover Up. Bill 38 Seals Their Fate.

The Unscrupulous Conniving Party Strikes Again. Business As Usual, perhaps. But by any name - here we are faced with the fact that youth over the age of 18 who pass away in the care of the child welfare system are now considered red tape.

For the purposes of this editorial, I'm going to go with "NUMBERS GAME" because that is what it is. Alberta has staggering numbers of children and youth who die in care. And since 2021, apx. 40% of all youth who pass away in the care of the child welfare system have been over the age of 18. So if you remove 40% of say the 47 kids who died from April 1, 2023 to March 30, 2024, you would only have to report 28 of them. There were also 15 deaths that were not recorded as they were under investigative review by the police and/or courts for a total of 62 deaths in that six month period. And only allowing the Advocate to report fatalities once a year instead of every 6 months cuts the number of times the public is informed in half. Numbers game. Numbers game. Numbers game. Too bad the numbers had names.

In 2021 this government lowered the age that youth were able to receive financial supports from 24 to 22. (Only after successfully fighting a 21-year-old single mother who challenged this decision in court.) They said that there just weren't "that many" youth who needed the supports up to age 24 but they never said how many still did. Who were they? What did they need? Why didn't they matter? We have to ask why. And we have to keep asking why these youth don't matter.

How I feel is one thing - how people who have lived experience in the child welfare system feel about this latest attempt to erase their stories, voices, histories, lives, is what's important. The following pages are dedicated to their voices. I would like to thank everyone who sent their thoughts to us on such short notice.



Many asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal which in itself is a very telling reflection of their experience of being in care, but I know who they are and they are legit. Shocked, hurt, outraged, angry, insulted, confused, saddened and 100% legit.

Let's not let the GOA get a free play on this dirty move. Speak up.

With love, Penny Frazier, Editor

Please get a hold of us to share your stories, poetry, art, music, life, hope.
Deadline for the April zine is March 29th. Contact us at
editor@zineandheard.ca or [@zine_and_heard](https://www.instagram.com/zine_and_heard)



“They want to silence us.”

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

“Just another way to make us disappear.”

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

**“I’ve been surrounded all my life by
people in care, and the amount of
them who died around the age
of 20-26 is shocking.”**

Brendan, former youth in care

publicinterestalberta 8h

We have no words...

HOME > LOCAL NEWS

'Dead children and youth are not red tape': Bill changes death investigation requirements

A new bill aimed at cutting red tape would alter the requirement that Alberta's Office of the Child and Youth Advocate investigate deaths of all youth who received government intervention services.

 [Brett McKay, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter](#)
about 6 hours ago

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Bill 38: Child and youth advocate no longer able to review deaths of youths above 20-years-old

Cindy Tran

Published Feb 26, 2025 • Last updated 14 hours ago • 5 minute read

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Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction Minister Dale Nally with Premier Danielle Smith on March 28, 2024. PHOTO BY SHAUGHN BUTTS /Postmedia, file

The bill is the province's ninth Red Tape Reduction Bill and according to Minister Dave Nally, "It is perhaps one of the best."

**Why do we continue to get treated like this?
Like we are nothing. We are just a file, a case.
If we die it doesn't matter. It's not a requirement
to investigate our death after a certain age?
To me it just seems like they want to cover up
their own tracks and I am so sorry for the people
coming after me. I'm scared...I'm scared for
the soon to be youth in care.
They don't care about us.**

Wow.....my initial thought process...wow...my mind is just boggled. As a former youth in care we already have so many hurdles we have to jump over to be considered quote unquote "a productive member of society". To live a quote unquote "a normal life". There's so many things and roadblocks in our lives that we have to jump over and it seems as if the government and policy makers and policy changers continue to just continue to slap us in the face and continue to show us what we mean to the government. We are nothing to them. We are worthless in their eyes. Our lives don't matter. It doesn't matter how we feel. It doesn't matter what happens to us. It doesn't matter because they just want to wipe their hands clean of us.... our so called parents - these are supposed to be our parents and we are being abused and neglected. Weren't our lives supposed to be better when we were taken out of abuse and neglect or whatever situation we were taken out of of? Wasn't our life supposed to get easier? Why do we continue to get treated like this? Like we are nothing. We are just a file. a case. If we die it doesn't matter. It's not a requirement to investigate our death after a certain age? To me it just seems like they want to cover up their own tracks and I am so sorry for the people coming after me. I'm scared. I'm scared for this world.I'm scared for the soon to be youth in care. They don't care about us.

Shay, Former youth in care

It's an erasure of all the voices of our youth who are here and who have passed on and it's dehumanizing.

Punk Indigenous, Former youth in care

I am outraged and upset at what has come to light in regards to this news. It's an erasure of all the voices of our youth who are here and who have passed on and it's dehumanizing. Who gets to say that those who have passed on during or after coming out of foster care don't matter. Or who gets to say at what age range they stop the investigations or share this information. We all deserve to know and deserve that awareness so it won't happen again. The numbers you see are people, youth and they are not just statistics. They have a voice, a story that deserves to be heard and especially deserve the truth to be shared of how these things happen. I know many can relate to this. I've lost a lot of good friends because of a failed system and nothing was done about it and it was marked as another statistic. These lives are a public outcry for change. I know from experience that once you age out, you're given pamphlets and sent on your way to figure it out yourself. You are left to fend for yourself after the age out process. Realistically speaking, and I know many have spoken about it - you are still considered a youth until the age of 29 and still need support as your brain is not fully developed. Why now take all that information away? What is there to hide? There needs to be more implemented and these conversations need to be met with all youth and young adults who are affected by these decisions who are still here today.

Punk Indigenous, Former youth in care

...40% of the deaths of youth in care they are just going to stop reporting on them because what is an easier way to make their numbers go down?

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

I believe this highlights the province's insecurity towards the end results of their social programs. They seemingly want to obscure the system that is failing youth.

I grew up in care myself and I think this legislation is a very bad idea. I really want to express to you the trauma and issues that happen to us. Just because someone grows past the age of 18 doesn't mean they should be forgotten. Growing up in care, I've experienced my fair share. Just because someone is no longer "legally" your problem, doesn't mean you shouldn't do something. I've been surrounded all my life by people in care, and the amount of them who died around the age of 20-26 is shocking. The point of the Advocate is to give voices to youth in care. Dead or alive.

Brendan, Former youth in care

I believe this highlights the provinces insecurity towards the end results of there social programs. They seemingly want to obscure the system that is failing youth. How is one suppose to accurately track the outcomes of social programs in the future if we won't investigate deaths of 20 + year olds... and why can the 18 - 19 year old deaths only be done by the discretion of the Advocate? Seems limiting. The stats clearly show the death count rises at 18 for youth in care yet the government seems to want to censor these stats.

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

The fact that they want to limit the reports on deaths of youth in care to once a year instead of every 6 months is absurd. Minister Nally even misgendered the Advocate in his speech. Seems he really doesn't know what he's talking about.

Former youth in care, Name withheld

The point of the Advocate is to give voices to youth in care. Dead or alive.

...these proposed changes truly highlight how ignorant and careless this government is when it comes to what is best for children in government care.

There have been recent proposed changes to legislation that would no longer require the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate to investigate the deaths of youth over the age of 19 that have had prior child intervention involvement, as well as making it no longer mandatory to investigate the deaths of those young people aged 18 or 19. What I will say, as someone with extensive professional involvement with the child intervention system, is that there have been recent proposed changes to legislation that would no longer require the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate to investigate the deaths of youth over the age of 19 that have had prior child intervention involvement, as well as making it no longer mandatory to investigate the deaths of those young people aged 18 or 19. These proposed changes truly highlight how ignorant and careless this government is when it comes to what is best for children in government care.

The deaths of these young people as young adults matter just as much as those under the age of 18 and are actually more pertinent to investigate, due to the fact that their deaths do not happen in a vacuum and are often the cumulative effect of choices. Whether it be the choices of the caseworker, their community, the professionals involved, the family, or the young person themselves - these choices need to be analyzed as there are often patterns for many of these deaths. When it comes to being in care, the young person is rarely in control in many instances, which leads to addiction issues, mental health concerns, criminal involvement and other difficulties as a way to regain power in their lives. Small and big decisions that are made throughout a young person's life can have a ripple effect and can change the course of their life forever.

With this in mind, there needs to be the ability to review what choices are going to either support or potentially harm a young person when it comes to providing services. The child intervention system has proven repeatedly that it is not a good parent for these kids and there needs to be some accountability surrounding why. The gritty reality is that the government is not going to hold itself to task on trying to make the lives of kids in care better, which is exactly why the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate exists. The system operates in a constant deficit and while caseworkers are more than often trying their best, there are blatant systemic issues that cause the work to be more reactive than proactive. In all transparency, a system like the child intervention system will always protect itself over the children it serves in the end. When you take away an independent body's ability to review these deaths, the system will always operate in a way to produce a narrative that suits itself.

.....continued next page

Context matters - if we aren't reviewing decision-making that has happened from an unbiased lense, how are we going to learn and move forward to improve the lives of children and youth in this system? How can we protect the most vulnerable people in our society? If investigations don't occur, no more publicity on young people dying and no more shining a light on a serious problem that currently exists. It's clear what this government cares about and at the end of the day, that's saving face instead of honouring the lives of children and young adults that have been through more than they could ever imagine.

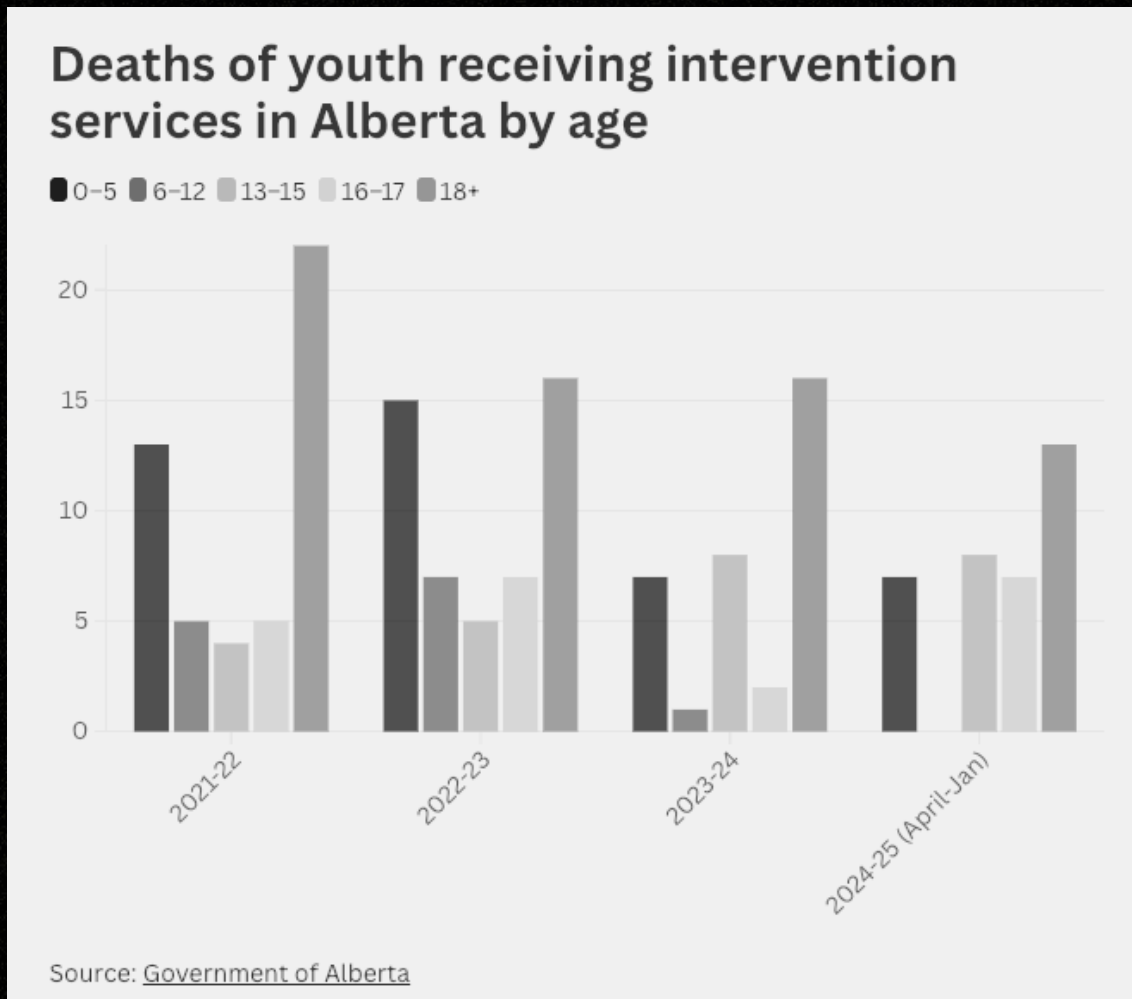
Megan, Former youth in care

The child intervention system has proven repeatedly that it is not a good parent for these kids and there needs to be some accountability surrounding why.

If investigations don't occur, there is no more publicity on young people dying and no more shining a light on a serious problem that currently exists. It's clear what this government cares about and that is saving face instead of honouring the lives of children and young adults that have been through more than we could ever imagine.

In the legislature on Tuesday, Nally said the bill is the province's ninth Red Tape Reduction bill and "perhaps one of the best."

Edmonton Journal, February 26th, 2025



In this graph the highest bars represent the deaths of Alberta youth in care aged 18+
About 40% of all deaths are youth age 18+

If you are a youth in or from care and would like to let us know how you feel about the Government of Alberta no longer reporting on youth over the age of 18 who pass away in care, please contact us at editor@zineandheard.ca or message us @zine_and_heard on Instagram. We will make sure your voice is heard.

Among “things” in today’s provincial budget, the UCP’s Bill 38 features Dead Kids that Don’t Matter.

Among “things” in today’s provincial budget, the UCP’s Bill 38 features Dead Kids that Don’t Matter. These youth, of all backgrounds, who died within one to two years after their 18th birthday who have “aged out” of the social services system and died as a result of being harmed or having received intervention services.

Now these kids are red tape and seen as unnecessary according to the UCP’s Red Tape Reduction department in Alberta’s budget. No, this is not George Orwell. This is Alberta.

“The idea that these youth have aged out of care and so therefore it is no longer a responsibility for us to investigate these deaths is appalling. Because we know that there are long term impacts for children and youth in care that can lead to very challenging circumstances - that tragically can lead to death” Bradley Lafortune, Public Interest Alberta

So, as it stands now, their faces and lives will be systematically and tragically erased. They become part of Alberta’s throw away people. People that don’t matter. After all, they are just red tape.

Opinion, Kate Werkman, Former youth in care

**The idea that these youth have aged out of
care and so therefore it is no longer a
responsibility for us to investigate these
deaths is appalling. Because we know that
there are long term impacts for children and
youth in care that can lead to very
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Bradley Lafortune, Public Interest Alberta

It is another reckless policy from a self-serving government that seems to be more interested in hiding facts than supporting our most vulnerable youth.

The recently introduced Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 brings uncertainty and insult to Alberta's children and youth in care of the UCP government. The proposed amendment is entirely unnecessary and introduces barriers to vital system improvements necessary for the support and empowerment of vulnerable Albertans. This is an extremely concerning move from the UCP.

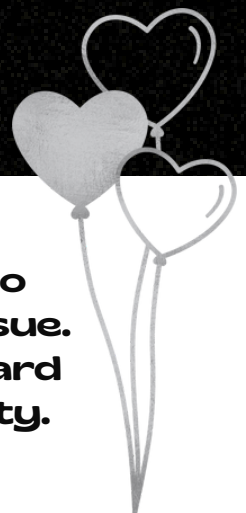
Evidence-based decision making requires outcome data. This truth reduction amendment clearly shows the UCP government's willingness to introduce sweeping changes without troubling themselves to consider the possible negative outcomes. It shows that the UCP government would rather deliberately IGNORE the results of their actions, than face the reality that what they are doing falls far short from what is required.

Children and youth continue to die under the care of the UCP government. This is a fact, and an outcome that the UCP government cannot be allowed to ignore. If the goal is to provide the best outcomes in the best interest of the child or youth, then this change, is simply incompetence.

It is another reckless policy from a self-serving government that seems to be more interested in hiding facts than supporting our most vulnerable youth.

Diana Batten,
MLA Calgary-Acadia
Shadow Minister for Children & Family Services

Zine & HEARD wishes to thank all the individuals who shared their thoughts, feeling and opinions on this issue. It is important to speak out - to do our best to be heard and make a difference. We are small but we are mighty.



METRO CINEMA

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025
4:00 - 8:00 PM AT THE METRO

AN ANTI-RACISM SYMPOSIUM

pakoseyimowin

DOCUMENTARY DIRECTED BY
NIPIY ISKWEW & JOLIE FLETT
WITH PANEL DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW



PRESENTED BY CREATING HOPE SOCIETY AND CANADIAN HERITAGE

FREE ADMISSION & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Canadian Heritage



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

pakosêyimowin

METRO CINEMA

MARCH 21st 4:00 - 8:00



Bernadette Iahtail
E.D. Creating Hope Society



Skylene Gladue aka Nipiy Iskew
Director



Jolie Flett
Executive Producer



Quin Buck
Guest Panelist

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



A MESSAGE FROM BERNADETTE IAHTAIL

Thank you, Jolie Flett and Skylene Gladue, for this initiative promoted by the Creating Hope Society, which highlights the importance of supporting those affected by injustices. Pakoseyimowin "The Act of Hope," has created a safe space for an open dialogue on racism, often referred to as the "R" word.

It is important to ask the right questions and understand that racism is an issue that impacts individuals and communities worldwide. It manifests in various forms, including systemic discrimination and prejudice based on race or ethnicity. At its core, racism dehumanizes individuals and perpetuates cycles of inequality, creating barriers to opportunity and undermining social cohesion.

Understanding the historical context based on imperialism, which has shaped societal attitudes and policies, including the legacy of colonialism and systemic oppression. Only through collective awareness and action can we hope to dismantle these barriers and foster a more equitable society. For all who've experienced racism these impacts often lead to long-lasting trauma and disparities that are challenging to overcome. There is only one race, the "HUMAN RACE," and understanding that "ALL LIVES MATTER."

Bernadette Iahtail
Executive Director/Cofounder
Creating Hope Society

An Interview with Kennedy Higganbotham

How did this project come about?

Nipiy: Last summer I took some filmmaking courses and when I graduated, Bernadette actually sought me out to do this filmmaking. After she talked to me about the project and I learned the topic was going to be on anti-racism, I just knew with my experiences with racism firsthand, that this was definitely a project I wanted to be involved in.

Jolie: It was already in the works when I arrived at Creating Hope Society. When I came and started in the position, I was like, "oh my God, I don't even know anything about it". Now I've been here for ten months and our symposiums almost here, and I'm scared [laughs]. This is my first time planning something like this; getting all the interviews together, scheduling, and everything else! But we're almost there! Really though, it started with Bernadette Iahtail and Barb Adekat [of Creating Hope Society]. They led me to knowing who to ask. Then we started doing ceremonies and going to events, and that's when I started meeting people, which is how I got them involved – like Francis Whiskeyjack. I met him painting rocks with our Oskayak class and then I talked to him and got him to do an interview and to be a panelist at the symposium. Abigail Gallimore was a huge help, she works as an anti-racism facilitator, and I met her at one of her events. She has helped me do a lot of this. I think we have around 20 people interviewed in the documentary including three youth.

What were some themes that came up during the creating of this project after talking to so many people about their experiences with racism?

Nipiy: Resilience. Despite what they're all going through different and various forms of racism, they all had a really beautiful resilience in them that I feel was rooted in that cultural pride, no matter where their background was from. I feel like resilience was possible through their cultural practices, through speaking their languages, through reaching out to their elders or their role models. They were able to find that resilience in song, in prayer, in dance. That was really beautiful to hear.

For me it was triggering hearing the stories of racism because I truly thought we made more progress in regards to ending it, but it was clear how much more work there is left to do. It broke my heart hearing what these beautiful souls had gone through but then their resilience shined through in their stories.

Every single one of them found healing through whatever passion they had. That was really powerful. They're all doing remarkable things to combat racism in their own way through education, culture, politics, performing, etc. They were being the change they wanted to see in the world, and that filled me with so much hope ('pakosêyimowin' Cree for hope).

Jolie: It made me think of the Cree word wahkohtowin, too. It means we are all related, and that's what we wanted to teach the youth. We want to share how we all go through the same thing, and how we cope with it. We worked with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, because we want to share all the ways we go through racism and how it's the same, that's how it's wahkohtowin: we are all related, no matter what color we are. That's what we're trying to share with this film. That no matter where we come from, no matter what color we are. We're all the same and we're all related. We're all part of creators' creations.

Quin: Wahkohtowin means kinship and Community from my understanding. And I think that that terminology is one that resonates amongst a lot of people and I prefer to use that language because linguistically people have different meanings for different words based on where you are geographically. And so, while we have the broader sense of wahkohtowin, what that means on an individual level is sometimes personal, and changes. That kinship part is important because it's not just kinship between who we are as people – as in “mother-son father-daughter” – but also who we are in relationship to the broader environment around us. Like with our four-legged relatives, with the plant beings, and all the other beings that incorporate our reality as well. So it's how we live in Relationship to those beings and within ourselves, and what that tells us about our larger narrative while we're here on our walk that really informs the essence of that word for me.

Every single one of them found healing through whatever passion they had. That was really powerful.

Nipiy Eskwew

This topic is so personal for people – what are your own personal experiences that led you to want to make this happen?

Jolie: We go through racism all the time, especially me and my kids because when I go out, I just have a hoodie and sweats on. That's how my kids dress too. Then when we go to the store, get followed around. One time at a store we were getting followed around by the security and then some guy ran to the back and stole something in their office and then ran out the back door. Another worker was like, “why are you following them around? When there's someone in the back. Like stealing over there”. It feels like we're always decoys. My girls once saw some guy just stuffing shoes in his shirt. I'm like, “yeah our decoys for them”. So we go through it a lot. And I feel bad for my boys because they have long hair and then they get called the girls and stuff. And they get teased by people asking, “why do you have long hair?”. I tell my boys, “they're just jealous because you have better hair than them.” [laughs]. And it's not even just being followed around the store, it's like other things. Everywhere. Not just in the store. Just the way people look at you or if they hear us talking our language they look at us like, “What the hell are you speaking” – because I always say words to my kids in Cree, and they understand, because I want them to be proud of who they are. I don't know if racism will end, it seems like it won't. Maybe not in my lifetime. Maybe for my kids or grandkids. I'm hoping it does, and that's why I'm trying to do this for them – for their future. I have to think about seven generations after us. So hopefully this will help them because this is mostly for the youth. That's why we're doing it. To share with them to be proud of who they are and how to help them overcome racism.

Nipiy: Racism is something that we face on a daily on all levels. It can be as simple as walking into a store like a certain drug store that has been brought up in interview after interview, after interview and being followed around people just solely based on race or like their looks. Personally, my sister and I were discriminated against at an Edmonton Oilers game. We were there on Indigenous Peoples Night as VIPs and we got taken to a special level where they have special foods like roast beef so this was super special for us. My sister and I were both in our Ribbon Skirts and both sober; neither of us drink or anything especially wearing something like the Ribbon Skirts. I was just so excited about Indigenous Peoples Night, feeling that pride as a native woman and feeling seen by the Oilers organization. What happened after that is one of their workers who was non-Indigenous was drunk and came up to my sister and I and accused us of drinking too much because my sister had tripped on her heels that she wasn't used to wearing. This person got right in our faces about an inch away. I knew that sometimes our best defence is having that phone so I just started recording it immediately. After I called upon her managers, she said that she did it because we were “Indians”. Security actually had to chase her around and she was giving us the finger. I actually had to reach out to them the next day to find out what's going to be happening. She ended up getting fired the day after it happened. I took this experience to a bunch of people that I knew were activists and advocates for this sort of thing, one of them being Chief Willie Littlechild. I got him involved and we met with all the leaders of the Oilers. They ended up establishing some cultural sensitivity training that all the staff had to participate in. I did some PSA's for them and I thought that would be it, but then one of our youth went to a game with his drum and security took it away from him. The way they handled his sacred drum was horrific. After that my husband and I really stepped up and took this youth to a game to assure that he got in there with his drum because of my husband's status and relationship with the Oilers. Hockey is something we love, and a lot of

Native people love. We could have gone to social media, shared that video and just put them down, you know? But that's something we didn't want to do. We wanted to fix it instead of spreading this hate. So, it's been multiple instances of racism that I have faced.

Quin: I always sort of grew up within this Spirit of rebellion when I came to anti-racism work. My grandfathers, my leaders, and the people that were considered mentors in my formative years were all people who were well respected within our community for challenging the status quo and for really pushing norms. Especially people in my own bloodline, they've really used their life's work to really contribute to our communities in big ways. And so, growing up that was something that I always felt was within me that I had the innate capacity to do because I always thought, "if these people around me who I love can do this, naturally, I should be able to as well". I just went about it in my own way being a Two-Spirited person. I was kind of blessed in that respect because getting to know myself as a Two-Spirited person meant having to cast a much wider net than I think I would have if I were only looking within a specific scope. In order to love myself in an order to love myself as an Indigenous person, I had to start addressing some of the barriers that were within me societally – or I guess, colonially speaking, because within my family those barriers didn't exist. It was really when I went out into the world that it was like, "okay, well, you can be indigenous but only so much". But how do you partition yourself like that, and more importantly, how do I take the jacket that is my skin off, you know, because I can't do that. Nobody can. The beautiful thing though with wahkohtowin is that kinship we were talking about. That is also an antidote. It's the people that you have around you and the diversity of those people, not only in how they look, but in their thought that is going to help us

I don't know if racism will end, it seems like it won't. Maybe not in my lifetime. Maybe for my kids or grandkids. I'm hoping it does, and that's why I'm trying to do this for them – for their future.

I have to think about the seven generations after us. So hopefully this will help them because this is mostly for the youth. That's why we're doing it. To share with them to be proud of who they are and how to help them overcome racism.

Jolie Flett

Why do people need to see this?

Nipiy: Oh my gosh, because we have so many great people and voices in this documentary that that really deserve to be heard and I feel like no matter who you are there's somebody in the film that you can relate to and draw inspiration from. You will leave feeling inspired and empowered and full of pride of who we are and where we come from. No matter who you are, and where you come from, I truly believe you will be inspired by this film.

Jolie: I'd like people to come watch it to learn about the way that we go through racism and how we cope with it. They need to understand our view and where we come from. They need to see it. Everyone needs to see it. I hope everyone can come, there are a lot of seats (at the Metro) There's 500 seats and at least half of them are filled. It's an important topic that needs to be spoken about more and the only way we were able to do this was because of the support of Canadian Heritage and Bernadette Lahtail from Creating Hope Society. So, I'm grateful for them for pushing this project and then pushing it onto me because it's an important topic that people need to know about because this is the only time they're going to hear from the youth, elders, and other newcomers all together about what we go through.

Quin: I think people should come and check it out and really tune into it. Not just this one instance but almost any instance in which there is an opportunity where we can get a little bit more connected and grounded in community and the root of the work. This is for understanding the perspectives of the people who are willing to share their voices. Right now, it's really easy to tune out you know... and in the great words of an organization I was once aligned: with apathy is boring [laughs]. You don't have to come and listen to every story and think there's going to be something you're going to pull away from it but something might resonate with you that you might not expect. That's basically what it comes down to with these teachings; just taking what you need and building a better community with it because we can't expect you to hold everything, nor can we expect you to be the sole solution to anti-racism work. Sometimes we get fatigued and the work, and sometimes we get burnt out. Sometimes we just need to hear something, or to see something that is going to just fill a couple little bit more to just get us through a little bit further. For those reading, this potentially might be that for a little bit for you. And so, I hope that in seeing a lot of the other sort of perspectives that are shared, that people might find something that comforts them.

I think people should come and check it out and really tune into it. Not just this one instance but almost any instance in which there is an opportunity where we can get a little bit more connected and grounded in community and the root of the work.

This is for understanding the perspectives of the people who are willing to share their voices.

Quin Buck

pakosêyimowin Guest Panelists

Abigail Gallimore

is the Co-founder and Co-executive Director of Step Up Anti-racist Association, a nonprofit dedicated to equipping youth with the skills to challenge and address racism. She is deeply committed to decolonial approaches and applies this perspective across her roles as a Research Assistant on a Decolonial Evaluation team and as an Anti-Racism Facilitator. Currently in the final year of her Psychology degree, Abigail aims to advance culturally responsive therapeutic practices, with a particular focus on supporting African and Caribbean communities.

Dr. Josephine Pallard

is a trailblazing Filipino-Canadian. she is the first Filipino-Canadian to receive the prestigious Governor General Award for her exceptional contributions to supporting immigrants and refugees in Canada. Her accolades include the Citation for Citizenship Award, University of Alberta Alumni Award and Queen Elizabeth II's Golden and Platinum Awards. She is also recognized for her efforts to combat human trafficking.

Tammy Rae,

a member of Whitefish Lake First Nation (Treaty 8 Territory), is dedicated to preserving the Cree language through music. While pursuing her Master's degree, she balances her academic commitments with her role as 'Rezzo' in the well-received Indigenous musical "Bear Grease." Tammy holds degrees in Native Studies and Education from the University of Alberta.

Tammy Rae recently headlined "Le Grand Ménage des Fêtes!" which was broadcast by TV5Monde in over 200 countries. Her theatrical accomplishments include "CIVIL BLOOD: A Treaty Story" with Thou Art Here Theatre."

In addition to her performances, Tammy is the author of "Naskwahamâtowin," a Cree language resource designed to facilitate learning the Cree language. This immersive resource utilizes familiar nursery rhymes from childhood but presents them in the Plains Cree Y dialect, making it an excellent educational tool for learners of all ages.

Nife Ajayi

is an Anti-Racism Coordinator with Alberta Immigrant Women & Children Centre who fosters inclusive communities through education, advocacy, and meaningful dialogue. With experience designing and facilitating workshops, she works to empower individuals and organizations to recognize and challenge systemic racism. Her approach emphasizes accessibility, community engagement, and intersectionality to create lasting change. Passionate about equity and social justice, she strive to build spaces where all voices are heard and valued.

Adriyana Severight

is a Grade 8 student at Amiskwaciy Academy. She is on the basketball team and is a jingle dress dancer.

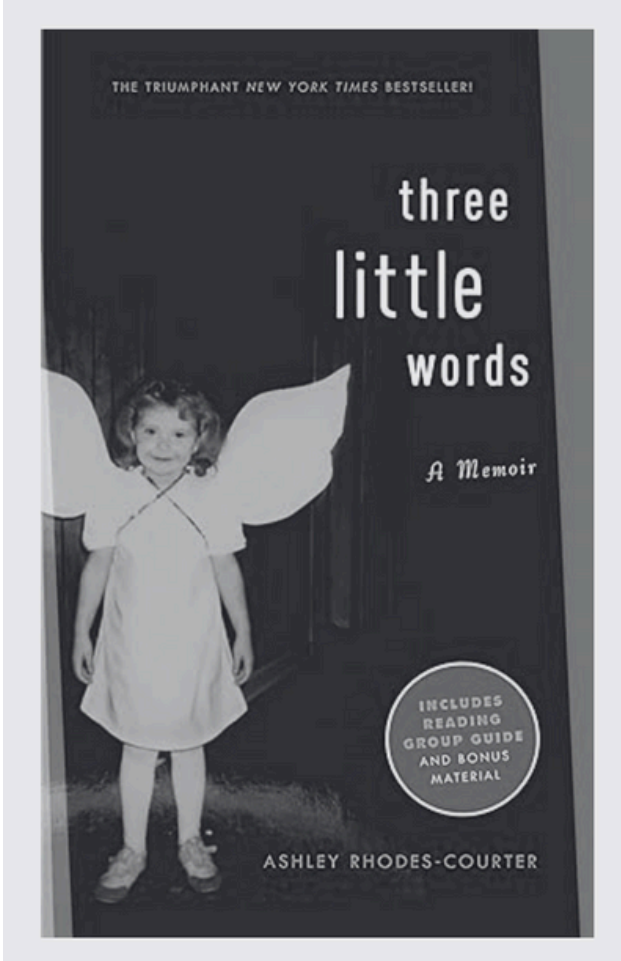


Ashley Rhodes-Courter



Ashley Rhodes-Courter is a best-selling author, child welfare advocate, and sought-after keynote speaker whose journey from foster care survivor to national thought leader is nothing short of inspiring. Having spent almost ten years in the foster care system, Ashley overcame adversity to become a powerful voice for change, advocating for children, families, and social justice issues around the globe. Her book, *Three Little Words*, chronicles her experiences and has touched the hearts of readers worldwide.

It's a raw, honest portrayal of resilience and the transformative power of hope. As a keynote speaker, Ashley delivers messages that combine her own lived experience with practical strategies for building resilience, leadership, and social responsibility. Her compelling stories and expertise inspire audiences to make meaningful changes in their lives, workplaces, and communities. Beyond her personal advocacy, Ashley is the founder of a mental health agency, Foundation for Sustainable Families, dedicated to providing trauma-informed care to families and individuals in need. She works tirelessly to improve the foster care system and serves as a mentor to foster youth, proving that no obstacle is too great when paired with determination and the right support. In her talks, Ashley equips audiences with actionable strategies to overcome adversity, promote advocacy, and foster lasting impact—whether on a personal level or within larger systems. She challenges her listeners to not only think bigger but to act boldly in pursuit of a more just and compassionate world. With a career devoted to advocacy, public speaking, and philanthropy, Ashley Rhodes-Courter is a leader committed to creating a world where every child and individual has the chance to thrive.



Ashley Rhodes-Courter is a Keynote Speaker at the 2025 A4YC Conference May 12 - 13th at the Fantasyland Hotel.
Please visit a4yc.ca for more information.




Allies For Youth Connections Conference

Save the date

**Empowering Hope through Authentic Connections
Conference on May 12-13th, 2025**


Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall

For additional details please visit A4YC.ca




Honouring The Circle of
WELLBRIETY

"WALKING THE RED ROAD ONE MOMENT AT A TIME"
MEETING INFO



Monday Evenings
 6 to 8 pm
 Creating Hope Society
 10871 96 St NW
 (Use North Side Door)



PLEASE NOTE, CIRCLES WILL NOT BE HELD ON HOLIDAYS.

<p>CREATING HOPE SOCIETY is pleased to host a NEW Red Road to Wellbriety sharing circles with meeting every Monday evening</p>	<p>CALL Gerry (587) 596-9814 Michelle (780) 716-9423</p> <p>MORE CONTACT INFO: yep@creatinghopesociety.ca ctd@creatinghopesociety.ca</p>
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WWW.CREATINGHOPESOCIETY.CA

"Wellbriety is based on the 12 steps of recovery and it is held the Nehiyaw Native way by honoring the directions the colors the animals the plants and Mother Earth. We honor the ceremonies the medicines and all living things to keep us sober. Wellbriety is walking the red road and healing with the smudge lit, eating food together and creating a healthy forest with brothers and sisters, with family. We have fire starters to start the sharing circle then move onto the 12 step meetings to diminish the core issues that block one from freedom. It's a beautiful way to unite and heal together."



INDIGENOUS BOYS MATTER TOO! INDIGENOUS MALE YOUTH WELLNESS PROGRAM

GROUP 2 2024:

REGISTRATION OPEN

Program date: MAY 1, 2024 - JUNE 26, 2024

Every Wednesday: 5:30-8:30pm

Location: 9538 107 ave, basement room 3

Eligibility requirements:

- Self identifies as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)
- Identifies as "Male" (Two-Spirit and non-binary youth welcomed)
- Between the ages of 14-18
- Dedicated to bettering themselves
- Committed to their healing journey
- Open-minded and wanting to learn about Indigenous Culture and Ceremony
- Open communication between Youth, staff and caregivers

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
APRIL 22, 2024

Call or email
Program
Coordinator OR
Assistant to register
(Contact at the
bottom of poster)

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Oskapewis (ceremony helper) based mentorship,
access to ceremony, intergrated wellness practices,
land-based teachings, kinship, career and
employment resources, life skills, Elder and
Knowledge Keeper connections.



FCSS
Family & Community
Support Services



Program Coordinator
Ambrose Cardinal
587-588-8717
ibmt1@creatinghopesociety.ca

Program Assistant
Asa Thunderchild-King
780-616-2047
ibmt2@creatinghopesociety.ca

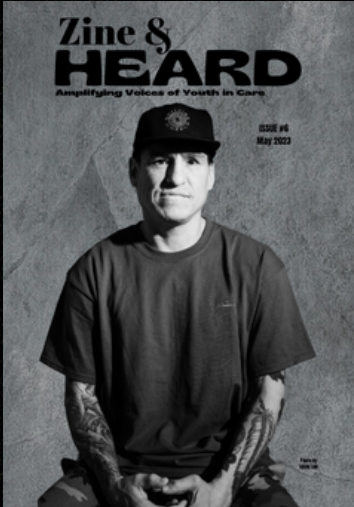


Please contact Ambrose at 587-588-8717
or email ibmt1@creatinghopesociety.ca
or scan this code for more information.
Registration closes April 22, 2025



THE SKATE ZINE COMETH

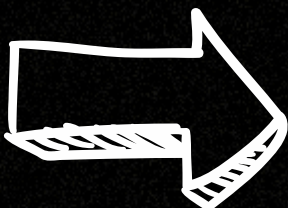
MAY 2025



We are looking for skate stories, skate art, skate photos, skate bands, skate events, and those all-time crazy, cool, colossal
FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS
back by popular demand.



Priority will be given to submissions from youth from care but all are welcome.
We can print up to 40 pages so we will try to squeeze you all in.
Just get it in by the



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
APRIL 22, 2025



SEE YOU THERE!

ZINE FEST!

SATURDAY APRIL 5th

STANLEY MILNER LIBRARY

12 - 4 PM

BUY!

SELL!

TRADE!

MAKE!

MAKE YOUR OWN ZINE
@the.cherry.pit.yeg CENTER!

FREE FOOD!

COOL ZINES!

SUPPORT

YEG YOUTH & OTHER
LOCAL ZINESTERS!

LOTS OF VENDORS!
COOL DOOR PRIZES!

ALL AGES WELCOME!

PLEASE BRING CASH TO MAKE PURCHASES
& THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Edmonton

Zine &
HEARD

||||| epl.ca

PLEASE BRING CASH TO PURCHASE ZINES
FROM OUR VENDORS & THANK YOU!

~~ It's OK to ask for help ~~

DIAL 9-8-8 SUICIDE CRISIS LINE 24/7
INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS CRISIS LINE

24- HOUR 1-866-925-4419

YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER (Y.E.S.S.)

780-468-7070 24/7 24 HOURS

ACCESS 24/7 - 24 HOUR

Crisis and Intake Services - 780-424-2424

KIDS HELP PHONE - 24 HOUR

Call 1-800-668-6868 Facebook Messenger

Text CONNECT to 686868

NACIS CRISIS LINE - 24 HOUR

780-422-2001

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES

1-888-456-4566 24 HOUR

CMHA DISTRESS LINE - 24 HOUR

780-482-4357 (HELP)

KICKSTAND CONNECT

mykickstand.ca/online-care#resources

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH & CHILD ADVOCATE

**If you have questions about your rights as a young person,
need legal help, or need to speak out, we're here for you.**

Talk to Us: Toll-free: (800) 661-3446

Monday - Friday 8:15 AM - 4:30 PM

NORTHERN ALBERTA Call: (780) 422-6056

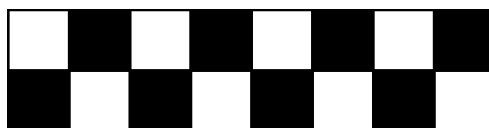
SOUTHERN ALBERTA Call: (403) 297-8435

ACCESS OPEN MINDS

**ACCESS Open Minds Edmonton is a walk-in service for individuals
16-25 years old. Young people and their families can walk-in during
open clinic hours and will be seen on a first come first serve basis.**

MONDAY – FRIDAY 12:00-5:00PM 780-887-9781

NEED TO CONNECT? DIAL 211 24 HOURS





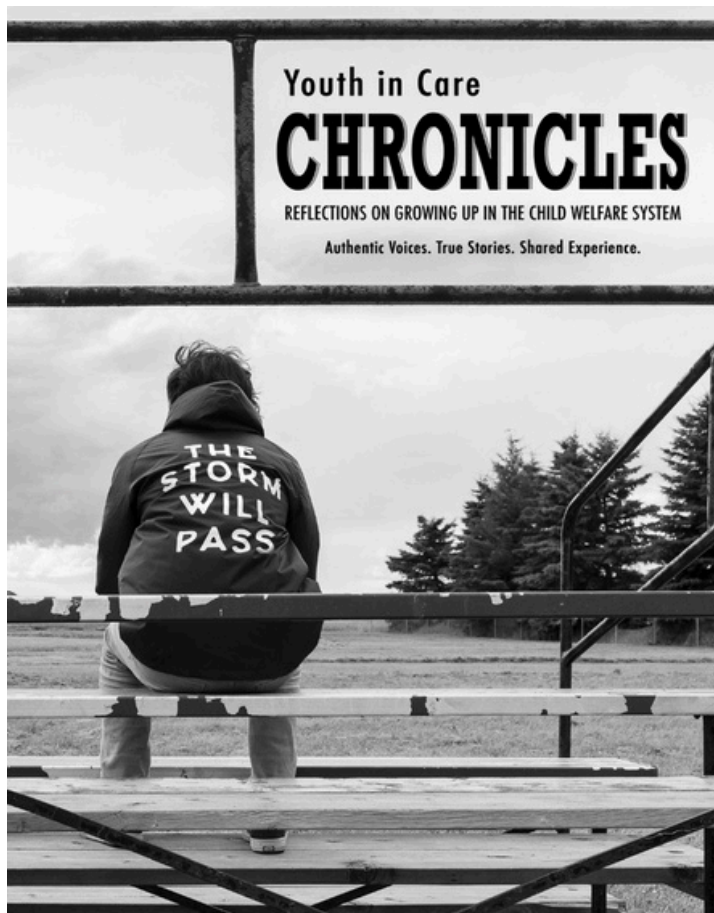
Many thanks to the Friends of Zine & HEARD

OFFICE OF THE CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCATE
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NANDA & COMPANY AMANDA QUILL
ANNE STEVENSON - WARD O-DAY'MIN COUNCILLOR
CAITLIN VERRIN MAGIC HOUR CREATIVE
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CLINT FRAZIER CADENCE LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION INC.
HIGHER KNOWLEDGE aka BRYANT DORAND
TOMMY TWO DOGS JAN MASLYK ANONYMOUS X 7
CHEYANNE CARLSON-WHITE LYLE BELL MARLEY-JAY
LOCAL 124 SKATEBOARDS & LONGBOARDS JOEL PIPPUS
DIANA BATTEN, MLA. BUD FRASIER & THE ELECTRIC RAZORS
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~~ WE ARE SMALL BUT WE ARE MIGHTY ~~



18 former youth in care from
Alberta tell their stories in
YOUTH IN CARE CHRONICLES:
Reflections on Growing Up in the
Child Welfare System

Available at
[Amazon](#)
&
[Audreys](#)

All proceeds go to fund
projects for youth in care.

ALL STARZ GOING STRONG AT EYOC

THE COMBINATION OF WRITING,
MUSIC PRODUCTION,
AND MORE LAUGHS THAN
IS PROBABLY ALLOWED
IS PROVING TO BE A
WINNING COMBO!

MANY THANKS TO
CREATING HOPE SOCIETY FOR
BELIEVING IN OUR PROGRAM AND THE
OUTSTANDING YOUTH WE WORK WITH.





**RED
DRESS
DAY
MAY 5th**

Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, is observed on May 5th. The day honours and brings awareness to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people who have been subject to disproportionate violence in Canada.

Red Dress Day was inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project installation, in which she hung empty, red dresses to represent the missing and murdered women.

Red dresses have become symbolic of the crisis as a result of her installation



BLUE JEAN JACKET DAY

JUNE 6, 2024

A day to create awareness on the important issue of missing & murdered & exploited Indigenous men & boys.



*You
are
not
forgotten.*

A very high percentage of missing & murdered Indigenous women & girls, men & boys & Two-Spirit persons spent time in the child welfare system.

They want to silence us.

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

I've been surrounded all my life by people in care, and the amount of them who died around the age of 20-26 is shocking.

Brendan, former youth in care

Why do we continue to get treated like this? Like we are nothing. We are just a file, a case. If we die it doesn't matter. It's not a requirement to investigate our death after a certain age? To me it just seems like they want to cover up their own tracks and I am so sorry for the people coming after me. I'm scared for the soon to be youth in care.

They don't care about us.

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

40% of the deaths of youth in care that they are just going to stop reporting on them because what is an easier way to make their numbers go down?

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

It's an erasure of all the voices of our youth who are here and who have passed on and it's dehumanizing.

Punk Indigenous, Former youth in care

Just another way to make us disappear.

Former youth in care, Name Withheld

