

RAISED VOICES:

FROM HOPE TO ACTION

A YOUTH EDUCATION POLICY FORUM



Third Gathering – March 26-29, 2021
Virtual Forum
Final Report





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 26-29, 2021, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Education Sector hosted the Raised Voices: From Hope to Action virtual youth forum on First Nations education. Over the course of three days the youth (Carriers of Hope) rekindled their connection with one another and created innovative tools for promoting activities within the *Youth Calls to Action* How-to-Guide (How-to-Guide). On Monday, March 29, 2021, the Carriers of Hope courageously presented their multimedia products to government, policymakers and all levels of leaders in education. After the presentation, adult allies were invited to offer their thoughts and feedback on what they heard. The adult allies who made commitments in 2019 shared what they have done to amplify this work since then and offered support for future partnerships and opportunities.



RECAP OF CALLS TO ACTION & 2020 GATHERING

In 2019, First Nations youth aged 13-18 from each of the ten AFN regions applied to be a Carrier of Hope through an online promotional video. The selection process ensured diversity in age, lived experiences and region to allow for fulsome discussions. The Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope forum (Raised Voices) gathered 36 First Nations youth from across Canada on Algonquin territory in Ottawa, Ontario for a weekend of ceremony, insight, and change-making.

By then end of the gathering, the Carriers of Hope identified five Calls to Action on First Nations Education (Calls to Action) aimed at all levels of First Nations and non-First Nations governments, organizations, education partners and average Canadians. The Carriers of Hope then had the opportunity to present the Calls to Action directly to all levels of policymakers and leaders in education.

In 2020, the AFN hosted a second Raised Voices gathering in Enoch First Nation, Alberta. The Forum gathered ten Carriers of Hope from last year's event for a focused discussion on creating an implementation guide for the Calls to Action. The Carriers of Hope recommended the seven following action items to consider for the following year:

- 1 Identify spaces where the youth can present the Calls to Action.
- 2 Engage the media (i.e. CBC, AFN Bulletin etc.).
- 3 Gather youth voices on First Nations education through video and written submissions VIA social media.
- 4 Print and distribute the How-to-Guide to education entities, community centres, and to the Council of Ministers of Education.
- 5 Link information on the AFN Education web page to indicate where to access funding sources to support advancing the Calls to Action (i.e. National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund, Dreamcatcher Foundation etc.).
- 6 Create a social media “challenge” for First Nations and Canadians to demonstrate how they are creating positive change in First Nations education.
- 7 Write advocacy letters and share information with education entities.

In addition to their recommended action items, the Carriers of Hope also developed a *How-to-Guide* that outlines measures that both First Nations and non-First Nations students, teachers, schools, and leadership can take to advance each Call to Action and support First Nations student success. The purposes of the *How-to-Guide* are to:

Honour and promote the contributions and advocacy of First Nations youth

Amplify youth priorities for improving First Nations education

Call upon both First Nation and non-First Nation students, teachers, schools, and leadership, to take prompt action in their community to advance each Call to Action



OBJECTIVE OF 2021 RAISED VOICES: FROM HOPE TO ACTION

This year, invitations were sent out to all 36 Carriers of Hope to join again for an unprecedented virtual weekend. Despite the challenges that come along with hosting an online event, a total of 26 out of 36 previously selected youth were eager and available to attend this event. The objectives of the *2021 Raised Voices: From Hope to Action* virtual youth forum were to gather the Carriers of Hope and empower them to create multimedia products to promote activities listed in the *Calls to Action How-to-Guide*. The result was the creation of a series of products that can be used on social media platforms to elevate the activities listed in the *How-to-Guide* to generate action at the individual level (students and teachers) and organizational level (schools, government, national organizations).



“It’s an unexplainable feeling, but in this space, I truly feel in my core that everyone’s voice matters.”
– Carrier of Hope



PROCESS & DEVELOPMENT: VIRTUAL CIRCLE

Opening the Virtual Circle

The focus on March 26, 2021 was to set priorities, including creating a safe virtual space through ceremony and community building. Elder Bernard Nelson of Eabametoong First Nation and Grandmother Kathy Brant of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory opened with prayers and Ohen:ton Karihwaterhkwen (Words Before All Else). During the opening of the virtual circle, the Carriers of Hope were offered tobacco as a sign of respect and honour for their courage and leadership.

The AFN Director of the Languages and Learning Sector, Renee St. Germain also shared opening remarks with the group and welcomed warmly them into the virtual circle.

Later that evening, the Carriers of Hope were given the opportunity to reconnect with one another and enjoy a performance by TikTok influencer, @Drivesthecommonman (Andrew Stevens). The Carriers of Hope were inspired by Andrew's story of resilience as a young successful First Nation man, and many shared their admiration for his talent and work.

Between March 27 and March 28, 2021, the Carriers of Hope were split into three Councils which represented a critical moment in the development of the virtual space. Much like the process in 2019, each Council was called to answer an invitation that mattered, where their knowledge and lived experiences were important. Guided by the beat of the Grandfather Drum, each facilitator called out the names of their Council members.

Throughout the weekend, each Council spent time connecting with one another and rebuilding their virtual community. In breakout sessions, each Council was given a Call to Action on which to focus and discuss potential mechanisms for promoting activities listed in the How-to-Guide. Members of each Council had five 45-minute sessions to review, brainstorm, and plan how to turn individual recommended actions from the How-To-Guide into sharable communications tools. After each breakout session, the Councils reported back their ideas and progress to the larger group. While the entire event was hosted virtually, the Carriers of Hope were overjoyed to reunite and share a weekend of inspiration and changemaking with the same youth that began this journey back in 2019.

Land Council: Facilitator – **Kim Debassige**, M'Chigeeng First Nation

Drum Council: Facilitator - **Quinn Meawasige**, Serpent River First Nation

Medicine Council: Facilitator - **Zoey Roy**, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation



“I feel honoured, inspired, important, heard, empowered, grateful and proud of myself and everyone else. I feel loved and supported by my Council.” – Carrier of Hope



MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS

After sharing ideas and building consensus within each Council, the Carriers of Hope created various thoughtful multimedia products including videos, TikToks, powerpoint presentations, posters, memes, a petition, a testimonial, and a letter. The intent behind the products was to create easily consumable content that encourages students, teachers, schools, and leaders in education to take prompt action to advance the Calls to Action. All products were created with the intent to be shared widely on social media or through other online networks. The Carriers of Hope embedded their own creative expression into each product, making every single piece unique in its' own way.



PRESENTATION DAY

Monday, March 29, 2021, three Carriers of Hope stepped forward and volunteered to facilitate the program which included presenting the Calls to Action promotional videos and introducing each Council to speak to the communication tools created over the weekend. The Land Council, Medicine Council, and Drum Council presented the various products and shared their reflections. After the presentation, adult allies were invited to offer their thoughts and feedback on what they heard.



“You are all so dedicated, passionate, persistent, assertive and talented. It was a privilege to hear you today! This felt like a movement-- a movement that I want to be part of!”
– Anonymous Adult Ally

#1

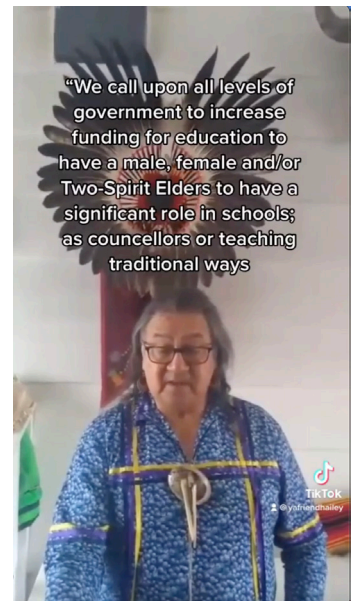
CALL TO ACTION #1: SUPPORT FOR ELDERS IN SCHOOLS



“WE CALL UPON ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION TO HAVE A MALE, FEMALE AND/OR TWO-SPIRIT ELDERS TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SCHOOLS; AS COUNSELLORS OR TEACHING TRADITIONAL WAYS, WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE MENTAL, SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF FIRST NATIONS YOUTH IN EVERY SCHOOL IN CANADA.”

The Carriers of Hope created two **videos** that call upon students to become liaisons in schools to support Elders; call upon schools to empower Elders to advise teachers and principals on First nations students’ needs; call upon teachers to work with Elders to develop lesson plans that speak to traditional ways; encourage schools to invite a male, female or two spirit Elder to be on school councils; and, call upon leaders to meet with school boards to discuss reconciliation action plans and progress.

The Carriers of Hope drafted a **petition** and created a meme that advocates for the inclusion of First Nations Elders in their classrooms through campaign letters, videos, petitions and/or presentations.



“Elders are important to us because they make us feel like we belong, and we feel safer when they are around. They have so much knowledge that they can teach all of us. [Elders] mentor us and guide us where we need to be and help us walk in two worlds that we, as First Nations students, are all expected to do.”

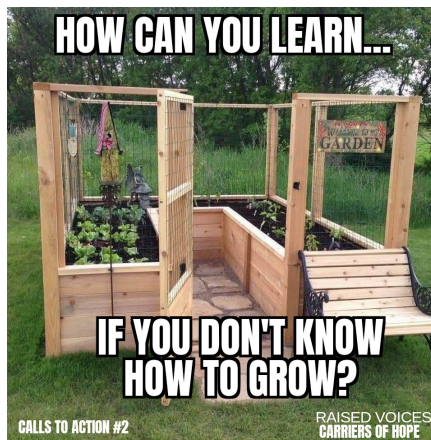
- Carriers of Hope

CALL TO ACTION #2: LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



“WE APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN LAND AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING ANNOUNCED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. THIS COMMITMENT MATTERS TO FIRST NATIONS YOUTH BECAUSE CULTURE AND BEING ON THE LAND KEEPS OUR TRADITIONS ALIVE WHILE CONNECTING US TO OURSELVES, FAMILIES, NATIONS, AND ANCESTORS. HOWEVER, WE CALL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THIS CURRENT FUNDING TO ALL FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS, INCLUDING THE NORTH, AND THOSE LIVING OFF RESERVE. THIS BECOMES ANOTHER RESOURCE TO SUPPORT THEIR WELLBEING AND SUCCESS.”

The Carriers of Hope developed two **posters** and two **memes** that speak to the importance of schools holding assemblies or group workshops inviting First Nations experts to talk about the importance of land-based knowledge and how it can be incorporated into curricula. The products call on Leaders to lobby provincial/territorial ministries of education to increase funding for land and culture-based programs; and call upon teachers to explore opportunities to learn First Nations languages, histories, and cultures.



CALL TO ACTION #2

We appreciate the significant investment in land and cultural programming announced by the Assembly of First Nations and the Government of Canada. This commitment matters to First Nations youth because culture and being on the land keeps our traditions alive while connecting us to ourselves, families, nations, and ancestors. However, we call for the expansion of current funding to all First Nations students, including the North, and those living off reserve. This becomes another resource to support their wellbeing and success.

RAISED VOICES: CARRIERS OF HOPE

We call upon students to

- Research First Nations history, territory or Treaty they live and learn on. (Ex. Native-land.com).
- Look into the history of your neighborhood, town or city.
- Locate landmarks and their names and research who or what they're named after and why.

We call upon schools to

- Hold assemblies or group workshops inviting First Nations experts to talk about the importance of land-based knowledge and how it could be incorporated into curricula.
- Host Elders/Knowledge keepers to teach once a week outside through-land based learning.

We call upon teachers to

- Explore opportunities to learn First Nations languages, histories, and cultures.
- Learn about First Nations traditional activities and accommodate students that may need to miss class.

We call upon student leaders to

- Be more involved in the schools and participate in on-site-land learning exercises with students.
- Support lifelong learning for First Nations students and advocate for First Nations control of First Nations education.

#RaisedVoices

The Carriers of Hope developed a **PowerPoint presentation** that outlines what students can do to advance Call to Action # 2, including, take social media breaks and go on walks; investigate the neighborhood history; town or city, local parks, street names or school names and research who or what they are named after; and follow influencers on social media that speak about traditional teachings and land-based knowledge.



The **video** shares a series of ideas that teachers, schools and leaders can implement to support land-based learning, including, incorporating land-based learning options into lesson plans, consult knowledge keepers, language and culture teachers to support these lessons. The video demands that schools provide cultural awareness training to teachers and encourage teachers to include course content that focuses on First Nations cultures and land-based learning. The video also describes that leaders need to be more involved in the schools and participate in on-the-land learning with students; they need to support lifelong learning for First Nations students; and must advocate for First Nations control of First Nations education.



“Ice fishing teaches me and my sister how to feed our family - THAT is what education looks like to me!” – Carriers of Hope Drum Council

CALL TO ACTION #3: EARLY CHILDHOOD DAYCARE



“WE CALL FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD), INCREASED DAYCARE OPTIONS, AND LOWERING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN TO ACCESS ECD PROGRAMS. THIS WILL ENSURE THERE WILL BE A SAFE AND SECURE SPACE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND SUSTAIN YOUNG FIRST NATIONS PARENTS’ EDUCATION.”

The Carriers of Hope developed two **posters**, a **GIF**, and four **memes** encouraging the following: students to practice leadership skills to promote a safe and welcoming environment for *all* students (including student parents); teachers must take Indigenous cultural training and work with students who are parents to create alternative ways of learning; and schools must ensure that all student parents are accommodated if they need to miss courses or assignments.

A **poster** was created to promote importance of teachers teaching healthy and culturally relevant sexual education and healthy relationship education in schools.



“We must ensure that students are taught healthy and culturally relevant sexual education and healthy relationship education.”

- Carriers of Hope

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

RAISED VOICES: CARRIERS OF HOPE YOUTH CALL TO ACTION #3

We call for increased funding for Early Childhood Development (ECD), increased daycare options, and lower age requirements for First Nations children to access EDC programs. This will ensure there will be a safe and secure space for our children and sustain young First Nations parents' education.

The Carriers of Hope call on students to...

- Assist fellow classmates by creating a network of support for a student parent
- Offer to take notes for absent students
- Engage in peer tutoring or mentorship
- Practice leadership skills by promoting a safe and welcoming environment for all students

RAISED VOICES: CARRIERS OF HOPE

#4

CALL TO ACTION #4: EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR K-12



“WE CALL FOR EQUITABLY FUNDED KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 SCHOOLS WITH A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF RESOURCES, SUPPORTS, AND CULTURALLY AWARE FACULTY FOR FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS IN EVERY NATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY.”

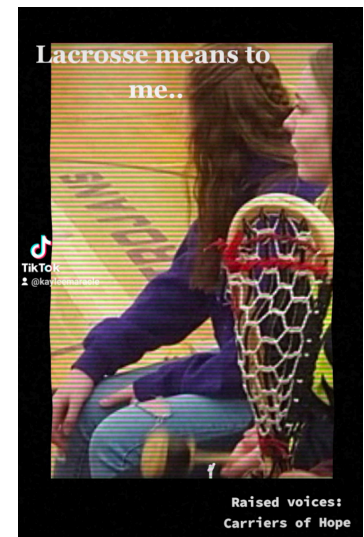
The Carriers of Hope designed two **posters** and filmed three **videos** that highlight activities for students, teachers, schools, and leaders to undertake to advance *Call to Action #4*.

Actions for students include, create a student committee made up of First Nations and allies to advocate for cultural awareness at school, and suggest community members to invite to schools who can provide workshops, training, or lead cultural events.

The poster outlines specific measures that teachers can implement to answer *Call to Action #4*: accept alternative submissions of work such as storytelling, dance, reports from First Nations youth gatherings or personal experience; learn about First Nations history and languages, and plan field trips to culturally relevant spaces.

The **videos** describe that schools must offer First Nations language courses taught by First Nations teachers; and must fund First Nations motivational speakers to come to schools and speak to the students.

The **posters** outline that leaders must advocate for increased funding for professional development of teachers especially around cultural awareness training; and they need to advocate for increased funding for First Nations extra-curricular activities.



“Language is important to us because... it’s always been a part of who we are; it ignites spiritual connection to our ancestors; it refers to a worldview that is ours; it brings us together. Even if we, as First Nations peoples do not speak the same language, all our languages are connected. Language completes us.”

- Carriers of Hope

#5

CALL TO ACTION #5: SHARED HISTORY IN CURRICULA



“WE CALL ON THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, CANADA TO INFLUENCE AND ADVOCATE FOR THE INCLUSION OF OUR SHARED HISTORY AND FIRST NATIONS KNOWLEDGE INTO CURRICULA.”

The Carriers of Hope created a **PowerPoint, meme, and social media videos** describing the significance of teachers including First Nations history and knowledge in curricula and assignments throughout the entire year and incorporating books written by First Nations authors in course materials.

Call upon teachers to seek out First Nations content experts to invite to speak to the class. Consult with a First Nations education organization in your area for support.

#RaisedVoices Youth
Carriers of Hope call upon teachers to include books written by First Nations authors in course reading materials

We call upon teachers to include First Nations history in #Curriculum #RaisedVoices

We call upon Schools to invite their Essential Knowledge Education to schools as they relate to First Nations students, questions, concerns, and suggestions!

The Carriers of Hope Call upon Leaders to: Learn about and include land acknowledgments in their opening remarks.
#RaisedVoices #CarriersofHope

Call to Action #5

- We call the AFN, Federal Government and national organizations to encourage the Council of Ministers of Education to influence inclusion and advocate for the inclusion of our shared history and First Nation knowledge into curriculum...

The **social media videos** call on schools to invite their provincial Minister of Education to schools so they can listen to First Nations students' questions, concerns, and suggestions; and call upon leaders to learn about and include land acknowledgements in their opening remarks.

The Carriers of Hope drafted a **letter** template that demands increased mandatory subject matter regarding First Nations shared histories and knowledge in curricula.



“Throughout our time in the public school system, we have learned a lot about Canada and not enough about our specific cultures, languages, and knowledge. This gives us a sense of loss in our identity. It’s like we’re not a part of Canada. We didn’t learn enough about our own histories let alone our shared history.”
– Carriers of Hope



REPORT BACK: ADULT ALLIES

FULFILLING 2019 COMMITMENTS

STUDENTS COMMISSION CANADA

Following the 2019 Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope youth forum, the Students Commission of Canada held a youth conference called Canada We Want and invited nine Carriers of Hope to attend. Because of the Carriers of Hope, “truth leading to reconciliation” was used as a guiding lens and will continue to be used at future events as truth is the precursor to reconciliation.

THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

The director of Languages and Learning commended the Carriers of Hope on creating high quality products over such a short period of time. Since 2019, the Languages and Learning Sector has created and launched several *Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope* promotional products including a photo campaign, video campaign, and a *How-to-Guide*. In addition, the Languages and Learning Sector has fulfilled the recommendations made by the Carriers of Hope at the event in 2020.

CARRIER OF HOPE

A Carrier of Hope expressed pride in participating the Raised Voices initiative since 2019. He noted that the Carriers of Hope are dedicated to making Canada a better place for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. He stated, now that he has his own child, he is truly devoted to driving change for future generations.

When asked what specific actions the Carriers of Hope have undertaken since the initial Raised Voices gathering in 2019, many reflected on the various youth initiatives they took part in and how they continue to be change-makers. A few Carriers of Hope shared that they were honoured to be invited to present the *Calls to Action* at other First Nations education forums throughout 2019 and 2020. Others identified that attending the initial *Raised Voices* event in 2019 inspired them to move out of their comfort zone and partake in the Students on Ice Arctic Expedition.

Another Carrier of Hope expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in *Raised Voices*, because it helped her find her own voice. Since then, she has started a podcast which has increased her confidence and built her public speaking skills. Additionally, firsthand experiences were shared regarding finding employment in areas that uplift other First Nations students in their education careers. Carriers of Hope reported working in the post-secondary education sector within their Band Office to support other First Nations students in their transition from grade 12 to post-secondary education.

Other examples of the Carriers of Hope fulfilling their own personal commitments include: assisting family members with virtual

learning throughout COVID-19; pursuing their own post-secondary education; having discussions with their Chief and Council on how they can support the *Calls to Action*; sharing their experiences of *Raised Voices* with fellow classmates; attending other national gatherings where they pursue leadership and facilitation roles; and, maintaining strong relationships with other Carriers of Hope throughout the last few years.



FEEDBACK & FUTURE ACTION

After the Carriers of Hope presented on March 29, 2021, adult allies were given time to reflect and provide their initial thoughts and feedback. AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde supported the *Calls to Action*, and commended the courage, resilience, and leadership of the Carriers of Hope.

AFN Yukon Regional Chief Adamek and Youth Portfolio Holder, praised the Carriers of Hope for all their advocacy work done to date and committed to working with the AFN National Youth Council to make the *Calls to Action* a priority and support this work directly. She also spoke about her role as an ally and the need for other allies to support young leaders.

Other speakers included government representatives, Executive Directors of National youth and education organizations, Co-Chair of AFN National Youth Council, and the AFN Director of Languages and Learning.



“Thank you to all the Carriers of Hope for all your hard work, it is truly inspiring. We will share the materials with our communications team. I can also commit to share this with the local school trustee in Ottawa.”

– Holly Palen, Acting Director of Innovation and Youth Engagement Division at Environment and Climate Change Canada



“Pathways to Education Canada would like to offer the Carriers of Hope a seat at the National Indigenous Advisory Circle which would give the opportunity to inform updating the current strategy to support indigenous youth in programs.

– Marth Krzic, Director of Programs, Pathways to Education Canada



“I am so blown away with what the youth accomplished over the weekend. We are very interested to work with the AFN and the Carriers of Hope to distribute the materials to every nook and cranny across the country.”

– Sharif Mahdy Executive Director, Students Commission Canada



“Youth voices are so powerful; people talk the talk but don’t always follow up. We commit to finding spaces to share messages with trustees. We have a partnership with the trustees association, and we look forward to using [these materials].”

– Nancy Pynch -Worthlayke, Executive Director, Canadian School Boards Association



“[We] were floating on air after attending the 2019 Raised Voices event. This year, I am blown away by the Carriers of Hope. Such incredible design on the posters, the messages are so clear! Apple is open to sharing this information with Apple Canada and personally through my own networks.”

– Anne-Marie Scullion, Apple



“As a member of the federal youth secretariat, I am both personally and professionally benefitting from attending this event today.”

– Natacha Vairo, Senior Manager, Heritage Canada



“I wanted to thank you all for the work you’re doing – it does make a difference. Having access to Elders throughout the duration of my time at the First Nations University saved my life.”

– Policy Analyst, Environment Canada

ADDITIONAL CARRIERS OF HOPE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Be an influencer.** Share the Carriers of Hope Calls to Action on First Nations Education on your website and in social media.
- 2. Be an advocate.** Provide copies or a link to the Calls to Action to your coworkers, colleagues and leadership within your organization, system, or First Nation.
- 3. Be a role model.** Offer a written response that can be shared with the Carriers of Hope with your commitments.
- 4. Be an ally.** Engage the Carriers of Hope in helping move forward the Calls to Action. If you attended the presentation, reach out and sustain the relationships that were developed in Ottawa.
- 5. Be a champion.** Invite Carriers of Hope from your region to present their Calls to Action at upcoming education related meetings, Council meetings or conferences. Help them share their message.





CONCLUSION: NEXT STEPS

Over the course of the four-day virtual gathering, the Carriers of Hope reacquainted themselves with the important advocacy work that has been done to date; they rekindled old friendships, and most importantly, they left the gathering feeling mobilized and that their voices matter. In a short weekend, the Carriers of Hope developed multimedia pieces that will contribute to the ongoing amplification of their voices. The Carriers of Hope shared their work directly with all levels of policy makers and leaders in education and received feedback and further commitments in return.

Nearly every recommendation made by the Carriers of Hope back in 2020 was successfully fulfilled by the time this gathering concluded. The Carriers of Hope overcame the challenges of navigating online spaces and proved that virtual gatherings can be just as productive and impactful as any other in-person meeting. The next steps for the multimedia products are to work with AFN Communications to develop and implement a communications plan for continuing the ongoing promotion of this integral initiative. The Carriers of Hope are a shining example of the true impact First Nations youth can have on driving change.



“We want today’s First Nations children and youth to be able to know who they are, learn their culture and feel safe off the reserve. We want today’s children and youth to have a safe place to learn and grow just like Canadians do. We want today’s children and youth to feel safe in learning who they are, who their ancestors are and to know the history of the land that they grow up on.” – Carriers of Hope

A Special ‘Thank You’ to each and every Carrier of Hope:

Harmony McArthur, Keeseekoose First Nation

Sophia Sampson, Nanoose First Nation

Chante Speidel, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Denée Ryle, York Factory First Nation

Jacinda Houle, Dakota Plains

Helena Francis, St. Mary’s First Nation

Shenise Vittrekwa, Dene Nation

Chase Yakeleya, Deh Gah Gotie First Nation

Kyle Simon, Annapolis Valley First Nation

Patience Sylliboy, Millbrook First Nation

Sean Hayman, Qalipu First Nation

Kristian Kennedy (Tehatsistahawi), Beausoleil First Nation

Regan Ferris, Constance Lake First Nation

Kailey Sager, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

Pierre Debassige, M’Chigeeng First Nation

Joanna Quequish (Joey Que), North Caribou Lake First Nation

Ernestine Beardy, North Caribou Lake First Nation

Macy Metallic, Listuguj First Nation

Hailey Rose, Mosquito Grizzly Bear Head

Jaden Yee-Pelletier, Cowessess First Nation

Branden Yee, Cowessess First Nation

Lahela Reid (Kambalshech’ia), Champagne and Aishihik First Nation

Carriers of Hope who could not make it this year:

Dylan Jim, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation

Edith Alexis (Dede), Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation

Ernestine Mousseau, Misipawistik Cree Nation

Mindy Moulton, Tobique First Nation

Cody Orlas, Behdzi Ahda First Nation

Chloé Awashish, Atikamekw First Nation

Marie-Livia Boivin, Atikamekw First Nation

Arianna Rachel, Tr'ondek Hwech'in

Memphis Friesen, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation

Evan Louis, Samson Cree First Nation

Joseph Natrall (Jo), Squamish Nation

Jaron McDougall, St. Theresa Point First Nation

Nikeda Sark, Lennox Island First Nation

Lacey Silverquill, Clearwater River First Nation

