

# First Peoples Child & Family Review

## An Interdisciplinary Journal Honouring the Voices, Perspectives, and Knowledges of First Peoples

## Artworks

---

Volume 16, Number 1, 2021

Special Edition by Children and Youth in Honour of Shannen's Dream

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1088881ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1088881ar>

[See table of contents](#)

---

### Publisher(s)

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

### ISSN

1708-489X (print)

2293-6610 (digital)

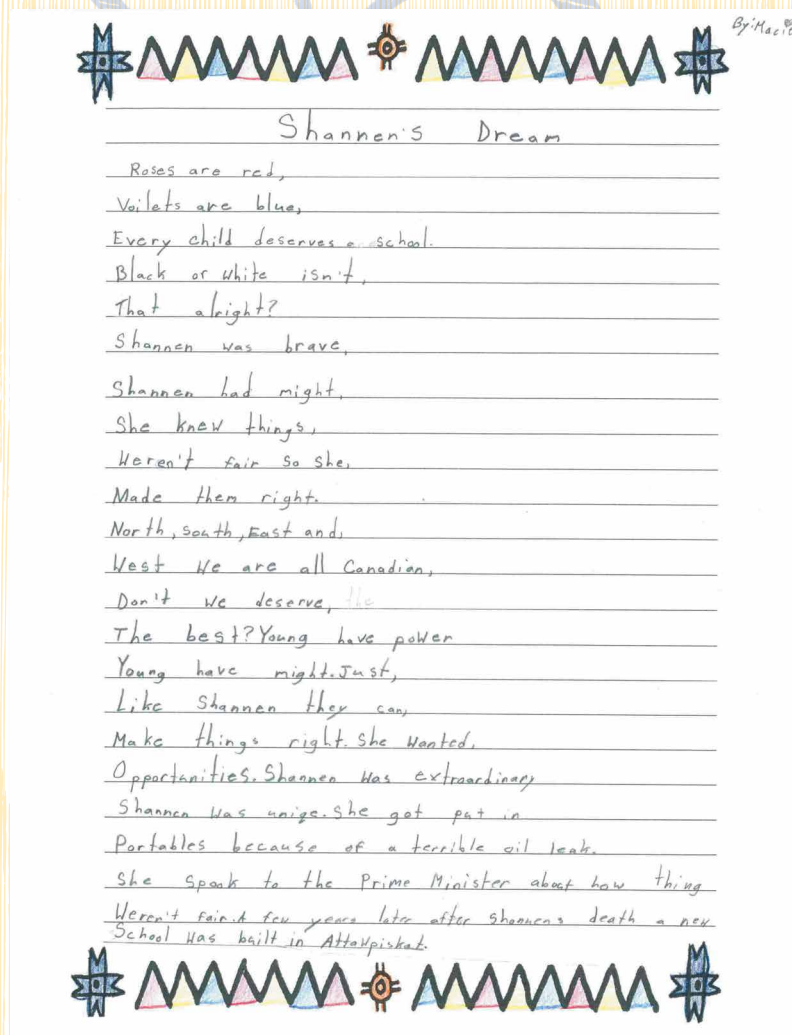
[Explore this journal](#)

---

### Cite this document

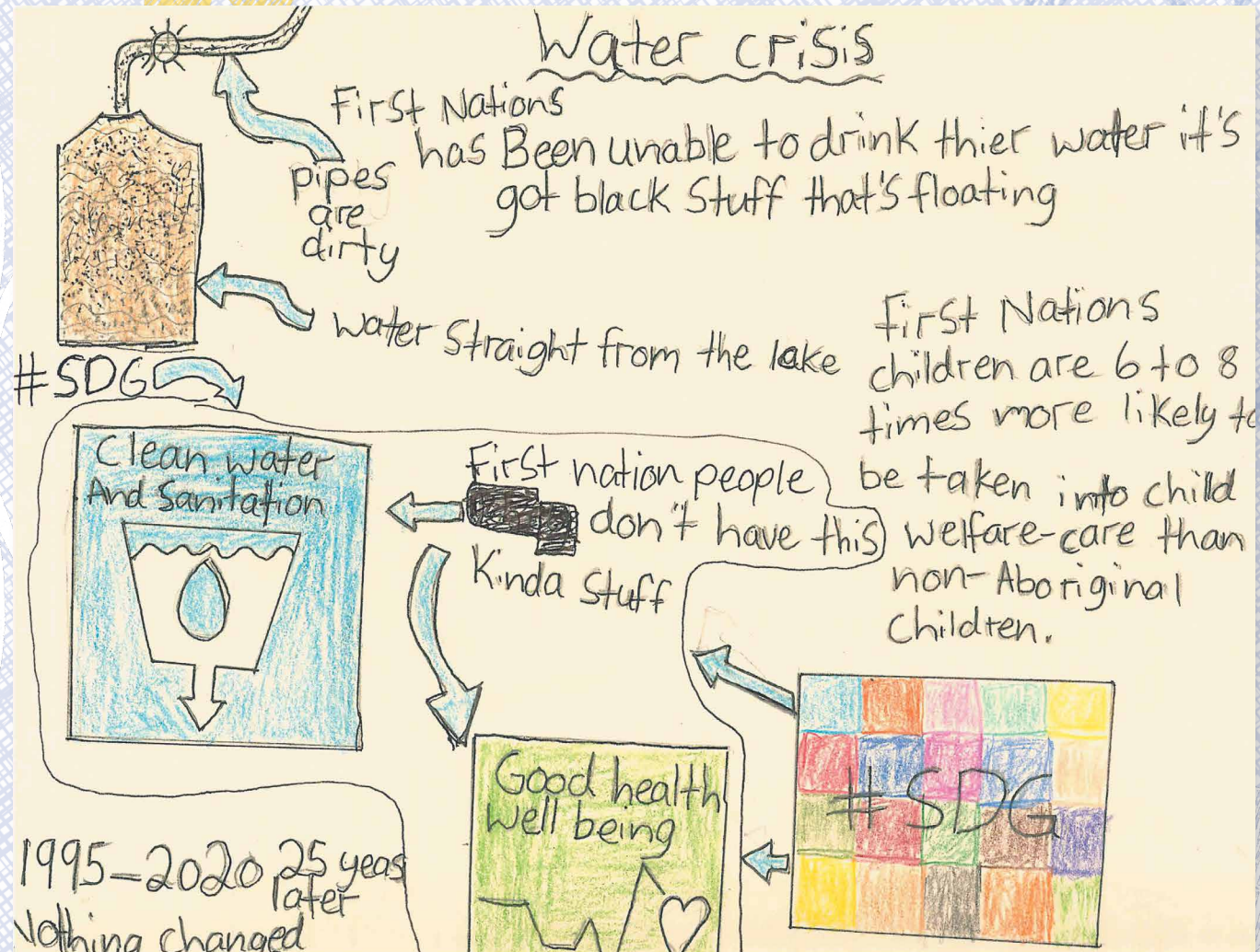
(2021). Artworks. *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, 16(1), 14–48.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/1088881ar>



Macie, age 9





Wilford, age 12



Shannen wanted every Canadian child to have a school.

Have a heart and do your part to take place in 'Shannen's dream'.

Attawapiskat doesn't want help, they want opportunities.

Now Attawapiskat has a school, why didn't they get it when Shannen asked the government?

Never forget about Shannen Koostachin.

Every child should get a school to have proper education.

Now there is a school named Shannen Koostachin Elementary school.

Know that Shannen Koostachin is a hero to all First Nation communities.

Over and over, the government refused to listen to Shannen and her dream.

Oh my, the children must have been cold when they had to walk to play school and back.

Shannen Koostachin wanted to change things and she succeeded to do so.

The children were not able to have library classes.

Attawapiskat is cold, some of the kids might have gotten sick.

Change is what Shannen wanted and she got what she wanted.

Her school was J.P. Nakagawa that got closed down because of the oil spill.

In Attawapiskat they have to move every year in the spring because of flood.

No indigenous communities should be treated differently than us we are all Canadian children.

Shannen cared about her dream and we do too!

Dream anything possible, like Shannen did.

Really stand up when you know something isn't right.

Even know Shannen is no longer with us, her story lives on.



Attawapiskat is a cold place where you need to boil water to drink.

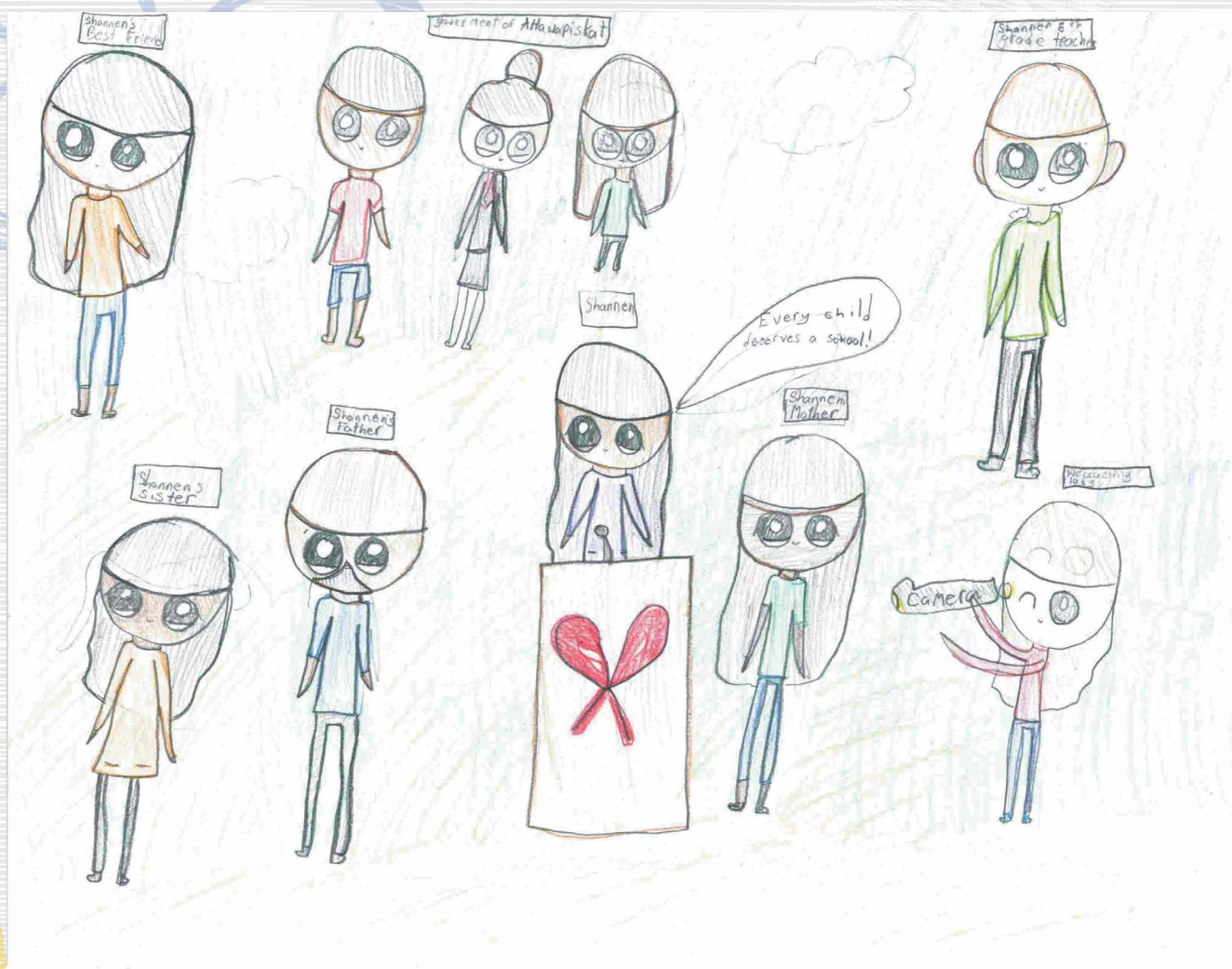
Maybe someday you can make your own dream come true, just like Shannen did!

By: Claire



Claire, age 9







She is stuck inside of my head.

Help First Nation's people.

A spark is in her.

Not fair that we get a  
school and they don't

Never again should have  
no school

Everyone deserves

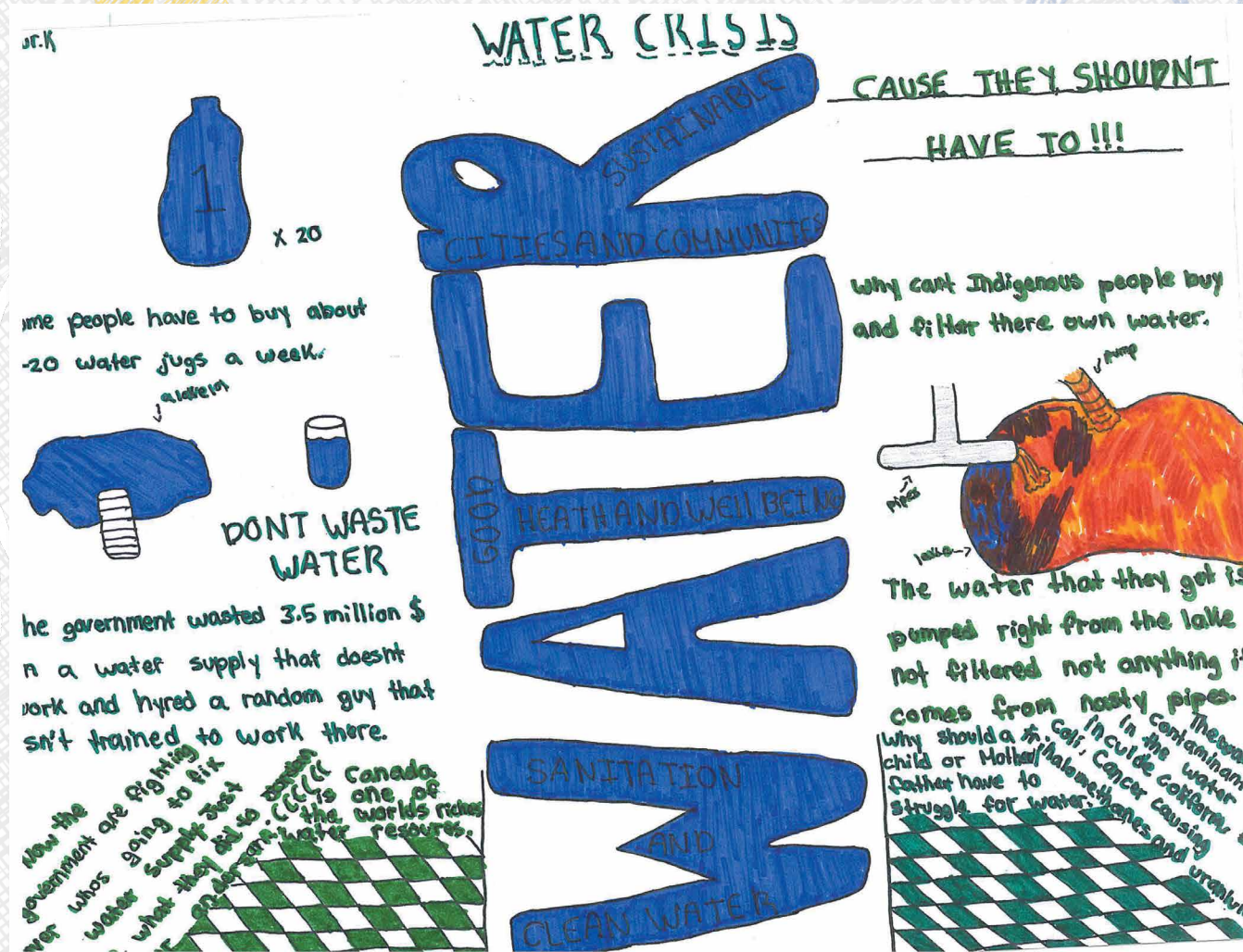
Now!!!

by: Mason



Mason, age 9





Nour K., age 12





Isla, age 9





Dear Mr. Marc Miller,

My name is Isla and I stand up for Shannen. Shannen's Dream is a big deal. Her dream is also special. I heard about Shannen's story and it hit me. I thought about this and you should too. If you were Shannen Koostachin you would want to give your friends in your school and out of your school, the real experience of a school, not only portables. You also would feel really sad and mad if Shannen said you don't deserve a school. You would not feel very good and I promise you that. Sometimes you can't only think about yourself. Shannen's dream should not have taken her death to only get a new school. It wasn't fair. Just because you are the Minister of Indigenous Services does not

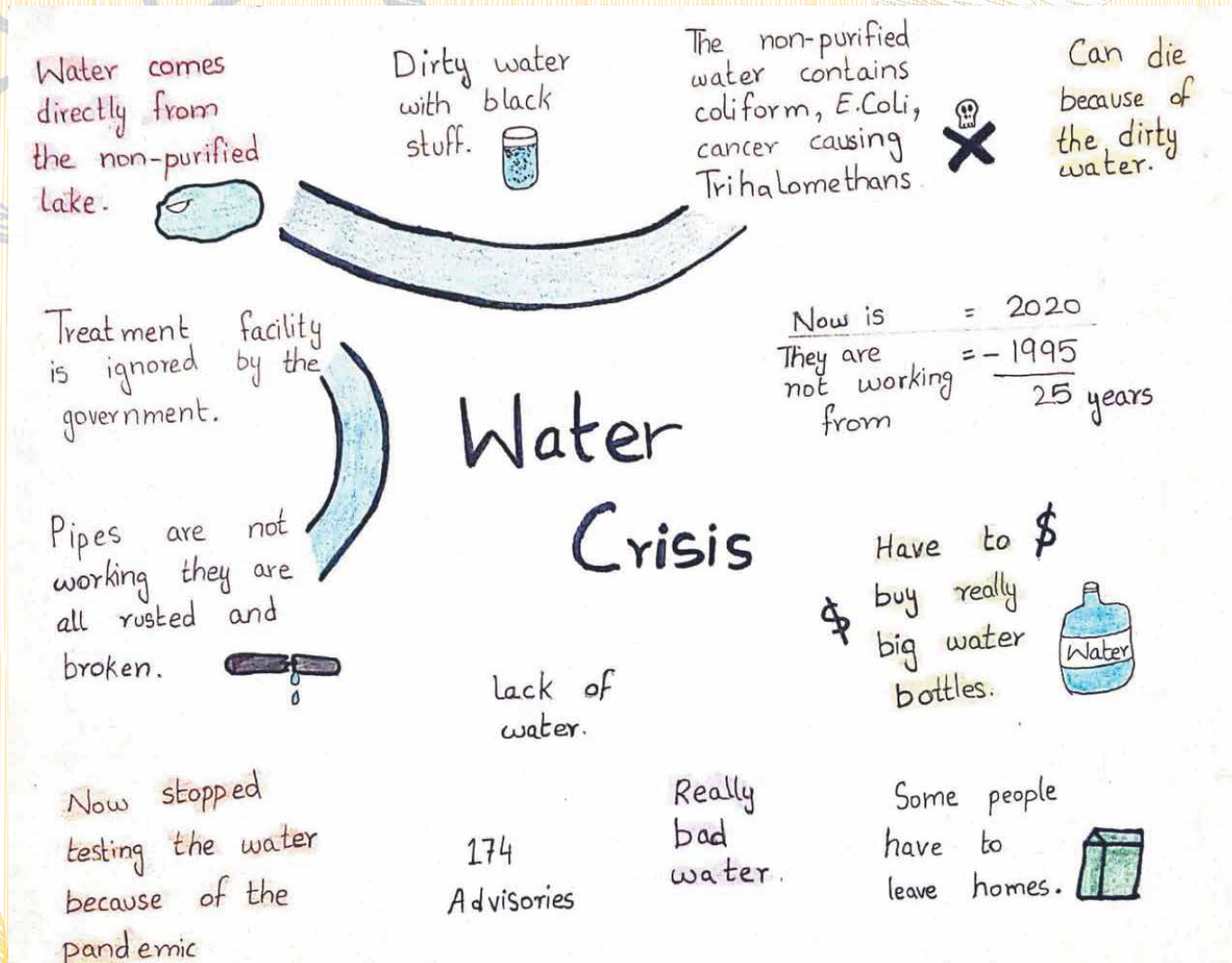


mean you can treat them like that.  
I also made you a poem.

Roses are red.  
Violets are blue.  
Young kids can  
make a difference.  
And so can you!

Sincerely,  
Isla





Noor F., age 12



Kqttawqipskqat elementary School



Every child deserves a school. I'm so happy that there is a new school called Kqttawqipskqat elementary school but there is still children that have no school. I think every child deserves a school like Shannen. Back then when Shannen was alive she wanted a real school. I think she should of had a real school not a portable. Sorry for the loss of Shannen Koosatchin but I'm happy that Shannen's dream came true and she got a new school called Kqttawqipskqat.

sincerely Lola



Lola, age 9



over here is a poem I hope you like it  
Shannon's dream

Shannon Koostachin is a good Kid. My teacher, Ms. Thevisen (well for you she must be Ms. Filson), and anyway she told us all about the story. And Shannon is right, evryone needs a school no mater what! It really is not fair! Kids have the power too! I hope Shannon does not feel embarassed beceuse we have a school and she doesn't. I think they should have just made a new school or fixed the oil tank. I wish Shannon was still here to keep fighting. All kids deserve a school not just us. You are Canadians too! They don't even have a library because they have portables. It's so sad, but I hope you like what I sent you and I hope you get it too. Now I will tell you about my drawing. I drew the school that had an oil spill and it's crossed off, and then some portables. I hope you like it.

WE All have Senciraly Molly Power!!!



Molly, age 9





My name is Lauren and my and  
my teacher Mrs. Theunissen for known  
to the children of Attawapiskat  
who had her as a teacher in  
the early 2000's Mrs. Filton who  
actually taught Shannen and she  
saw a spark in Shannen and  
she was right! I think Shannen  
dream was an amazing one  
and we need to make sure  
everyone gets a school  
for children to feel safe  
and happy. I don't think it's  
fair for me to go to  
a real school in Nova  
Scotia without a portable  
in sight and also have  
safe water to drink out of  
a tap while Attawapiskat  
and many other First Nations  
communities have to boil  
their water. I feel like it's  
unbelievable children had to protest  
for a simple playground. I



Know Shannen's Dream was an  
important dream and we need  
to raise money and fight  
until every single portable school  
gets a real school!

By: Lauren



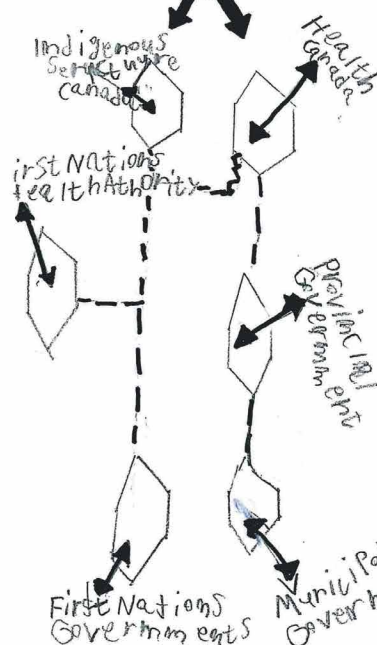
Lauren, age 9

Bj Amro

# Water Water Crisis in First Nations communities

we all need clean water

Water governance structure



Some of the advisories date as far back as 1995 - like Shog Lake 40 First Nation.

43 per cent of first Nation water systems are at high or medium risk of contamination. In 2010, the United Nations declared water and sanitation human rights, acknowledging they are essential to the realization of all other rights.

In May 2012, there were 17 drinking water advisories in over 100 First Nations.

A single drinking water advisory can mean as many as 5,000 people access to safe, clean drinking water.

If Canada raises corporate tax rates from 15 to 25.5 percent, all First Nations could have working water systems.

Amro, age 12





Shannen's dream will come true.  
 Schools are helpful to make people  
 happy. Shannen needs a big  
 neighbourhood so she has space.  
 Kids in Canada need a school!  
 Everybody needs a school in the  
 world. Shannen needs people to have  
 a school. Shannen deserves a  
 school because she doesn't have a  
 school and it's not fair for Shannen  
 and her friends. Shannen died in a  
 terrible car accident. Shannen  
 Koostachin died in June 1st, 2010.  
 In Shannen's school there was  
 an oil spill at the school so  
 they had to go in a port-a-leo so  
 they can stay safe and not  
 be sick. All of the people were  
 getting really sick and that's why the  
 people in the school had to go in to a  
 port-a-leo.



Olivia, age 9





Charlotte, age 9





Dear Mr. Marc Miller,  
I think it is so unfair that the First Nations do not have, clean water, schools or fresh fruit and vegetables. It is also unfair that the First Nations people have to boil dirty water to drink it and they could get sick. Over here in Dartmouth, we can just turn on the tap and fresh clean water and that is very unfair to the First Nations people. In some communities, they do not even have school for children to learn in and they should have the same education as us. First Nations people should have, clean water, fresh food, clothes and good homes. All of Canada should have the same things as us. First Nations people matter too!! Shannen Koostachin should have been listened to before she died. It is like she needed to die before understand what was going on. She tried so hard to get a school, but now they do in Attawapiskat, but there are still communities that only portables and not real schools for the children to learn in. First Nations People Matter too!!



Shannen Koostachin Do First Nations Deserve Portables? NO

Help First Nations Remember, all kids matter

All kids matter Everyone has a story

None will stop us. More happiness, more happy children.

None will not come to school.

Everyone has power

Nation

By Charlotte



Dear Mr. Marc Miller,  
 I hope Shannen's dream continues on  
 by people making speeches, letters or  
 even making a sign. Shannen's dream was  
 important because every town in Canada  
 should get a real school no matter what.  
 I want to continue on Shannen's  
 dream by making people notice these  
 types of towns, and what they don't  
 get. Attawapiskat and any other town who  
 doesn't have rights deserves to have schools.  
 Clean water or anything else that we  
 get and they don't. Shannen didn't do  
 this for the same. She did  
 this to have rights. I'm making this  
 letter to try to make a difference  
 in the first Nation communities. It wasn't  
 until her death when they finally realised  
 that a portable is not good for a  
 child's education. It's wrong that they  
 had to put their warm clothing on  
 every time they went to physics, computer  
 lab or anything else. I couldn't  
 imagine walking to school and not

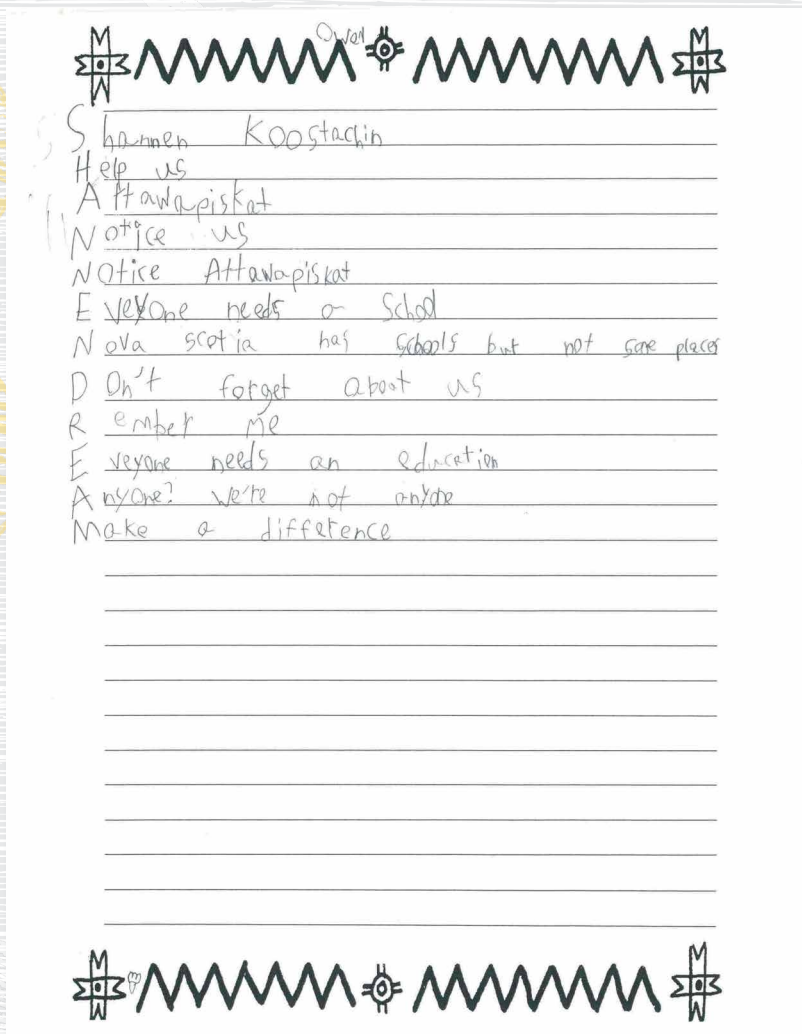
getting to go in a school building.  
 I think Shannen was very brave to  
 fight for rights for her town. It's  
 time for every child to deserve rights,  
 no matter their culture or where they  
 live in Canada.

Sincerely  
 Whitney  
 McKim

Whitney, age 9

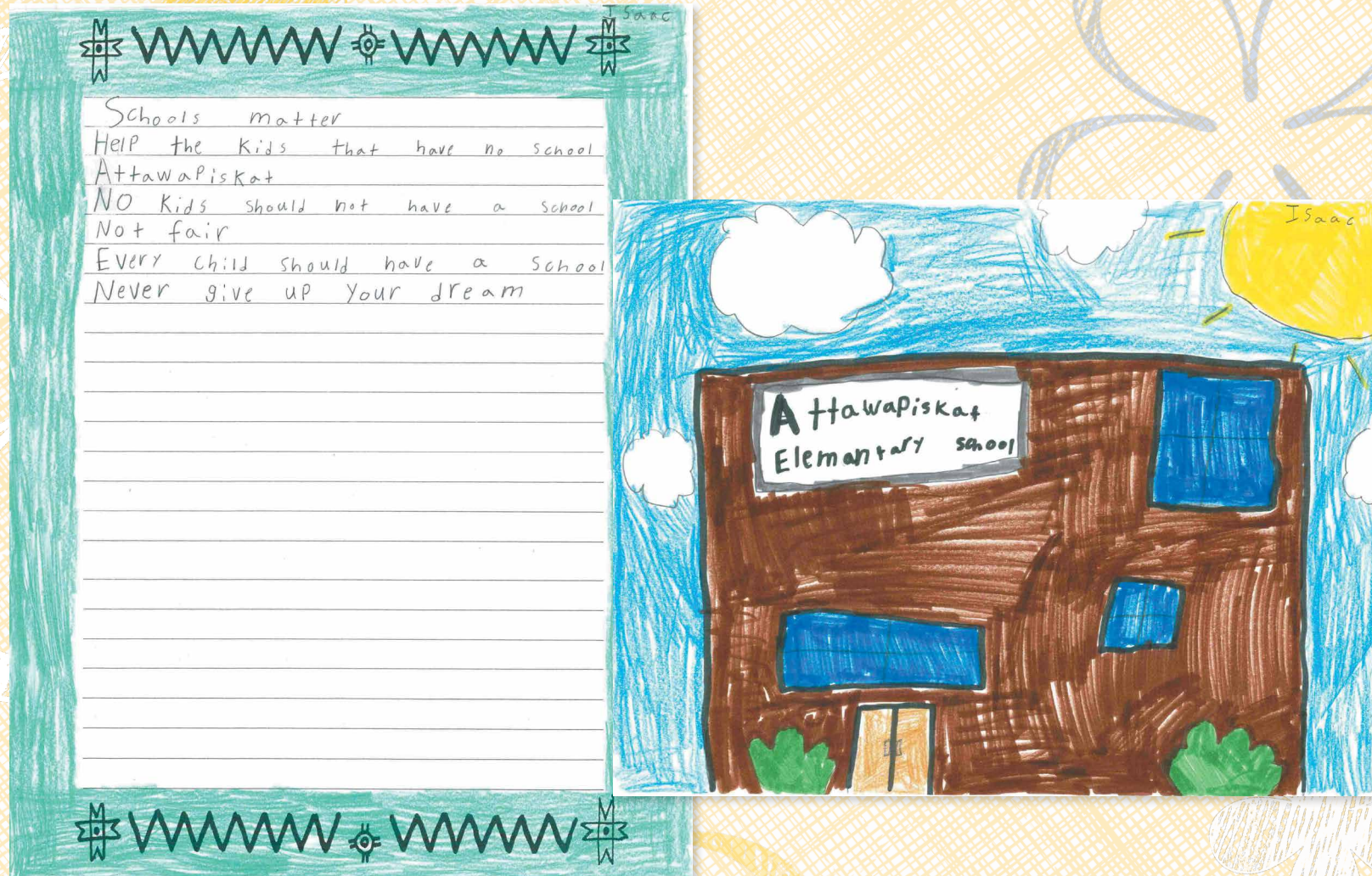






Owen, age 10





Isaac, age 9





Dear Mr. Marc Miller,  
I go to Colby Village Elementary School and I think that it is not fair that kids in Nova Scotia like me get to have a nice big warm school, but the kids in Attawapiskat had to get stuck in portables because of the oil spill at their old school. Shannen KooStachin had to lose her life just for her to be able to go to school, while we get to wake up and go right to our school. I hope that Shannen's dream comes true because young people have just as much power as older people do. All Shannen wanted was a school after she died her dream came true and she was pretty young. I can make a difference by making posters, protesting for equal schools and even sending a letter like I am now. My hope for Shannen's dream is to get more schools in First Nations communities because every child's education matters. Shannen KooStachin did not only want schools for Attawapiskat she wanted schools



for all Canadian children. Isn't that nice how a young Special kid did what she did. It is not fair at all how we can just go to gym and computer lab without having to get all geared up while the kids in Attawapiskat had to put on their warm gear just to go to gym class or computer lab. Just imagine all of the little kids who had no library and just wanted to learn how to read. What is really special is that the Indigenous people did not want to be given things they want to do it by their selves and be proud. I feel sad because of her story but I feel proud of her. I know that we can make a difference and you know it too.

Sincerely Brooklyn



Brooke, age 9







Meweda

# WATER CRISIS IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

- 870,000 people under a water crisis  
 $\frac{174 \text{ Advisories}}{\times 5000 \text{ people each}} = 870,000$

Some people get brown dirty water from their taps

Some people find unknown little black things in their water

The government provide a water treatment facility that costed 3.6 million but it didn't even work.

The council of Canadians learned that the federal government has

The water advisers started in 1995

2020 (this year)  
 - 1995 (when it started)  
 = 0025 years

This adviser is saying that the water is undrinkable

First nations shouldn't have to pay for water like other places in Canada. In order to drink safe water they use big big jugs of water.

The water that First Nation Community gets is from the lake directly to their taps

These houses directly get water from the lake

73% percent of First nation's water systems are at high medium risk of contamination

Contaminants in the water include coliform, E-Coli, cancer-causing Trihalomethanes and Uranium

Good health and well being because everybody needs to have access to clean water so they can stay healthy

Clam water and sanitation because everyone needs to have clean water and drinkable water

Plum Juice and strawberry Institution because everyone should be

Sustainable Development Goals that could help in this problem

#3 Know whether or not the water is safe to drink

#6 Clean water and sanitation

#16 Peace, Justice and strong Institutions

Meweda, age 12





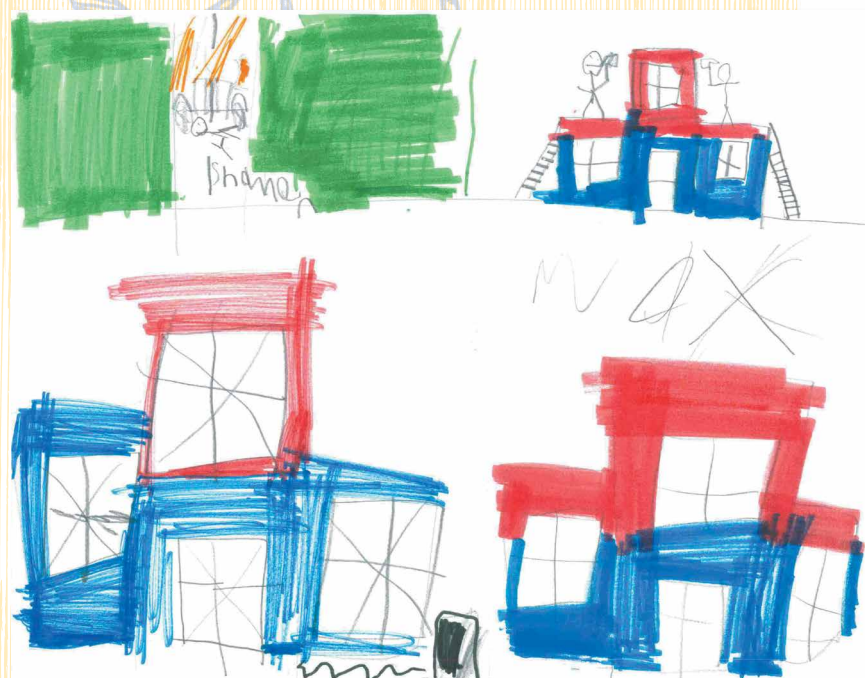
Hello my name is Maddy and I wanted to let you know every child deserves a school. There was person named Shannen Koostachin and she was first nations. She did not have a school any more because there was an oil spill so they had to learn in portables our teacher taught Shannen Koostachin. There are still 45 schools to be built!

After her death they built a school and she lived in Attawapiskat. If you do something about it Canada could be a better place my point is we have a warm school clean water some people don't. I am not just writing this to you just because I want this to happen it's also because it's the right thing to do. What if you were in a portable with no clean water it's really not fair you're so lucky you have all these things other people don't have my point is every child deserves a school.

Yours truly Maddy



Madison, age 9



Dear Mr. Matt Milet  
 There are indigenous communities without  
 schools and I think it is not fair for the  
 communities without schools. Now in  
 Attawapiskat has a school because Shannen  
 Koo Stachin died and after she died and after  
 she died a school was built. It is not fair  
 because she died for a new school and  
 people are still without a good  
 education in schools.

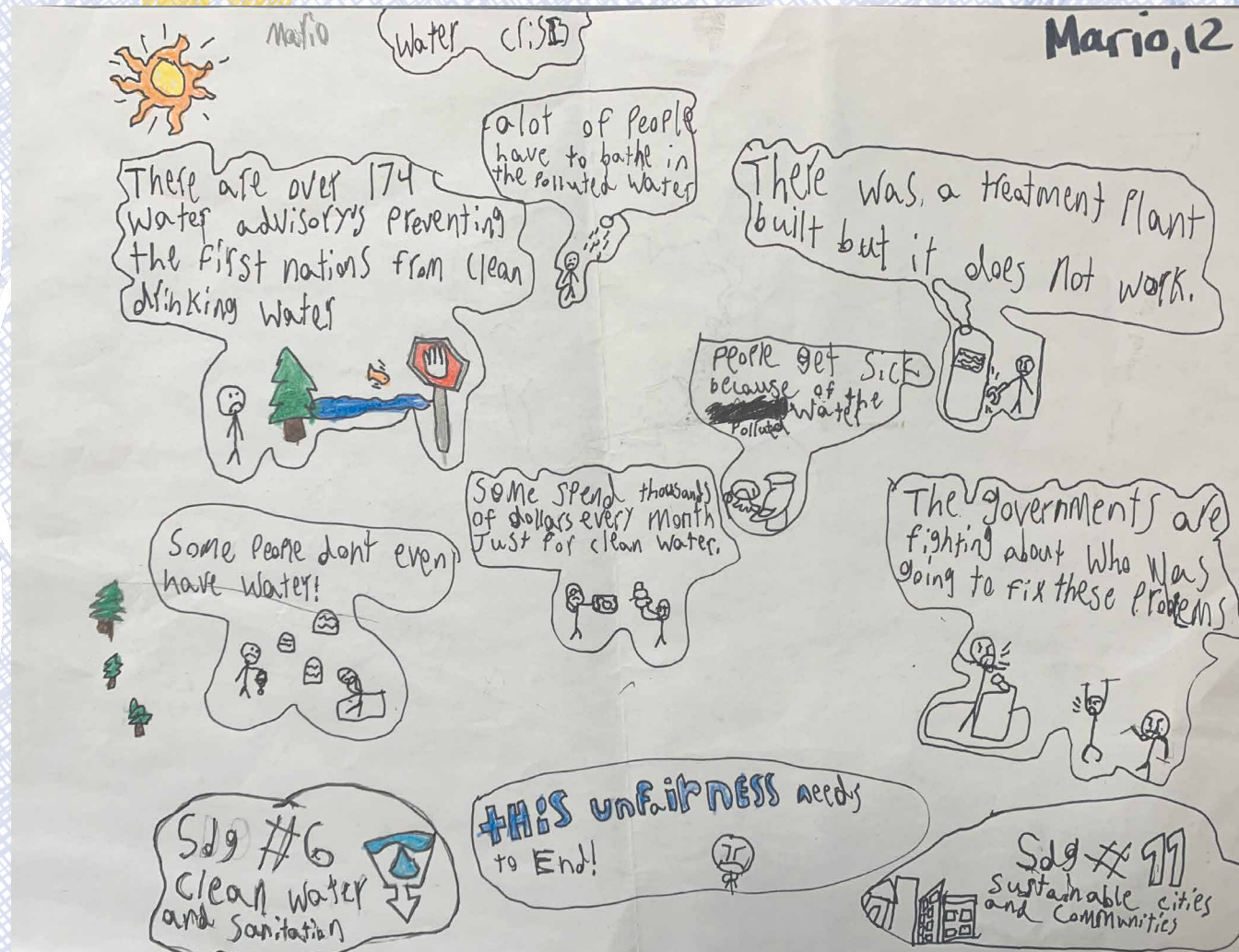
Sincerely

Max



Max, age 9





Mario, age 12



# WATER CRISIS

The water many Indigenous communities depend on is contaminated, difficult to access or risk due to faulty treatment system.

Contaminants: The contaminants in the water include Coliform, E.coli, and cancer causing Trihalomethanes.

Each water advisory, at least 5,000 people lack of access.

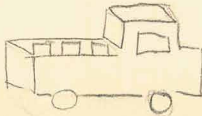
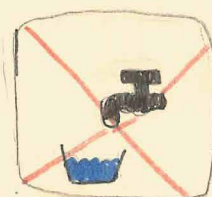

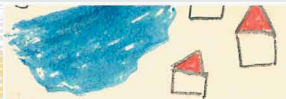
In 2018, there were 174 water advisories.

$5,000 \times 174 =$   
**870,000** people

25 years - ago  
Some advisories date as far back as 1945 - Like Shoal Lake.

They have to order water.  
↳ might get delayed in winter

Right now, there's covid the First Nations are in a huge disadvantage.

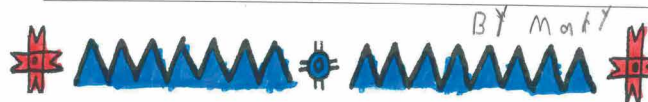


Jaela, age 12





Roses are red, violets are blue.  
 Indigenous people deserve opportunities  
 too. You don't care, but other people  
 do, just give them a chance please  
 do, they are just like us like  
 me and you. Normal people just  
 walking in the blue, they need  
 opportunities like me and you, not  
 lots of gifts, they should be  
 proud of the way they live. It's  
 up to you to change your chance.  
 I have a hard life and  
 they should too, you should  
 see now that it's not very  
 fair, not fair at all to the  
 people out there, just  
 walking without a home  
 or food too. They are  
 very special special  
 indeed their colour doesn't  
 matter it's what's underneath.



BY Mary

Mary, age 9









Shannens dremes,  
 help First Nation communities.  
 And help children that are in portugal.  
 Need help.  
 Need fresh water.  
 ending no school build more.  
 Nation are in pain we have to sit together to help our country.  
 Sitting for a long time in a portugal. I not for.

Dreaming for a new school.  
 Reading they don't have a library.  
 Education is important.  
 Make more schools.  
 Education has a big meaning to them.  
 Save our country with schools.



Matteo, age 10





My name is Lauren and my and  
my teacher Mrs. Theunissen for known  
to the children of Attawapiskat  
who had her as a teacher in  
the early 2000's Ms. Fillion who  
actually taught Shannen and she  
saw a spark in Shannen and  
she was right! I think Shannen  
dream was an amazing one  
and we need to make sure  
everyone gets a school  
for children to feel safe  
and happy. I don't think it's  
fair for me to go to  
a a real school in Nova  
Scotia without a portable  
in sight and also have  
safe water to drink out of  
a tap while Attawapiskat  
and many other first Nations  
communities have to boil  
their water. I feel like it's  
unbelievable children had to protest  
for a simple playground. I



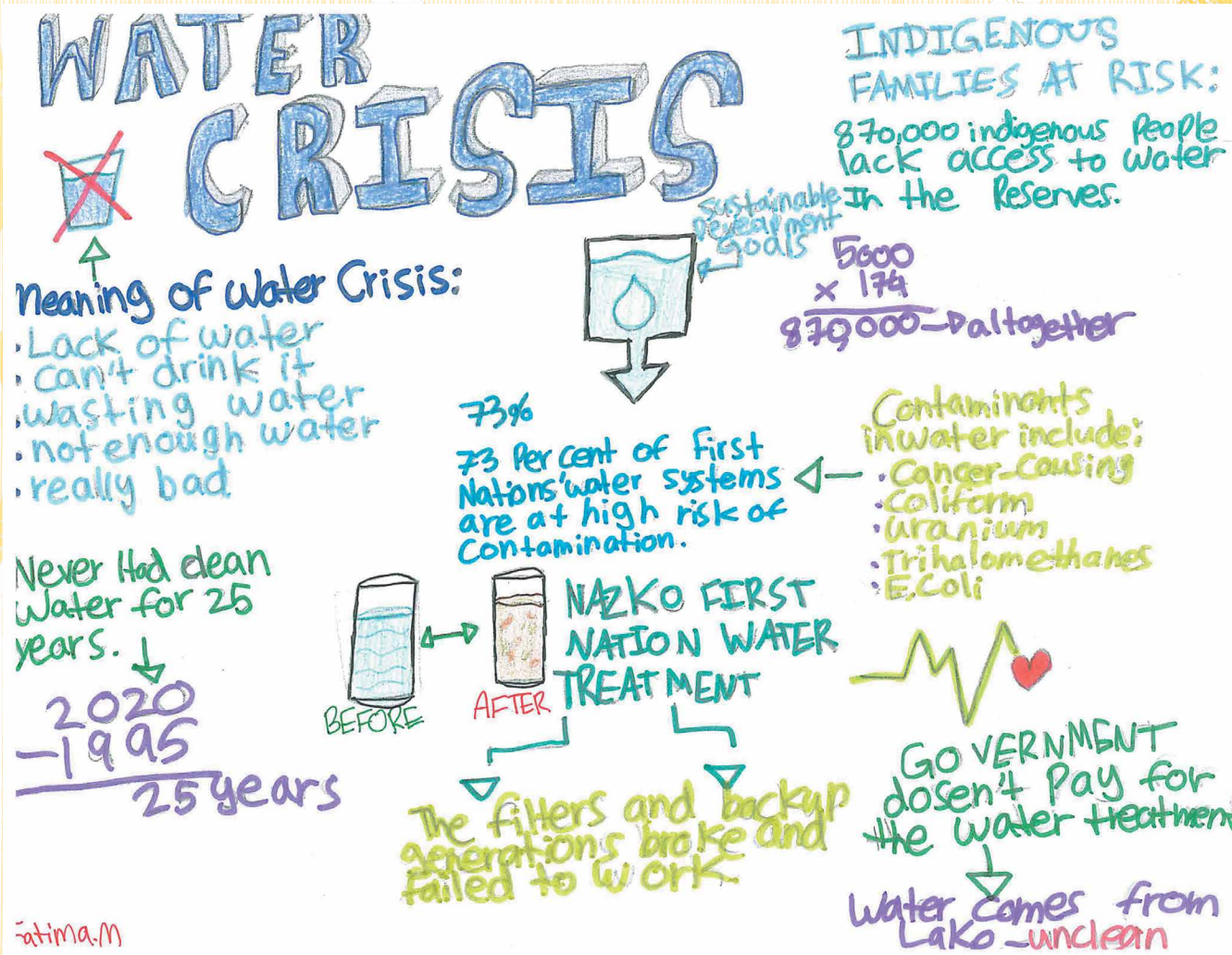
Know Shannen's Dream was an  
important dream and we need  
to raise money and fight  
until every single portable school  
gets a real school!

By: Lauren

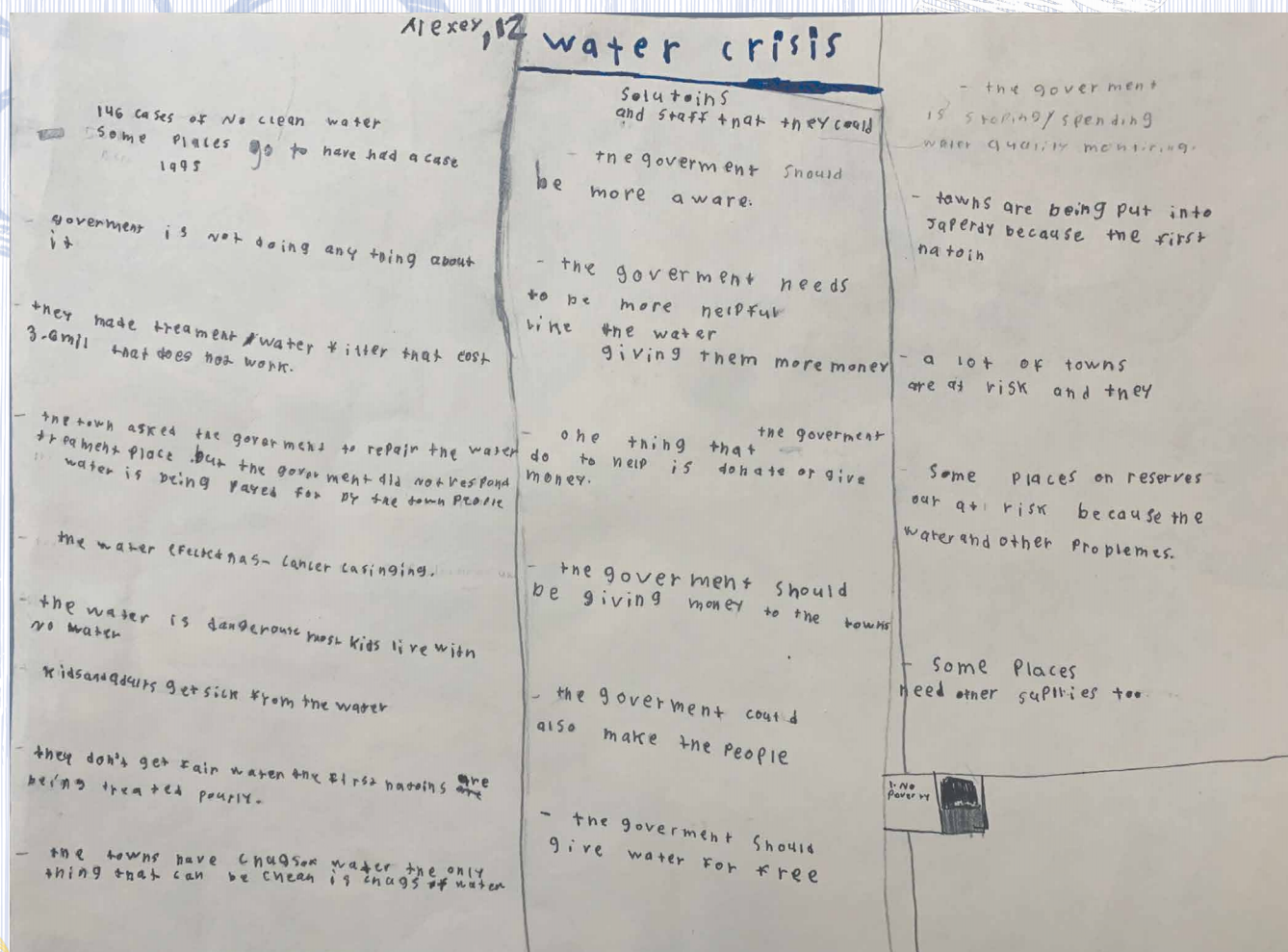


Lauren, age 9





Fatima, age 12



Alexey, age 12





Mila

Roses are red, violets are blue  
every child deserves a school too.

Some people are black, people  
are white, everybody is different isn't  
that alright, from east to west, North  
or South. Everybody is great inside and out.

42 schools left to be built, shallent  
the government feel lots of guilt.

Children are struggling, can't you  
see, let them feel good, help them  
be free. It's just so sad, it's so

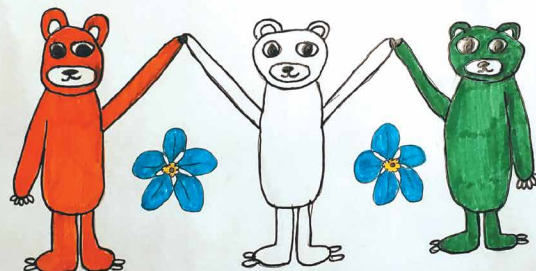
uncool, it took Shannen's death to  
build the kids a school. It's just  
a colour, the colour of your skin.

don't you realise what your  
doing is a sin! Imagine not being allowed  
to read, the creators of the  
reserve are so full of greed.



Mila, age 9

As a non-indigenous youth, I don't know what it feels like to be discriminated against. I have always had a good education and access to good health care. But there isn't equality in Canada and not everyone has these same rights and that needs to change. That's why I want to be an ally, because I know that what's happening currently and what's been happening in Canada isn't right. Here are some children's rights around the world: education, health care and safe drinking water. Those rights don't all apply for children living on reserves. There is discrimination and systemic racism in this country and that has to end now.



We are all kids who have plans and dreams for the future. We are all kids who want to have a good life with a good job and family. Why is that so hard to achieve for indigenous children? People need to hear their story and the side of Canadian history that is often forgotten. I, and many others, hope for a future when everyone is equal and there is no discrimination towards indigenous peoples. But before that, there needs to be change. Shannen had a dream so let's make it happen.

Liv, age 14