



March 5, 2025

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister, Indigenous Services Canada
10 Wellington St
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), I am writing to seek urgent clarification on the allocation of funding for Jordan's Principle services, service coordination and federal expenditures, and funding for First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. With the new fiscal year fast approaching, the AFN is hearing concerning reports about the lack of communication from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) about Jordan's Principle and FNCFS funding for the next fiscal year. The lack of information is causing stress and is fuelling misinformation about what levels of funding are available, if any, that can be expected as of April 1, 2025.

As you are aware, First Nations and associated organizations have made significant financial commitments to ensure the effective coordination and delivery of essential services to their communities. We have heard from Chiefs and technicians that, as of April 1, 2025, funding for these essential services is in question. First Nations require certainty that the anticipated funding will be provided in a timely manner. Any disruption or reduction in funding would have serious implications for First Nations' well-being, including the potential service interruptions that could adversely affect children and families who rely on these essential programs.

Further, we urge Canada to ensure that funding available to First Nations through orders of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT), including but not limited to 2018 CHRT 4, 2021 CHRT 41, and 2022 CHRT 8, remains in place. By keeping these orders in place, First Nations children and families will continue to benefit from access to Post-Majority Support Services, First Nations Representative Services, and funding for capital and infrastructure to deliver child and family services and Jordan's Principle. In accordance with our mandates in AFN Resolution 61/2024, *Meaningful Consultation on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services*, the AFN urges Canada to refrain from bringing any motions forward that would seek to set aside these orders.

We respectfully request your response to the following questions regarding the status of funding for Jordan's Principle and FNCFS:

1. Are there changes to the FNCFS Program funding that First Nations and Agencies should be aware of for the new fiscal year?
2. What funding is available to support First Nations to implement Jordan's Principle Service Coordination in 2025-26?

It is imperative that First Nations and First Nation organizations have clear and timely information regarding federal funding to ensure they can uphold their commitments and continue delivering necessary services to their communities. The recent operational changes in Jordan's Principle coupled with the uncertainty of funding beyond April 1, 2025 are causing undue stress for First Nations. We appreciate your prompt attention to this important issue and to continued collaboration in advancing the well-being of First Nations children.

Megwetch,

Cindy Woodhouse

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
National Chief

cc: AFN Executive Committee