

March 19, 2025

Sent by e-mail

Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
E-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the National Children's Chiefs Commission (the Commission) to congratulate you on your victory in the Liberal Party leadership race and your appointment as Prime Minister. I want to take this opportunity to invite you to take immediate action to remedy Canada's discrimination against First Nations children before calling the next federal election.

The First Nations-in-Assembly created the Commission to lead long-term reform of First Nations child and family services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle. First Nations across Canada remain deeply committed to ending Canada's discrimination and are dedicated to achieving solutions that are in the best interests of First Nations children and families for generations to come.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered Canada to immediately end its discrimination against First Nations children and families in 2016. Since then, First Nations and Canada have been working toward reform rooted in substantive equality and needs-based funding to support cultural continuity. Chiefs of Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Canada recently announced a regional agreement to reform FNCFS. Canada now has the opportunity to work with the Commission to reach a national agreement that eliminates Canada's discrimination for all First Nations children. There are steps Canada can take to address immediate issues and create a pathway toward timely resolution of the remaining challenges:

1. Work collaboratively with the Commission and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society (Caring Society) over the coming days to co-develop a letter of commitment that sets a framework for negotiating a national agreement—independent of the Ontario agreement—on long-term reform of FNCFS that fully eliminates the discrimination identified by the CHRT. Our previous correspondence on this matter is attached for your reference.
2. Work with the Commission and the Caring Society to co-develop urgent measures to meaningfully address the crisis in Canada's implementation of Jordan's Principle that is causing serious harms to First Nations children.

These are swift actions you can take to support First Nations children and families before the next federal election. I urge you to act now to prevent further harm to First Nations children and families and demonstrate your commitment to reconciliation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pauline Frost', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chief Pauline Frost

Chair, National Children's Chiefs Commission

Encl. Previous correspondence re. NCCC letter of commitment

c. National Children's Chiefs Commission

Assembly of First Nations Executive Committee

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society