

Feedback Form on the Loving Justice Plan Information Note

Purpose

This note explains why First Nations Chiefs are receiving a feedback form on the *Loving Justice Plan* and how the input gathered will shape the next phase of long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS).

Background

In 2007, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations filed a human rights complaint against Canada, alleging discrimination in the First Nations Child and Family Services program and in the implementation of Jordan's Principle.

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ruled that Canada was discriminating against First Nations children and ordered Canada to cease its discriminatory practices and implement long-term reform to ensure the discrimination does not happen again.

In 2024, Canada and the AFN reached a proposed settlement agreement intended to resolve the complaint and conclude the CHRT process. However, First Nations Chiefs rejected that proposed settlement. Chiefs subsequently established the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) to oversee any further negotiations on long-term reform. Following this decision, Canada declined to re-engage in national negotiations (outside Ontario), though Ontario Chiefs elected to pursue the previously proposed settlement within their region.

Development of the Loving Justice Plan

In August 2025, the CHRT directed the parties to move expeditiously toward finalizing long-term reform of FNCFS. The Tribunal established a four-month deadline to consult with First Nations and develop a national (outside Ontario) long-term reform plan. The CHRT offered Canada the option of collaborating with the Caring Society and AFN to develop a single plan. Canada declined to do so.

In response, the Caring Society and the NCCC conducted regional engagements with First Nations and their experts. With support from the AFN, they developed the *Loving Justice Plan*—a national (outside Ontario) proposal designed to permanently end Canada's discrimination in FNCFS. Canada filed a separate plan based largely on the previously rejected settlement framework. Both plans were filed with the CHRT on December 22, 2025. The CHRT will review both plans and issue final orders.

Information about the Loving Justice Plan

- The full plan as submitted by the Caring Society is available in [English](#) and in [French](#).
- The Caring Society has prepared a [Leadership Brief](#) comparing the Loving Justice Plan with Canada's Plan.
- The National Children's Chiefs Commission shares information on its [website](#).
- The Caring Society and NCCC host a webinar series on the Loving Justice and Canada plans, which can be viewed [here](#).

Why We Are Seeking Feedback

Before the CHRT renders its final decision, First Nations will have an opportunity to:

1. Propose amendments to the Loving Justice Plan; and
2. Indicate whether they support the Loving Justice Plan as the preferred pathway to end Canada's discrimination in FNCFS.

This feedback form provides Chiefs with a structured mechanism to: suggest specific text amendments; recommend implementation improvements; and ensure the Plan reflects national priorities and lived realities.

The form is directed to First Nations Chiefs, as Chiefs will ultimately decide whether to support the Loving Justice Plan. Chiefs are encouraged to consult with FNCFS directors, technical experts, Elders, and service providers. Chiefs may designate a knowledgeable community representative or service provider to complete the form on their behalf.

How Feedback Will Be Considered

The Caring Society and the NCCC will review all submissions. Feedback will be integrated into the amended Loving Justice Plan where it:

1. Meaningfully strengthens or improves the Plan;
2. Is national in scope (outside Ontario);
3. Aligns with AFN resolutions;
4. Is consistent with CHRT orders; and
5. Advances the objective of permanently ending Canada's discrimination in FNCFS.

Timeline and Next Steps

- **April 3, 2026** – Deadline to submit feedback.
- **By April 15, 2026** – Amended Loving Justice Plan circulated to Chiefs.
- **July 2026** – Anticipated consideration at the AFN Annual General Assembly.

This timeline ensures Chiefs will have 90 days to review the amended Plan prior to the Assembly. We anticipate that Chiefs will vote to support or oppose the Loving Justice Plan at that time. The outcome of that vote will be filed as evidence with the CHRT before it issues its final order on long-term reform. The timeline for the CHRT's final ruling has not yet been determined.

Conclusion

The feedback process is a critical step in ensuring that long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services is guided by First Nations leadership and grounded in collective direction. Your engagement will help ensure the Loving Justice Plan reflects national priorities and fulfills the objective set by the CHRT: to permanently end Canada's discrimination against First Nations children.

Please see the next page for a flow chart of the questions in the online amendment form before you start to fill it out.

