

**JAGMEET SINGH**

DÉPUTÉ | MP, BURNABY SOUTH | BURNABY-SUD

February 11, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

RE: Request by National Children's Chiefs Commission

We urge you to uphold the urgent calls made by Chief Pauline Frost, Chair of the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC), in a January 24, 2025 letter regarding the urgency of First Nations child and family services.

The National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) was established by the First Nations-in-Assembly. Its mandate, set in December, is to oversee further negotiations towards long term reform of First Nations child and family services. The NCCC was recently created to ensure a First Nations lead working relationship toward reconciliation. The long history of discrimination against First Nations children must end and you have an opportunity to start that path.

The context of this letter is simple: the violation of First Nations children's human rights was affirmed by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, and your government continues to fail them. Rather than continually fighting against the Tribunal's ruling, we urge you to:

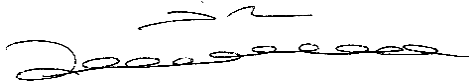
1. Work with the NCCC to co-develop a letter of commitment by March 15, 2025, to implement a process for future negotiations that meet international standards for consultation and cooperation.
2. Return to the negotiation table and end the practice of using the courts to fight against the human rights of First Nations children and families.
3. Offer sufficient resources to the NCCC, which is currently operating on a volunteer basis.
4. End the delays to comply with the CHRT order on Jordan's Principle and take meaningful action to address the backlog.

The Assembly of First Nations voted against the offer put forward by the Liberal government for failing to properly consult and cooperate with rights holders. This is an opportunity for the Liberal government to work with First Nations to support the advancement of human rights for all children as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jagmeet Singh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jagmeet Singh, M.P. (Burnaby South)
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Idlout', with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Lori Idlout, M.P. (Nunavut)
NDP Critic for Indigenous Services; Northern Affairs; Crown-Indigenous
Relations