

# Jordan's Principle

## Ensuring First Nations children have access to the services they need

### *Honouring Jordan River Anderson*

Every child deserves access to services like health care and educational supports. However, First Nations children have not always had access to the same services as other Canadian children. This is because different levels of government fund different services for First Nations children, which has led to disputes between governments about who should pay for which services.

Jordan River Anderson was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. He was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities that required hospitalization from birth. When he was two years old, doctors determined that Jordan could receive home-based care. However, the federal and provincial governments could not agree on who was financially responsible for the necessary at-home care. The dispute continued for over two years. Jordan stayed in the hospital until he passed away in 2005.

### *What is Jordan's Principle?*

In 2007, the House of Commons passed a motion that created Jordan's Principle, named in memory of Jordan. Jordan's Principle holds that First Nations children must not be denied access to public services due to jurisdictional disputes about which government should pay for the service. It is a child-first principle wherein the government of first contact pays for the service and jurisdictional disputes are resolved later.

Jordan's Principle applies to all First Nations children who are under the age of majority and have an identified need for a service or support, regardless of their health, social status, or place of residence (on or off reserve).

### *What is Covered?*

Each child's situation is unique, and the services covered by Jordan's Principle are equally diverse. Any public service that is available to all other Canadian children is included in Jordan's Principle coverage. If a service is not necessarily available to other children or is an exceptional service, the child will still have their needs evaluated to determine if the service will ensure substantive equality. Services above normative standards are also considered in the name of substantive equity.

Examples of the services covered by Jordan's Principle include, but are not limited to:

<b>Health</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Education</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobility aids</li><li>• Wheelchair ramps</li><li>• Services from Elders</li><li>• Assessments and screenings</li><li>• Medical supplies and equipment</li><li>• Mental health services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land-based activities</li><li>• Personal support worker</li><li>• Respite care</li><li>• Specialized programs based on cultural beliefs and practices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specialized items for schools.</li><li>• Tutoring services</li><li>• Teaching Educational assistants</li><li>• Psychoeducational assessments</li><li>• Assistive technology and electronics</li></ul>

### Who to Contact?

Local service coordinators have been hired in communities across Canada. They can help families who have questions about Jordan's Principle or would like to submit a request for products, services or supports under Jordan's Principle. In New Brunswick, local service coordinators can be reached through the following organizations:

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Eel River Bar Pabineau Metepenagiag Eel Ground Indian Island Buctouche Fort Folly	North Shore Micmac District Council	1-844-075-7498
Elsipogtog Esgenoôpetitj Tobique Woodstock Madawaska Oromocto St. Mary's Kingsclear	Mawiw Council Inc.	1-506-523-8305 (Head Office, Elsipogtog)  1-506-472-1232 (Fredericton)  1-506-773-3668 (Miramichi)
Off-reserve	First Nations and Inuit Health Branch	1-902-717-2834 or 1-902-440-2692
	Under One Sky Inc.	1-506-458-9269
	New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council	1-506-458-8422
	Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council	1-855-858-7240 or 1-902-895-2982

The Government of Canada also operates a Jordan's Principle Call Centre which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be reached by calling 1-855-JP-CHILD (1-855-572-4453).