



Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly 2024

December 3-5, 2024 • Rogers Centre Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Dialogue Session

Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle

Monday December 2, 2024 • 10:30AM – 12:00 PM • Room 206, Rogers Centre

Session Description:

In this session, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will provide information on the policy recommendations for the long-term implementation of Jordan's Principle. Participants will also receive an update on the AFN's mandates and advocacy relating to Jordan's Principle. This session will include a discussion on the priorities for the implementation of Jordan's Principle. The AFN will also provide an overview of the mandates provided in AFN Resolution 60/2024, *Addressing Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle*, and 61/2024, *Meaningful Consultation on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services*. The AFN will provide an update on implementation of these resolutions, followed by an overview of the next steps.

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) found that Canada discriminated against First Nations children and their families in its provision and funding of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and by applying a narrow definition of Jordan's Principle. The CHRT ordered Canada to immediately and completely overhaul the FNCFS Program and implement the full meaning and scope of Jordan's Principle. In 2018, the AFN developed policy recommendations for the full implementation of Jordan's Principle that were ultimately not supported by Cabinet. Subsequently in 2020, the AFN, Canada and other Parties entered into intensive negotiations to settle the matters of compensation and long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, which resulted in an Agreement-in-Principle on long-term reform in December 2021.

On July 11, 2024 the AFN and the Parties to the CHRT complaint completed a \$47.8 billion Draft Agreement on long term reform of FNCFS and it was shared publicly for review and consideration by First Nations leadership, technicians and experts. Following the release of the Draft Agreement, the AFN began engaging with First Nations across the regions to discuss the Agreement and collect feedback and recommendations for amendments. In October 2024, the AFN held a Special Chiefs Assembly in Calgary, Alberta on the long-term reform of FNCFS where First Nations-in-Assembly rejected the Agreement and provided the AFN with new mandates by way of Resolutions 60/2024 and 61/2024.

In AFN Resolution 40/2022, *To Ensure Quality of Life to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle*, the First Nations-in-Assembly called for the development of evidence-based policy recommendations for long-term reform of Jordan's Principle. As the AFN prepares to enter into negotiations on the long-term approach to Jordan's Principle, the AFN has updated the 2018 policy recommendations based on past resolutions, concerns raised by First Nations, and CHRT orders. The AFN is seeking input from First Nations on the policy recommendations to guide ongoing work.



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SPEAKERS:

- Knowledge Keeper Gwendolyn Point
- Regional Chief Willie Moore, Manitoba
- Lauren Doxtater, Associate Director, AFN Social Development (Facilitator)
- Jessica Quinn, Special Advisor, AFN Social Development
- Ashleigh Delaye, Senior Policy Analyst, AFN Social Development
- Renee St. Germain, A/Senior Director, AFN Social Branch



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
10:30am	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Gwendolyn Point
10:35am	Welcome and Introductions	Lauren Doxtater
10:40am	Regional Chief Opening Remarks	Regional Chief Willie Moore
10:45am	Priorities for Long-Term Reform of Jordan's Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and mandates on Jordan's Principle• Overview policy recommendations for the full implementation of Jordan's Principle	Jessica Quinn
11:00am	Jordan's Principle Non-Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) orders on Jordan's Principle and next steps	AFN
11:05am	Update on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of mandates and implementation of Resolutions 60/2024 and 61/2024• Next Steps	Renee St. Germain,
11:10am	Social Development Social Wellness Indicator Project (back up update to FNCFS update) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationale for project• First Nations engagement plan: data event	Ashleigh Delaye
11:20am	Discussion, Questions and Answers	Lauren Doxtater
11:55am	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Gwendolyn Point