

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE: WHAT'S NEW FOR FAMILIES IN 2025

Government of Canada has made big changes to Jordan's Principle. It's important that our community members know what to expect.

ABOUT JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Jordan's Principle is a legal right that helps First Nations children get the services they need, when they need them. It was created in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation, who stayed in hospital his whole life because provincial and federal governments could not agree on who should pay for his care.

The North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC) helps families understand Jordan's Principle and coordinate services. We support First Nations children living on and off reserve. Our team assists with requests, explains what may be covered, and guides families through each step of the process.

WHAT IS STILL COVERED?

These are services and items that continue to be approved in most cases, but please keep in mind that each request is reviewed individually.

- Audiology
- Assistive tech
- Behavior services
- Chiropractic care
- Dental care
- Vision care
- Dietitian services
- Medical transport
- Medications
- Medical supplies
- Mental health supports
- Naturopathic care
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psych assessments
- Speech therapy
- Tutoring

WHAT MAY NOT BE COVERED?

Due to recent changes, these services may no longer be approved, even if they were funded in the past. If you have a request for one of these services, please reach out to us!

- Capital expenses (e.g. fences, renovation)
- Clothing subsidies
- Complex case management
- Daycare or child care subsidies
- One-on-one aides
- Requests for provincial school staffing
- Respite activities (e.g. summer camps)
- Respite care
- School supplies
- Transportation to and from school

All requests require a letter of recommendation from a health, social, or educational professional explaining the child's need and why it cannot be met through other services or funding. Letters must include the professional's signature and credentials.

WHY IS MY REQUEST TAKING SO LONG?

Delays are happening on the Government of Canada's end. This is not new, but wait times are now longer than ever. As of June 5, 2025, more than 125,000 requests are waiting for review at Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) at the National level.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

First Nations children **under 19 years old** are eligible for Jordan's Principle. According to Indigenous Services Canada, a First Nations child is eligible:

- If the child has a Status Card/Number; **or**
- If one of their biological parents has a Status Card/Number or are eligible for status.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR APPROVAL NOTICE FROM INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA?

In the past, the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council could sometimes cover services while waiting for approval. We can no longer do this. Full approval from Indigenous Services Canada is needed before services can be paid for.

WHO MADE THESE CHANGES?

ISC controls the funding and therefore makes the final decisions for Jordan's Principle, including who is eligible and what is approved.

WHAT IS THE NSMTC DOING TO HANDLE THIS?

We are doing our best to adjust to the changes and continue to support families. We are asking for clearer rules and more consistent decisions, so people know what to expect. These changes have also affected our funding and staff, but we are still here to help. If you have questions or need support, please reach out. We thank you for your patience with the NSMTC Jordan's Principle staff and outside service providers as we work through these changes together.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Stay informed: www.fncaringsociety.com
- Write emails, make phone calls:
 - **Indigenous Services Canada:**
1.833.652.0210
 - **Minister of Indigenous Services:**
Mandy.Gull-Masty@parl.gc.ca
 - **NB Child and Youth Advocate:**
506.453.8653

If you are aware of a First Nations child who is not receiving the services they need, please contact a Jordan's Principle office.

Ugpi'Ganjig, Oinpegitjoig, Tjipogtotjg, jordanprinciple@nsmtc.ca
Natoaganeg, Metepenagiag, L'nui 506.352.2411
Menikuk, or Amlamgog (NSMTC):

Esgenooetitj (MAWIW): 506.330.1020

Elsipogtog (MAWIW): 506.523.8246

Sitansk, Matawaskiye, Welamukotuk, 506.459.6341
Neqotkuk, Pilick, or Wotstak (WTCI):

ISC First Nations & Inuit Health Branch: 1.833.652.0210



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WEBSITE TO
LEARN MORE**

