



22 October 2026

Statement from Chiefs

Re: Jordan's Principle and the Government of Canada's Obligations to First Nations Children

The Chiefs of the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC) are calling on the Government of Canada to immediately address the backlog of outstanding Jordan's Principle requests and fulfill its legal obligations to First Nations children through the full implementation of Jordan's Principle.

Despite Canada's legal obligations under the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders, First Nations children and families continue to face unacceptable delays in accessing essential supports and services. These delays place additional burdens on families and undermine the very purpose of Jordan's Principle. Behind every outstanding request is a child whose needs cannot be put on hold.

October 22 marks the birthday of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation whose life and legacy inspired Jordan's Principle. Jordan spent his life in hospital while governments disputed responsibility for funding his care. He passed away at the age of five without ever having the opportunity to live in his family home. Jordan's Principle was established to ensure that other First Nations children would not be denied the care they need because of disputes between governments.

The Chiefs of NSMTC are calling for the following actions from the Government of Canada:

- Address all outstanding Jordan's Principle requests without further delay.
- Fully comply with Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders and remove administrative barriers that prevent First Nations children from receiving the supports they are entitled to.
- Provide adequate, sustainable funding based on the needs of First Nations children, rather than government operational mandates.
- Work directly with First Nations to ensure their voices and priorities guide decisions about how Jordan's Principle is implemented.

Honouring Jordan's life and legacy requires Canada to uphold the principle established in his name. No First Nations child should be left waiting for the care they need.

Sincerely,

Chief Rebecca Knockwood

On behalf of the Board of Directors
North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council

North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC)

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