



*For Immediate Release*  
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### **First Nations Summit welcomes Jordan's Principle Report – Urges Federal Government to take action**

***Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver*** – The First Nations Summit is welcoming the report released today by the Assembly of First Nations in partnership with UNICEF Canada, The Canadian Paediatric Society, McGill University and the University of Michigan which identifies the inequity experienced by First Nations children who need government services. The report, entitled *“Without denial, delay or disruption: Ensuring First Nations children's access to equitable services through Jordan's Principle”*, examines the shortcomings of the federal government response to Jordan's Principle which was unanimously adopted by the House of Commons in 2007.

The First Nations Summit has been extremely disappointed with the narrow approach Canada has shown in upholding the spirit and intent of Jordan's Principle to implement and provide a “child-first” approach to resolving jurisdictional disputes regarding the provision of services to First Nations children.

The First Nations Summit joins with the AFN and other partners to the report in urging Canada to immediately;

- 1. Develop and implement a governmental response that is consistent with the vision of Jordan's Principle advanced by First Nations and endorsed by the House of Commons.*
- 2. Systematically identify and address the jurisdictional ambiguities and underfunding that give rise to each Jordan's Principle case.*

#### ***Background on Jordan's Principle***

Jordan's Principle is a child first-principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. Jordan was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Born with complex medical needs, Jordan spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the Province of Manitoba and the Federal government argued over who should pay for his at home care. Jordan died in hospital at the age of five years old, never having spent a day in a family home.

Payment disputes within and between Federal and Provincial governments over services for First Nations children are not uncommon. First Nations children are frequently left waiting for services they desperately need, or are denied services that are available to other children. This includes services in education, health, childcare, recreation, and culture and language. Jordan's Principle calls on the

government of first contact to pay for the services and seek reimbursement later so the child does not get tragically caught in the middle of government red tape.

It was unanimously passed in the House of Commons in 2007 but sadly the Canadian Paediatric Society reports that neither the Federal government nor Provinces/Territories have fully implemented Jordan's Principle.

A copy of "*Without denial, delay or disruption: Ensuring First Nations children's access to equitable services through Jordan's Principle*" can be accessed at: [www.afn.ca/uploads/files/jordans\\_principle-report.pdf](http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/jordans_principle-report.pdf).

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*The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at [www.fns.bc.ca](http://www.fns.bc.ca).*

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