



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

## FACT SHEET

# Jordan's Principle in BC

### WHAT IS JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE?

Jordan's Principle is about ensuring First Nations receive the services they need when they need them. Jordan's Principle:

- Applies to all First Nations children on- and off-reserve, status and non-status.
- Applies to all public services, including services that are beyond the normative standard of care to ensure substantive equity.
- Involves all governments. Although a jurisdictional dispute is not necessary.
- Provides payment for needed services by the government or department that first receives the request.

To implement Jordan's Principle, the Government of Canada has committed to:

1. Resolve situations where governments and departments cannot agree about who should pay for services and supports to meet the needs of a First Nations child.
2. Cover the costs of all public services and ensure substantive equity for all First Nations children and youth.
3. Facilitate access to all services and supports for all First Nations children without delay or disruption.

Find a link to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling on Jordan's Principle on our website:  
[www.fnha.ca/jordansprinciple](http://www.fnha.ca/jordansprinciple)

### JORDAN'S STORY

Jordan River Anderson was a five-year-old First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, born with a rare disorder that required hospitalization from birth. After spending the first two years of his life in a hospital, doctors cleared Jordan to live in a home with necessary care near the hospital in Winnipeg. However, the federal and provincial government could not resolve who was financially responsible for the necessary home care in order for Jordan to leave the hospital.

After spending over two years in hospital without cause while governments disputed who should pay for his at-home care, Jordan died in a hospital in 2005. On December 12, 2007, the House of Commons supported a motion focused on adopting an approach that addresses First Nations children's needs first, it was called Jordan's Principle.

### WHAT IS COVERED?

Jordan's Principle applies to all public services, including services that are beyond the normative standard of care to ensure substantive equity. Examples of health services considered under Jordan's Principle include:

*Home support and personal care; in-home nursing care; in-home respite; client assessment; case management; physiotherapy; occupational therapy; speech language therapy; in-home palliative care services for children; certain nutritional supplements and more.*

Social services considered under Jordan's Principle include:

*Meal programs; meal planning and preparation for children with special dietary needs; day programs for children; attendant care services; group care and non-medical transportation; minor home maintenance related to accessibility (levered door handles instead of knobs; support rails in bathrooms) and more.*

## **HOW IS JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE BEING APPLIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA?**

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is responsible for administering Jordan's Principle resources in BC. This approach does not limit or relieve the federal government of its fiduciary responsibilities to First Nations in BC.

Key elements of the FNHA's approach to case coordination will include:

- FNHA will serve all First Nations, regardless of residence and status.
- Case coordinators will assess needs; facilitate early intervention; develop integrated care plans; connect the child and family to needed services; remove the stress of navigating service systems; support families as they manage their needs; and involve relevant partners in each case, as necessary, to expediently address immediate service gaps.

## **WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE IN BC?**

Through high-level agreements and many years of working closely with federal and provincial governments, the FNHA has built a strong foundation to address systemic barriers and health inequities that impact First Nations peoples in BC.

Many jurisdictional barriers that persist elsewhere across Canada are being addressed in BC. In 2006, the Province of BC confirmed that it has responsibility for providing health services to all residents of BC, including First Nations. Additionally, committees, such as the Tripartite Committee on First Nations Health and the Implementation Committee, work in direct partnership with FNHA to advance progress on issues like Jordan's Principle here in BC.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE IN BC?**

All First Nations children 0-19 with an identified need for a publicly funded service or support are eligible, regardless of their health or social status, or place of residency (on or off reserve).

To report a case of Jordan's Principle in BC or for more information, please contact:

**Jordan's Principle Implementation in BC**

1.866.913.0033

[Jordans.Principle@fnha.ca](mailto:Jordans.Principle@fnha.ca)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Inquiries will receive an initial evaluation and determination within 12 - 48 hours of receipt.