



Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations

## JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE LEADERSHIP FORUM

Report on Proceedings and Recommendations

October 2022



*\*Cover Image: Brave Girl Fancy Dancer Quilt designed by Bernadine Sapp, Little Pine First Nation*

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## DEDICATION

FSIN Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum Report on Proceedings and Recommendations is dedicated to the late Jordan River Anderson and will carry on the sacred responsibility of honoring his life and legacy by referencing the full name of Jordan's Principle.

### **Jordan's Story**

"Jordan River Anderson was a First Nations child from Norway Cree House Nation in Manitoba. Born in 1999 with complex medical needs that could not be treated on-reserve, he spent more than two years in a hospital in Winnipeg before doctors agreed that he could leave the hospital to be cared for in a family home. However, because of jurisdictional disputes within and between the federal and provincial governments over who would pay costs for in-home care, Jordan spent over two more years in hospital unnecessarily before he tragically died in 2005. He was 5 years old and had never spent a day in a family home."

—Source: First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, August 2014

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Health and Social Development Secretariat (HSDS) and Morris Interactive Ltd. would like to acknowledge the life of Jordan River Anderson and the sacred responsibility of Jordan's Principle. Gratitude is extended to the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Leadership and Executive and Charmaine Pyakutch, Director of Jordan's Principle, for taking the lead on this forum and arranging the pipe ceremony to greet each new day in a good way with tobacco and prayers. Special thanks to Dr. Bonita Beatty, U of S Department Head of Indigenous Studies for co-facilitating and sharing her expertise and wisdom which was instrumental in providing the focus and strategic direction for the forum. Thank you to all the moderators, panelists and contributors including Elder Doug Joseph (Pipe Ceremony) and Elder Leona Tootoosis (opening and closing prayers and praying over the food). Opening comments were provided by Raymond Shingoose, Board of Directors President, First Nations Child & Family Caring Society and Yorkton Tribal Council Child & Family Services Executive Director. Online presenters Jennifer King, First Nations Child & Family Caring Society – Reconciliation and Policy Coordinator and Helaina Gaspard, Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy Director, Governance, and Institutions at the University of Ottawa. A special acknowledgement to the Custer Family for allowing their granddaughter Cregan's lived experience to be shared as part of the Jordan's Principle Experiences, to the grassroots Jordan's Principles Service Coordinators panelists, Ursula Roberts of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Thomas Mamela of Ochapowace Nation and Quinn Amyotte-Bear of Montreal Lake Cree Nation for sharing their personal testimony and truth in presenting the gaps and challenges and solutions; to the FSIN note takers Diana Collard, Isadore and Kevin McLeod for capturing the conversations, discussions, and details of the North, Central and South break-out sessions; and to all the caregivers that shared their testimonies, stories and whom love unconditionally and provide daily life-saving responsibilities to the children.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Health and Social Development Secretariat hosted a two day in-person and virtual Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum on October 20-21, 2022. The forum was designed to provide timely and relevant information on Jordan's Principle and engage key FSIN Leadership and Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators in the best way to move forward with the reform of Jordan's Principle in Saskatchewan.

Research and a pre-session survey were conducted in advance, and the forum consisted of presentations from First Nations Caring Society, The Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, Executive Director of the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc., and the FSIN Director of Jordan's Principle. Also included in the agenda was a Jordan's Principle Coordinator Panel Discussion, and guided group discussions where participants were encouraged to provide their thoughts on what First Nation control of Jordan's Principle might look like for Saskatchewan. The forum was held at the Prairieland Park Trade and Convention Centre in Saskatoon where 157 participants attended in-person, and another 18 attended virtually. The event was well-attended and a success, with many expressing the need to have "more events like this" as FSIN continues in their efforts to advance Jordan's Principle.

The results of participant engagement identified several needs that Jordan's Principle reform in Saskatchewan must address, the first and most important being First Nations jurisdiction, authority and control to address First Nations community issues and close the gap for First Nation children who are falling through the cracks by reducing bureaucracy in the application process, demonstrating more compassion for children and families, reducing wait times, and focusing on immediate needs through ongoing information and awareness for families and community to ensure every child gets the help they need in a timely and efficient manner.

The forum also served to identify Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator and staffing needs, and resulted in front-line recommendations for more forums, conferences, or meetings; increased networking and sharing of information/best practices/success stories/research; expanded training opportunities to build and support community capacity.

First Nations control of Jordan's Principle, as derived from the Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum, will require local control of funding (for at least immediate and emergent needs of children and families); a collaborative approach with other programs and services to deal with deep and ingrained systemic issues such as poverty; built in Caregiver support; and finally, expanded parameters to address the needs of First Nations youth as they move into adulthood.

The directions that emerged from the Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum point to a need for continued engagement and action. There was significant focus on the impact of not meeting children's immediate needs and consensus on the idea of having monies available at the community level to meet smaller, more urgent requests. Eliminating bureaucracy was also a common theme, as many participants expressed that First Nations control of Jordan's Principle will require resolving jurisdictional issues at all levels of government.

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Health and Social Development Commission hosted a Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum on October 20-21, 2022. FSIN held two previous forums on Jordan's Principle: one, in 2019 for parents, grandparents, workers and managers from various First Nation agencies, leaders and others; and a second virtual forum held in 2021, specifically for Saskatchewan First Nations Service Coordinators (FNSC).

All three forums were held to address the urgent need for critical health supports for Saskatchewan First Nations children. Canada's failure to implement the full meaning and scope of Jordan's Principle has resulted in an egregiously inadequate level of quality services for children. Following the December 31, 2021, signing of the Agreement-In-Principle mandating Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle, the October 20—21 forum specifically addressed long term reform of Jordan's Principle. While there is some overlap between the two, reform of First Nation's Child and Family Services was addressed during a Chief's Forum held in June 2022.

**“Jordan's Principle is not a program, but a legal rule that Canada is bound to follow under human rights law and in accordance with the CHRT's remedial orders. . . This rule is informed by and aspires to achieve substantive equality for First Nations children by eliminating gratuitous barriers erected by jurisdictional government disputes and the failure of Canada to consider their unique cultural needs and best interest. . . Jordan's Principle ensures that First Nations children have the same point of departure as any other child across Canada despite historic disadvantage”.** [Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, University of Ottawa]

The 2-day Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum, the subject of this report, was intended to address how gaps and challenges in Jordan's Principle could be addressed through First Nations control, and what that control would look like for Saskatchewan. Organized by FSIN Jordan's Principle Director Charmaine Pyakutch, the event was held both virtually and in-person at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. Dr. Bonita Beatty and Sherry Jimmy (Morris Interactive) were contracted to lead and facilitate the event. This report outlines the process followed in engagement of Saskatchewan First Nations Leadership and Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators in discussion and the outcomes that emerged from the forum. Most notably, the forum sought to explore reform of Jordan's Principle from a Saskatchewan First Nations perspective.

## METHODOLOGY

The agenda for the 2-day Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum was established to provide a structure that would enable:

- **Research and prior engagement** including a pre-session survey of participants
- **Information sharing** by several key speakers who were selected for their subject matter expertise in timely and relevant areas related to the Jordan's Principle, as well as FSIN findings to date
- **Panel discussion** on Jordan's Principle experiences and first-hand knowledge from Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators
- **Participant engagement** by these key stakeholders to FSIN in moving forward with Jordan's Principle reform in Saskatchewan

[Appendix I: Agenda – Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum]

Research and information gathering included a review of reports from the two previous Jordan's Principle forums in 2019, and research into the work done by other First Nations regional groups to date.

A mixed-method, pre-session survey developed by Morris Interactive and distributed to FSIN Leadership and Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators, was conducted Friday, October 7, 2022 through Friday October 14, 2022, and again during the forum sessions. The survey was developed to gather responses that would inform the agenda and guide discussions during the forum. Survey questions focused on respondents' knowledge of and experience with Jordan's Principle, asking them to identify gaps and challenges and make recommendations for improvement.

Information sharing on Day 1 set the stage for the engagement session that followed on Day 2. Presenters sought to share knowledge and to establish an understanding of the state of Jordan's Principle in Saskatchewan and at the national level. Presenters included:

- First Nations Child & Family Caring Society - Reconciliation and Policy Coordinator - Jennifer King (online)
- Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy – Helaina Gaspard (online)
- Executive Director of the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc. - Raymond Shingoose
- FSIN Findings to date - FSIN Director of Jordan's Principle - Charmaine Pyakutch

Guided group questions were developed and endorsed by FSIN to facilitate engagement and discussion on Day 2. Virtual participants were able to link in from across Saskatchewan First Nations regardless of their location by area or region in which they live and work. For this purpose, regions were identified as North, Central, and South for those attending in-person, with a fourth group identified as 'Virtual' for those attending online. Each group included a mix of FSIN Leadership representatives and Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators.

Group discussions were designed to give participants the opportunity to reflect on day-1 and answer the question: ***"First Nations Control of Jordan's Principle: what does that look like for Saskatchewan First Nations?"***. North, Central, South, and Virtual break-out/discussion sessions were facilitated by Morris Interactive facilitators, and dialogue was recorded by notetakers provided by FSIN.

## LIMITATIONS

With any project there are limitations as to the scope and timelines. Limitations include:

- Survey response rate—the survey was distributed by email to over 300 potential respondents, but only 55 completed surveys. The overall participation rate was 18.3%
- Leadership engagement--limited leadership presence at the forum in Saskatoon and online. Many First Nation leaders were represented by Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators and First Nations staff in their place
- Limited information on what is happening with Jordan's Principle in other jurisdictions, including 'best practice' examples.

## RESEARCH AND PRIOR ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

First Nations representative groups in other regions are conducting their own research into Jordan's Principle reform, most notably, British Columbia, Manitoba and Alberta:

### British Columbia:

- **The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations held three Virtual Roundtable Discussions October 20th, 25th, and 27th, 2022** on the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle.
  - **Discussion topics for the virtual sessions included:** Priorities and Needs, Funding and Resources, Administration and Operational Capacity, and Accountability Measures.
  - **An online survey** was conducted in conjunction with the virtual sessions.

### Manitoba:

- **Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs** released in 2022 that study examined the impact of Jordan's Principle on the structure of services for First Nation children in Manitoba between 2016 and 2021.
- **Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs First Nations Family Advocate Office** released a report in 2017 titled, **Keewaywin: Our Way Home, Manitoba First Nations Engagement on Jordan's Principle**. The report contains the main findings and recommendations from engagement sessions and meetings.
- **Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Project** was created with oversight from the Assembly of Manitoba Chief's Women's Council and the Grandmothers Council to support Jordan's Principle Engagement and implement the recommendations identified in the Jordan's Principle Forum and the Keewaywin Engagement Manitoba First Nations Jordan's Principle Implementation report.

### Alberta:

- **The First Nations Health Consortium Board** is comprised of four Health Directors from Bigstone Cree Nation, Kee Tas Kee Now, Maskwacis and Siksika Nation. They envisioned and led the development and implementation of Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination in Alberta.
- **Memorandum of Understanding on implementation of Jordan's Principle in Alberta** is signed in 2018 by First Nations partners, the Government of Alberta, and the Government of Canada to ensure that First Nations children in Alberta can access the supports and services they need, when they need them.
- **Produced three reports on Jordan's Principle** to date, the most recent in 2022 that was done at the request of the national office of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

## Prior FSIN-led Engagements on Jordan's Principle

- 2019 FSIN Jordan's Principle forum
  - 2-day forum held in January 2019
  - 390 participants including parents, grandparents, First Nations Agency workers and managers, and First Nations Leadership
  - In attendance as a special guest was the family of Jordan River Anderson
  - The forum's purpose:
    - Hear Saskatchewan First Nations voices on Jordan's Principle as the federal government embarks on a renewed way forward
    - Develop a Saskatchewan First Nation's regional position on Jordan's Principle beyond March 31, 2019
  - Key takeaways included:
    - Focus on the First Nation children and families, not organizations
    - Integrate Keytahyak (elders) in all aspects for cultural training and knowledge sharing
    - Make First Nation Inherent Rights to Self-Determination and Treaty Rights the foundation
    - Take jurisdiction and control over First Nations services--facilities, services, local community-based control
    - Include fiscal sustainability and effective service coordination between jurisdictions
    - The concept of a long-term sustainable First Nations child and family social safety net
    - Ensure equity, accountability, accessibility, timeliness, cultural responsiveness, and ensure focus on the needs of children and family
    - Help First Nations communities develop their own Jordan's Principle strategies i.e., Strategic
    - Saskatchewan Network of Jordan's Principle professionals

## 2021 FSIN First Nations Service Coordinators Virtual Forum

- One day virtual forum held on September 28, 2021
- 75 Saskatchewan First Nations Service Coordinators (FNCS) in attendance
- The Forum's purpose:
  - To provide an important opportunity for service coordinators to get updated and share information and recommendations on Jordan's Principle
- Key takeaways included:
  - Service Coordinators identified significant positive benefits of Jordan's Principle helping and supporting parents and children access the services they needed
  - They identified many of the challenges, most attributed to ISC implementation policies and administration
  - FSIN Jordan's Principle office plays an important role by ensuring service coordinators are supported and the grass roots voices are heard at the national level
  - The ISC application and approval process with its additional required letters of support has created a culture and language barriers, and could be traumatic for many, placing an undue burden on families

- Many families fear the system and often do not follow through with completing applications
- Many gaps in relation to community-based health, social and education support services
- A need to address issues with unregistered children, a lack of mental and therapist health supports in communities, underfunded coverage for childcare to match the needs of the child, technology supports for children in higher grades (personal laptops)
- The aging out issue to extend it beyond 18 years of age to age.

## PARTICIPANT SURVEY FINDINGS

FSIN conducted a mixed method pre-session quantitative and qualitative survey from October 7-14, 2022. In addition, FSIN continued the effort to increase survey participation sample size by collecting completed surveys throughout the October 20-21, 2022 leadership forum.

Morris Interactive Ltd. coordinated the survey design and completed the data collection process to capture participant’s responses. The survey was distributed by email to over 300 individuals. The overall participation rate for the study is 18.3%.

*Question 1: First, are you part of First Nations’ Leadership OR Jordan’s Principle First Nations Service Coordinator?*

Number of individuals that responded to the survey:	55
Number of Jordan’s Principle Service Coordinators respondents:	37 (67%)
Number of First Nation Leadership respondents:	18 (33%)

*Question 1a: Have you had personal experience with accessing Jordan’s Principle as a caregiver or family member? (Sample size; n = 33)*

- Yes 44%
- No 47%
- Don't Know/Did Not Answer 9%

*Question 2: How is Jordan’s Principle being used in your community?*

The data suggest that a large majority of participants are utilizing Jordan’s Principle for all of these purposes in their communities.

- Social 7%
- Education 7%
- Health 7%
- Not Being Used 5%
- All of the Above 71%

*Question 3: The following is a list of funding gaps preventing the use of Jordan’s Principle. After reading the entire list, select the top three gaps that you perceive to be the largest hindering the use of Jordan’s Principle.*

The survey results to this multiple answer inquiry indicate that “Poverty,” and “Prevention Services” rank as the largest funding gaps.

- Poverty 17.9%
- Prevention Services 15.5%
- IT/Data Reporting 13.7%
- Emergency Funding 12.5%
- Capital Assets 9.6%
- Remoteness 8.7%
- First Nation Representative Services 8.7%
- Measuring to Thrive 7.7%
- Post-Majority Services 5.9%

*Question 4: What are other gaps do you perceive to be preventing the use of Jordan’s Principle that are not on this list?*

Open-ended responses to this question included:

- Bureaucracy
- complications of applications
- length of response time
- lack of knowledge and support for families/caregivers
- lack of services within the community
- need for emergency/immediate funding.

*Question 5: Which of the following bureaucratic gaps is/are impacting your community the most?*

- Application Wait Times 20.3%
- Denials 9.6%
- Lack of Accessibility Services 7.2%
- All of the Above 62.9%

*Question 5a: How are they impacting your community?*

Respondents pointed out that long wait times have a negative, exponential impact on a child’s health. For example, when waiting for oral surgery requests to be approved, a child may not be eating normally, diminishing their immune system, and making them susceptible to viruses and other illnesses. Others cited the impact long wait times have on a family’s anxiousness, fears, and frustration, as well as the financial stress put on families when they must choose to pay for medicines or services over food and other basic needs. Clients may give up and go without if the process is too long or difficult.

*Question 6: What challenges does your community face regarding using Jordan's Principle?*

- Access
- difficulty in getting support letters for applications
- lack of knowledge with families, the community, and health professionals
- long wait times
- poor communication
- lack of consistency in approvals and application requirements
- need for additional Jordan's Principle Coordinators

*Question 7: What specific recommendations do you have to increase the use of Jordan's Principle in your community?*

- information sessions
- community events
- posters
- Facebook posts
- advertisements with examples of approvals (i.e., sharing of success stories)
- sharing of information between regions (North, South, Central)
- additional Jordan's Principle workers/coordinators

*Question 8: What recommendations do you have to improve children's health and wellness through Jordan's Principle?*

- Provide emergency assistance such as food/clothing for children in need.  
Example: Single parent families with 3+ more children receive \$305 and an additional \$50 for each child. Bare minimum each month.
- More holistic options
- Better mental health opportunities.
- A physical place or center that is primarily based on Jordan's Principle/create a center for therapists to come into the community--a calm and spacious environment for appointments.
- Reduction of application wait/response time—flow of funding as soon as the applications are approved
- Access to specialists, dentist, pediatrician, psychiatrist, orthodontics; electronic aids in school and home
- More respite services for parents
- Access to safe transportation
- Specialized aides in the classroom
- Food security
- Provide core funding for Jordan's Principle Navigators at the community level to advocate, inform, assist and navigate current systems to support clients seeking services.
- More individual tutors for children that have been left behind academically and socially
- Support for Children's organized sport and recreation activities
- Exercise facilities

- Traditional healing practices and cultural programming MUST be VALUED. Many applications for cultural programming and the costs associated (mileage, etc.) are denied by ISC.
- Continuum of care approach/ data-based system would help.
- More Jordan's Principle forums
- Basic training for the Jordan's principle teams to provide insight and guidance to provide the services needed for the northern communities.
- Provide communities with a baseline for funds so programs can proceed
- Specific time frames for approval wait expectations
- Coordinators having the ability to write recommendation letters for clients.
- Jordan's Principle Funding beyond the age of 18.

## JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE LIVED EXPERIENCE



Grandfather: Daniel Custer (age 66); Grandmother: Mary Custer (age 65); Cregan Custer (age 18)

**First Nations children aged 0-18 are eligible for products, services and supports.**

Shared by Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator Ursula Roberts, PBCN and Caregiver Mary Custer:

*Cregan was born with Cerebral Palsy and has always required full-time care. Requiring a wheelchair since childhood and now full-time tube-fed, Cregan was under the care of her mother until her mom passed away in January of 2016. Her equipment and special needs like Gevity formula milk, medical gloves and incontinence supplies have been covered by prescription and supplied by the clinic located on PBCN.*

*Cregan's grandparents made the decision to provide full-time care for her and her brother Christian (age 13). For four years they shared a family cabin with no running water, wood stove heat and an outhouse. Through the Nation and other health supports, they were able to build a wheelchair accessible ramp into the cabin; however, they had to locate transportation for Cregan to take her to another daughter's home on PBCN to bathe her and to wash clothes and access drinking water. An application for band housing was submitted and the Custer family received a newly built four-bedroom home in 2020.*

*In 2019, PBCN created the Jordan's Principle Coordinator position and Mary shared that they have worked with four service providers over the past three years; Angie Merasty, Raymond Highway, Marceline from Sandy Bay and now Ursula Roberts. Mary stated that before this, there were many times they felt alone and that Ursula has been a great help to the family and whenever Mary needs anything, Ursula is always there!*

*Jordan's Principle has helped provide the family with short-term respite (food, clothes, babysitting; transportation) and access to an Occupational Therapist that first visited Cregan September 26, 2022 (one week before Cregan turned eighteen). Due to COVID-19 and the Jordan's Principle application and approval process, this took longer than expected.*

*Measurements determined that the current bathroom was built too small for Cregan's lift and would require renovations. An application for these renovations and a medical transportation van to transport Cregan in her wheelchair for regular medical trips to the Alvin Buckwold Center in Saskatoon to see speech and bone therapists and to also provide the family some caregiver stress relief by being able to have rest breaks, feeding time and pamper changes currently not available with medical transportation available to PBCN members. This application was submitted prior to Cregan's 18th birthday on October 1, 2022 and is awaiting a decision.*

## ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND OUTCOMES

On day two of the forum participants were divided into groups and asked to share feedback on Jordan's Principle reform in Saskatchewan. Groups were separated by region, identified as North, Central, and South for those attending in-person, with a fourth group identified as 'Virtual' for those attending online. Each group included a mix of FSIN Leadership representatives and Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators. The break-out session dialogue is summarized below, by group. The following question prompted the discussion:

***"First Nations Control of Jordan's Principle: what does that look like for Saskatchewan First Nations?"***

### NORTHERN DIALOGUE

Regional challenges in the north:

- Language barriers: the North requires advocacy and support for families in their own language
- Transportation – 6-hour drives – make stops for meals, but is difficult to have time to change the child
- If an ambulance can't come, then STARS is the only option. Would it work if there was a fleet of medical vans for norther regions? Medical taxis and a Jordan Principle 15 passenger van?

Caregiver support:

- More respite care is needed--support for the family is support for the children
- Mental health therapists, coordinators, elders, to work with the whole family. Ability to get other resources if needed
- Does the provider get breaks? What happens to the families when service providers take breaks?
- Lift training is needed for parents with disabled children

Application support:

- Need sharing of successful applications so others can learn how to work to be successful
- Application support among Nations may be limited because it becomes competitive
- Staff are not trained on how to properly fill out the forms
- Could templates be developed for the providers?
- Could a portal be implemented to track the application status?

FSIN Support:

- Need more people in Jordan's Principle to advocate for families--hear "no" a lot
- Need a regional person who does all of the applications so that coordinators can focus on land-based mental health
- Would be great to have one dedicated application resource
- Are there any resources like KidsFirst, early learning, Head Start? Are there resources in terms of assessment? What if it is mental or emotional? Who assesses? They qualify through their diagnosis or referral through their therapist

#### Gaps in the system:

- There are children who are undiagnosed
- Support for children that age out
- Lack of awareness of Jordan's Principle—identifying applicants and families in need

#### Challenges/Benefits with FN control:

- Bureaucratic process could be streamlined
- Challenge would be to prevent abuse
- Would appreciate more of these sessions; there is value in conferences and sharing ideas.

#### Training/Coordinators:

- Need a provincial strategy – for example – from a training and education perspective – is there enough training and education for the coordinators and service providers are sometimes short term. Is there a lot of turn over? Why is there a lot of turn over? This is not just a job, it is a life responsibility. When we look at solutions and what control looks like we need to get a better picture.
- Workers use their own cell phones – so there is no break for the coordinators
- Workers sometimes get clients from other areas because they can't reach their own coordinator
- Sometimes there is no availability
- Should be an on call – after hours and weekends. There is headquarters that is not used often
- Coordinators need training – standardized provincial training is a gap – coordinators are turning over and they don't receive training
- Coordinators should receive trauma training and support – seeing what is happening in the home assessments can take a toll
- Wages don't cover the after-hours support
- Office space is limited and in some cases in disrepair
- Privacy/confidentiality is a strain
- Denials and/or delays in processing – the coordinator gets blamed
- Do Jordan's Principles providers get mental health supports?
- *Need to develop a work plan* – and work to implement the work plan

#### Sharing of information:

- Legislation changes are communicated to the Tribal councils – but take time to trickle down – some Nations are falling through the cracks
- Communication about the forum was lacking – many were not aware until the day before
- Many community members aren't aware of the services available to them – how can that be better communicated?
- Monthly conference calls with Hannah Hyde – senior representative from Jordan's Principle – not every nation is serviced, as some are not aware of these calls – can there be a way for each nation to be on a list?
- Create and share a list of all the service coordinators among the Nations – helps with training and support

## CENTRAL DIALOGUE

### Applications:

- Forms are difficult to manage, missing information and recommendation letters are missing.
- Turnaround time is long; application processes should be streamlined
- There needs to be more support for families for the application (families need to understand all the information that is required) and funding period.

### Coordinators:

- Conflict between the service coordinators and ISC
- Service coordinators have a high turnover rate, because of the intake and application process
- Coordinators need to know the community and the children to understand the cost and target applications

### Sharing of information:

- There is a need to share information among the Nations. Communities should network and share ideas.
- Seeing some success in family treatment
- Urban people are pitiful and the portability of our treaties for those living off reserve needs to be stressed

### How FSIN can coordinate and facilitate the process

- They could be a resource for coordinators to work with
- FSIN could facilitate intergovernmental cooperation
- FSIN and ISC should work with the government to make Jordan's Principle more inclusive within the programs and services within the First Nation communities.
- FSIN should develop a child welfare advocate and Jordan's Principle advocate to help advocate for the applications that are denied.

### Barriers faced:

- Many requests come because of no treaty numbers – there are many hoops to register a child. Can a new process be implemented to apply for the status card in the hospital?

## SOUTHERN DIALOGUE

### First Nation Control:

- Must define control
  - Communities making the decisions without ISC oversight – funding comes straight to the community
    - Would need to have a non-political entity making decisions
    - Too much political corruption and lateral violence on reserve (may impact takeover of control)
- Funding to a Tribal council adds another layer of bureaucracy – one issue is potential for First Nation’s denying people from their own community
- Community-based funding- who is going to set parameters (standards) for use of funding to account for unique situations in each FN. ISC? This will need to be in place before FNs can assume control of funding
- Itemized supports for all levels (Community/Family/Individual)
- If Jordan’s Principle funds were held at the nation level, we would set up a non-political board to support people and distribute funds because we know these people and who needs help the most
- Establish a regional pooled fund to cover requests made in SHA hospitals
- FNs have different capacities & strengths
- No way one program can stand alone, need to think holistically when thinking about how to move forward
- Need to set the community vision, set the budget and report back to the community
- Work to decolonize this area – use ceremonies and culture as a basis of standards and control
- Need to establish a FN regulatory environment around Jordan’s Principle

### Support:

- How are children supported when they age out?
- How are caregivers supported
- Simplify support letter process so bands can help off-reserve members access supports
- Toll free line to answer questions

### Process challenges:

- Bureaucracy takes precedence over the children – the process takes too long
- Stressful for parents and caregivers if they can’t provide for the children – inflation of food prices does not help
- Reform the process to fast-track small requests
- There should be uniform guiding principles for all Nations
- Gaps between supports causes problems – social assistance, child tax, Jordan’s Principle
- Call centres are oppositional in the way they deal with band staff- general frustration with ISC staff

#### Communication:

- Lack of communication – best practices need to be strengthened
- Jordan’s Principle communicators at different levels have different plans, and the community may not be aware
- Lack of communication results in a competition, not cooperation
- People need to know who is eligible and what is available
- Off reserve members don’t have info, need to have a way to engage with them so they are aware of supports available to them

#### FSIN Support:

- More than one regional coordinator at FSIN
- Need to be organized, write, and submit more proposals from SK, or other regions will take all the funding
- Jordan’s Principle working group? Develop a FSIN Jordan’s Principle working group composed of service coordinators, health directors and Chiefs, also there is a Chief’s political task force

#### Coordinators:

- Better coordination of all Jordan’s Principle coordinators
- ISC announced community coordinator funding, role of Tribal Council is to support communities until they can look after their own programs and services, and he is no longer needed

## ONLINE DIALOGUE

#### First Nations Control:

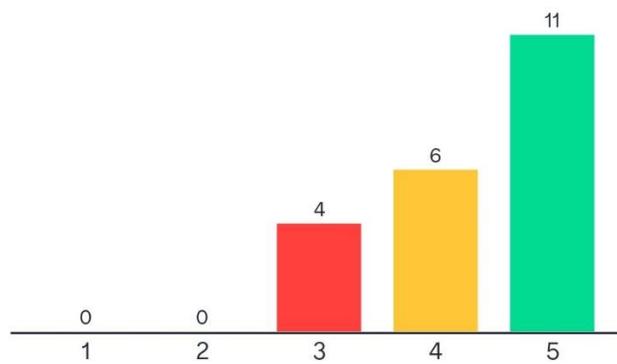
- Focus on community-based success
- Understanding of key care needs is crucial
- Reduce red tape
- Communities know best what is needed at the community level
  - Knowledge of family history; barriers faced; local connections; local application
  - Improve timeliness of approval process; cultural understanding; improved access to services
- Local Jordan’s Principle Coordinators can make decisions/team approach
- Ability to approve smaller applications
- Strong local control
- Replicate successes
- Make the application process easier—provide sample letters
- Provide Jordan’s Principle community engagement sessions

## PARTICIPANT EVALUATION SUMMARY AND THEMES

At the end of the forum, Morris Interactive provided an evaluation form that participants could use to give their feedback on the sessions. Mentimeter interactive software was used to provide instant results. The evaluation consisted of 4 questions and 21 participants gave their responses. Questions and answers are below. (Please note that the questions that appear as duplicates are continuations from the previous slide)

Using a rating scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest rating, did this forum provide good direction for Jordan's Principle reform in Saskatchewan ?

Mentimeter



21

What recommendations would you provide to FSIN in their efforts with Jordan Principle ?

Mentimeter

Networking conference	More events like this	Make sure all Jordan's Principle Coordinators are included in all forums training etc.
Establish a differentiated Jordan's Principle Department.	Start a working group. Hire more at all the different levels band to prov fsin	Meet with all First Nation to develop a plan
Continuing with these forums!	Having quarterly meeting for any concerns and updates regarding Jordans Principle.	Progressively continue the pathway put forth.

15

## What recommendations would you provide to FSIN in their efforts with Jordan Principle ?

Mentimeter

Providing an opportunity for not only leadership but ground roots people to access this information. Either thru zoom or at forum at each FN	Creating a sharing folder with service providers in helping make all their applications successful	You cant and shouldn't stop services as soon as the child hits 18
Networking, communication, Sharing of information and successes	Continue following the direction of Leadership and the voice's of their people.	More information into legislation
Legislative	Continue with your "Voice" when communicating with ISC	Newsletter and update on successfully application amongst FN's.

15

## What recommendations would you provide to FSIN in their efforts with Jordan Principle ?

Mentimeter

Help setup systems in communities for faster accessibility to dollars and help for immediate assistance.	Provide the unified voice of the service coordinators. Such as the matrix with the service coordinators. Develop the information of resources. Start at the community level.	Toll free number. to all to call and inquire how to get process started.
To continue providing feedback to service coordinators!	I would definitely say that there needs to be a refined data system for application that have been submitted to Jordan's principle. I have attempted to make my own system for number of applications I have , per community, length of time at ISC	Advertise more
To us a system that every Jordan's principle coordinator can access (network system) include sample letters, proposal s coordinators would be helping each other with contacts. Not be in competition with each other for numbers l Our community.	More Jordan principle workers	I would recommend that FSIN bring forth more funding resources for our communities and also fight for our people. As disability for our people does not go away when they turn 18. There needs to be more resources for our ppl out ageing

15

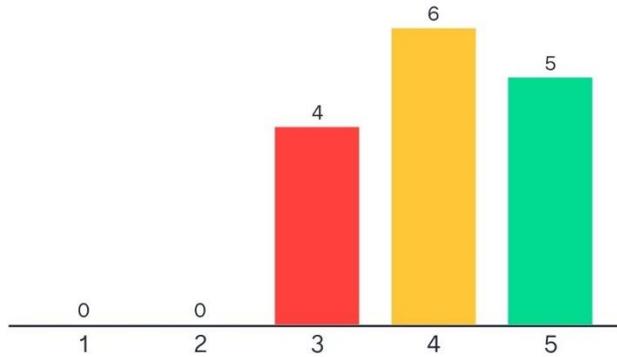
# What recommendations would you provide to FSIN in their efforts with Jordan Principle ?



- Provide more opportunities such as this forum for more Coordinators to share their experiences and also to see how other coordinators work.
- Ensure that funding continues for our people and for our children's, grandchildren's future. Ensure that all funding is continuing.
- Would like to thank everyone of them for the good job they do and will continue to do on behalf of our members.
- Continued funding and ensure this program continues.
- To have more forums like this.



On a rating scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest. This conference has improved my understanding and execution of Jordan Principle.



# What do you see as the next steps in advancing First Nations control of Jordan's Principle in Saskatchewan?



- Community level discussions
- More forums, more advocates
- Concensus
- Advance legislation
- Networking/ training
- Community level awareness and approach with leaders
- Developing committees in communities ..offer training and community information session's
- Developing a generic draft form for communities
- Working together as was done today!



# What do you see as the next steps in advancing First Nations control of Jordan's Principle in Saskatchewan?



- In order to help decolonize structures we have to not allow our words, spoken or written to come from a place where we sound like we are powerless. We are not. We dont accept anything less then success and approval for the people we are here to serve
- Moneys send directly to fn
- I believe that FN control of Jordans Principle is a great idea, specifically to Health. Health has a good model and work ethic. However I feel if individual bands have control would definitely be the wrong thing to do.



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the key themes that emerged from the Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum, recommendations are grouped into three categories: First Nations Jurisdiction and Authority; Jordan's Principle Community Service Coordinator and staff recommendations, and Jordan's Principle service delivery needs. The following recommendations provide the opportunity to advance First Nations control of Jordan's Principle in Saskatchewan and improve the immediate and ongoing quality of life of First Nations children:

### First Nations Jurisdiction and Authority:

- 'Close the gaps' for First Nations children who are falling through the cracks between and within federal, provincial, and local ministries, agencies, organizations and departments mandated to provide services to First Nations children and their families
- Through First Nations control, reduce the bureaucracy that engulfs each application and the processes that do not meet a child's needs in a timely manner, thus demonstrating more compassion for children and families through reduced wait times and a focus on immediate needs
- Ensure ongoing awareness of Jordan's Principle for families through the provision of community information and awareness campaigns to ensure every child in every community, both on and off reserve, has access to the services they need
- Enable the ability to provide services and resources as close to the child as possible, in the most culturally appropriate, family centered and holistic manner; this includes transferring responsibility for Jordan's Principle from ECIP Services to First Nations control where this interim measure still exists
- Access to and training of specialized service providers (ie. OT/PT/SLP, etc.) who are not familiar with Jordan's Principle or First Nations in general requires long term planning to best meet child and family needs
- Eliminate the inherent bias impacting First Nations children based on residency (on/off reserve) and status (Indian Registry / Membership).

### Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator and Staff Recommendations:

Front-line community-based Service Coordinators and staff have demonstrated their dedication and commitment to assisting First Nations children and families through Jordan's Principle; however, they require additional supports:

- Additional and ongoing forums, conferences and meetings that bring Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators together for networking and support
- Expanded opportunities to share information through success stories and challenges, but most importantly learned best practices
- Increased training and professional development opportunities, including trauma-informed practice, wellness and self-care
- Enhanced capacity through additional supports for Jordan's Principle in the form of staff, financial resources to meet immediate needs of children, and adequate space and equipment to meet job demands, including meeting with children and families.

### Jordan's Principle Service Delivery Needs:

The parameters of Jordan's Principle require expansion to meet child, family, and First Nations community needs. Examples of expanded parameters that should be enabled through First Nations control of Jordan's Principle include:

- Local control of funding for at least immediate and emergent needs of children and families in their community
- A collaborative approach with other programs and services to deal with deep and ingrained systemic issues such as poverty which has proven to be the root cause of many of the issues necessitating access to Jordan's Principle
- Inclusion in Jordan's Principle of Caregiver support on a consistent and ongoing basis
- Elimination of age parameters for specific Jordan's Principle services and supports where the need does not end or cease to exist at the age of 18 or 25.

The FSIN Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum provided timely and much needed engagement on Jordan's Principle reform, with a focus on the best way for Saskatchewan First Nations to move forward following the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling and the Agreement-In-Principle mandating Long-Term Reform. Presentations from First Nations Child & Family Caring Society and the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy updated participants on Jordan's Principle at the national level, with updates at the local level from Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc. and FSIN. The visit from the Custer Family, together with the three-person Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators panel discussion, served to remind participants of the real-life children and caregivers at the heart of Jordan's Principle, and throughout the two-day forum, the urgent, critical needs of First Nations children were top of mind. Through the sharing of ideas and dialogue, participants were clear that action is needed at the political, administrative, and operational levels to achieve First Nations control of Jordan's Principle in Saskatchewan.

## APPENDICES

## Appendix A: AGENDA



### Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Jordan's Principle Leadership Forum AGENDA

October 20 - 21, 2021

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Link: <https://fsin.zoom.us/j/82782378645?pwd=WlpYYW1TT1Y1NkdTcXBpQ2dDWkFPQT09>

### October 21, 2022 - Day 1

- 8:00 a.m. Pipe Ceremony  
Elders on site – Elder Doug Joseph & Elder Leona Tootosis
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Provided
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer: Elder Leona Tootosis  
Opening Comments FSIN 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chief David Pratt
- 9:15 a.m. Overview of Agenda Facilitators –Sherry Jimmy  
On-line Survey Completion (for those who have not completed it)
- 9:30 a.m. First Nations Caring Society - Reconciliation and Policy Coordinator - Jennifer King (online)
- 10:15 a.m. Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy – Helaina Gaspard (online)
- 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break**
- 11:00 a.m. Executive Director of the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc. - Raymond Shingoose
- 11:20 a.m. FSIN Findings to date - FSIN Director of Jordan's Principle - Charmaine Pyakutch
- 11:50 a.m. Overview for the afternoon
- 12:00 p.m. – 1 p.m. Break for lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. Gaps/Challenges/Solutions  
Jordan's Principle Experiences: Service Coordinators Panel Discussion  
Ursula Roberts, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Thomas Mamela, Ochapowace First Nation  
Quinn Amyotte-Bear, Montreal Lake Cree Nation
- 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Health Break**
- 2:45 p.m. Jordan's Principle Experiences - continued
- 3:45 p.m. Wrap up Day 1 and Closing remarks
- Adjournment for the day**

## October 21, 2022 Day 2

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Overview of Day 1: Facilitators – Sherry Jimmy/Dr. Bonita Beatty  
Outline of Day 2
- 9:15 a.m. Morning Breakout Sessions:  
***“First Nations Control of Jordan’s Principle: what does that look like for Saskatchewan First Nations?”***
- 10:15 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Break**
- 10:35 a.m. Morning Break-out Sessions continued
- 11:15 a.m. Reporting Back from each Break-out Session
- 11:55 a.m. Overview for the afternoon - Facilitators
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Break for lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Break-out Sessions:  
***“Implementation Planning for First Nations Control of Jordan’s Principle with Measurable and Time-dated Outcomes”***
- 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Health Break**
- 2:45 p.m. Reporting Back from Break-out Sessions
- 3:45 p.m. Summary/Wrap up/Closing remarks
- Adjournment***  
***Closing Prayer***

## Appendix B: FORUM GUIDING QUESTIONS

“First Nations Control of Jordan’s Principle: what does that look like for Saskatchewan First Nations?”

- For enhancement of community-based services (i.e., those that are offered at the community level without having to apply for Jordan’s Principle) to fill gaps in services? (e.g., human resources, capital/infrastructure, networks, and professionals, etc.)
- For addressing critical gaps for children in Saskatchewan (i.e., poverty, prevention services, emergency funding, remoteness, lack of available and accessible services, disadvantages caused by historical and contemporary colonialism).
- For ensuring that Jordan’s Principle is child-first and children are the focus of Canada’s legal obligation.

“Implementation Planning for First Nations Control of Jordan’s Principle with Measurable and Time-dated Outcomes”

- What do planning activities related to Jordan’s Principle look like? (e.g., data, data management tools and capacity, training, human resources, infrastructure, etc.)
- What does the administration of Jordan’s Principle for children in Saskatchewan look like? (e.g., intake of requests, adjudication, payment administration, case management, provincial and territorial engagement)
- What does a cost analysis of substantive equality look like?
- What is the best way to measure well-being and time-dated outcomes?
- What is the best way to measure accountability?

## Appendix C: RESOURCES

\*List of Resources compiled and shared from presenters, included here for delegates and attendees (please note that these are non FSIN researched)

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nation  
[www.fsin.ca/jordans-principle/](http://www.fsin.ca/jordans-principle/)

Charmaine Pyakutch, FSIN Director, Jordan's Principle  
Telephone: 306.665.1215  
Email: [charmaine.pyakutch@fsin.com](mailto:charmaine.pyakutch@fsin.com)

FSIN Director is assisted by a Jordan's Principle Researcher and an Administrative position.

First Nations Caring Society of Canada  
[www.fncaringsociety.com](http://www.fncaringsociety.com)

Jennifer King, Reconciliation And Policy Coordinator  
Telephone: 613-230-5885  
Email: [info@fncaringsociety.com](mailto:info@fncaringsociety.com)

Presentation additional websites: [JordansPrinciple.ca](http://JordansPrinciple.ca); [fnwitness.ca](http://fnwitness.ca); Walking Together;  
[yellowheadinstitute.org/trc/](http://yellowheadinstitute.org/trc/); [fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear](http://fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear)

@CaringSociety @SpiritBear

Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy  
[www.ifsd.ca/fncfs](http://www.ifsd.ca/fncfs)

Dr. Helaina Gaspard, Director, Governance and Institutions, University of Ottawa  
Telephone: 613-983-8461  
Email: [helaina.gaspard@ifsd.ca](mailto:helaina.gaspard@ifsd.ca)

@IFSD\_IFPD

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch  
Indigenous Services Canada, Government of Canada  
[www.canada.gc.ca/jordans-principle](http://www.canada.gc.ca/jordans-principle)

Available 24 hours, 7 days a week

Jordan's Principle Call Centre  
Toll-Free Line: 1-855-572-4453  
Teletypewriter: 1-866-553-0554

Jordan's Principle & Inuit Child First Initiative  
Saskatchewan Region

Brad Billingsley, Service Coordinator Liaison

Email: [Bradley.billingsley@canada.ca](mailto:Bradley.billingsley@canada.ca)

Telephone: 306-216-6510

Saskatchewan Jordan's Principle & Inuit Child First Initiative

Toll-Free Line: 1-833-752-4453

Toll-Free Fax: 1-833-246-4065

Hannah or Brad at the shared Service Coordination inbox: [skjordanssc@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:skjordanssc@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Admissions inbox: [principedejordansk\\_admission-jordansprinciplesk\\_intake@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:principedejordansk_admission-jordansprinciplesk_intake@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Finance inbox: [jordansprinciplesask\\_finance-principedejordan@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:jordansprinciplesask_finance-principedejordan@sac-isc.gc.ca)



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