

# Families need action: Stand up for Jordan's Principle

## AECEO Guiding Committee on Truth and Reconciliation

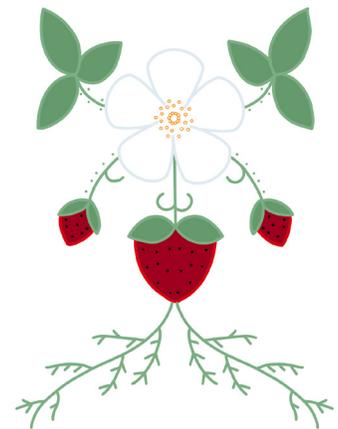
Children in Ontario are being denied or delayed essential supports due to Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) narrowed interpretation of Jordan's Principle. Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle to ensure First Nations children get the services they need when they need them.

Changes by Indigenous Services Canada in 2025 narrowed eligibility criteria and raised serious concerns for the children and families that the AECEO and the ECE community work with and care about across Ontario and beyond. These changes contradict the spirit and intent of Jordan's Principle and exacerbate existing systemic barriers for First Nations children, particularly in the areas of education, health, and culturally appropriate supports.

As early childhood educators, we know that every child deserves equitable access to the care and supports they need to thrive. Yet many First Nations children are facing barriers and delays to essential health, education, and social services – barriers that violate their basic human rights. Jordan's Principle was meant to end those delays and ensure every child is treated with fairness and dignity.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered Canada to fully and properly implement Jordan's Principle, but Indigenous Services Canada is narrowing access and pushing off-reserve education supports (EAs/ECEs, therapies, travel for services) toward provincial funding.

This has resulted in delays, denials, confusion, and a large backlog (~140,000 requests); children missing school/supports; or going without essential healthcare - emergency health items sometimes refused. Parents are often not informed of their legal options when denied support.



Families and children need help to call on the Governments of Canada and Ontario to fully comply with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's decisions to fully implement Jordan's Principle. The rulings are clear. The law is clear. What's missing is full political action.

**Let's work together for children's rights to be respected, upheld, and acted on without delay**

The AECEO Guiding Committee on Truth and Reconciliation, in solidarity with First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, has launched an e-action to support and amplify their advocacy on the Government of Canada's changes to Jordan's Principle funding.

As early childhood educators and advocates committed to Truth and Reconciliation, we are deeply troubled by this rollback and stand ready to support efforts to challenge and reverse it.

**Your voice matters!** Please join our advocacy campaign by supporting our E-Action to call on Government and your elected representatives to comply with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal’s decisions to fully implement Jordan’s Principle.

You Can Take Action Today! Our E-Action automatically sends a letter to the appropriate federal and provincial Ministers, your MP and MPP. Find it online, with more information about Jordan’s Principle, here: [https://www.aecce.ca/jordans\\_principle](https://www.aecce.ca/jordans_principle)

Or send your own letter using the template below:

**TEMPLATE LETTER:**

**Subject: Uphold Jordan’s Principle Child-First, Now**

I am writing as a concerned Ontario resident. Children in our community are being denied or delayed essential supports due to Indigenous Services Canada’s (ISC) narrowed interpretation of Jordan’s Principle. Jordan’s Principle is a legal obligation. Federal Court decisions (including Cully and Powless) have upheld the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal’s decisions requiring substantive equality, individualized assessments, and reject cost-based or blanket denials.

I call on the government of Canada to:

- 1) Fully comply with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal’s decisions to end Canada’s discrimination against First Nations children and fully implement Jordan’s Principle;
- 2) Withdraw restrictive operational changes and clear the backlog;
- 3) Implement Cully/Powless in all determinations;
- 4) Ensure transparent, child-first collaboration with First Nations and sector partners.

I call on the government of Ontario to:

- Adopt a child-first stance consistent with Jordan’s Principle.
- Include First Nations and Canadian Human Rights Tribunal parties in discussions with Canada.
- Ensure transparency; reject wholesale downloading that harms children.

As your constituent, I am looking for you to take action on these calls. Please respond with your action plan.

Sincerely,

[Name/email address/location]