



The Manitoba Approach to Jordan's Principle

Jordan's Principle requires Canada to ensure timely services that meet the needs and best interests of First Nation children. Under Jordan's Principle, the federal government must fund services and equipment that extend beyond provincial standards if required to meet First Nations children's needs. Jordan's Principle applies to a broad range of needs, including health, education and social needs and currently applies to all First Nations children, living on or off reserve, who are under age 19. Jordan's Principle funds:

- Health, education, and social services for individual First Nations children, without requiring families to bear the cost of service and file for reimbursement.
- Health, education, and social services for "groups of children." "Group funding" supports the development and extension of services that meet the needs of First Nations children.

The Potential of Jordan's Principle:

- **If implemented properly**, Jordan's Principle would eliminate the need for any family to sign a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) to access services; comparable services should be available through Jordan's Principle.
- Jordan's Principle offers new opportunities to break down siloes, facilitate collaboration and information sharing between service providers, and expand the scope of services managed and controlled by First Nations.
- Jordan's Principle offers the opportunity to re-vision services in First Nations and create locally based, First Nations controlled services grounded in the strength and power of First Nation cultures, languages, traditions, ceremonies, and knowledges, geared toward wellness and prevention, rather than disability.



The Approach in Manitoba:

First Nations' long-term advocacy for a system of self-determined services for First Nations children has shaped the approach to Jordan's Principle in Manitoba. The Manitoba model features:

- The systematic extension of a core set of services provided by centralized Specialized Service Providers to all Nations.
- The systematic extension of key funding opportunities (e.g. funds for respite care and land based programming) to all Nations.
- Funding for Jordan's Principle case managers in every Nation.
- Funding for Tribal Council Service Coordinators tasked with providing training, support and coordination for case managers.
- Funding for off-reserve case managers, who support off-reserve First Nation families in navigating and accessing services.
- First Nations control over decision making and administration of funding for many requests for Jordan's Principle funded services/supports for individual children.
- First Nations capacity enhancement programs – including training of Nation-based rehabilitation assistants and a broad range of clinical professionals (provided by the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center, SSP, and other organizations with funding from diverse sources).
- First Nations led regional coordination and supports.

Supporting the First Nations Approach: Realizing the Full Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba



Eligibility

- Eligibility for Jordan's Principle through age 26.

Infrastructure

- Adequate housing and clean water for every First Nation child.
- Dedicated, physical space for Jordan's Principle programs and services in each Nation.
- Digital infrastructure to support a responsive, relational approach to the development and provision of Jordan's Principle services.

Communication & Coordination

- Communities of practice that provide spaces for Case Managers, Service Coordinators and Specialized Service Providers (SSPs) to share strategies and successes, discuss challenges, and connect to resources that may support ongoing service development.
- Clear and consistent paths for communicating policy information to every First Nation and for engaging First Nations in policy development and decision-making processes.
- Formal, First Nations led structures to facilitate coordination and collaboration around Jordan's Principle.
- A First Nations owned and controlled program of research to support the further implementation of Jordan's Principle.

Funding Structure

- Long-term Jordan's Principle funding that is flexible enough to enable First Nations to develop services in accordance with their priorities and members' needs.
- Federal Government working with First Nations to analyze and extend funds to cover the real costs of implementing Jordan's Principle in remote and northern Nations.
- A systemic approach to Jordan's Principle funding that actively extends the resources needed to establish an equitable baseline of services, in keeping with the standards and obligations outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in each First Nation.
- Long-term funding and other resources for capacity enhancement initiatives that support every First Nation in moving towards a self-determined system of services.
- Federal government working with SSPs and First Nations to restructure Jordan's Principle funding so First Nations can take on specific services/responsibilities in accordance with a self-determined pacing and sequence.

How did we do this research

Research was co-designed and undertaken in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. It involved 35 interviews and 5 focus groups with Jordan's Principle Case Managers and Service Coordinators, SSPs, and regional policy experts. Additional data was collected through: participant observation, document review and analysis of administrative data.



Please see final report for full description of findings and key recommendations – Sinha, V., Sangster, M., Gerlach, A.J., Bennett, M., Lavoie, J.G., Lach, L., Balfour, M., & Folster, S. (2022). *The implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final report*. Winnipeg, MB: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs <https://manitobachiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/22-01-28-The-Implementation-of-Jordans-Principle-in-Manitoba-Final-Report.pdf>

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MB-Jordan's Principle Infographic #2

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