



Canada's actions since the January 2016 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision

What has the Government of Canada done since the decision?

In 2016-2017, nearly \$200 million of additional funding was made available for First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle.

For the [First Nations Child and Family Services program](#), Canada has:

- rolled out prevention based-funding and provided greater support to child and family service agencies across Canada through Budget 2016 investments of an additional \$634.8 million over five years
- increased agencies' budgets for: supporting children in care; salaries, travel, audit, and insurance; caseload ratios; off-hour emergency services; training; intake and investigation; and increased the per child service purchase amount
- in addition to Budget 2016 investments, provided:
 - increased prevention funding to agencies to support families in need
 - more funds to small agencies
 - opportunities for funding (\$75,000/agency) to agencies to develop and implement culturally based visions, as well as opportunities for funding (\$25,000/agency) to identify their actual needs and distinct circumstances, which will help Canada better understand and address agency needs
 - additional funds to address agency pressures
- continued to work closely with the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada to re-establish the National Advisory Committee on First Nations Child and Family Services Program Reform
- appointed Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux as the Minister's Special Representative, who is engaging with a broad range of partners across the country to gather input on reforming the First Nations Child and Family Service program
- continued reform discussions at regional tri-partite tables across the country
- launched reform discussion table with partners in Ontario including the province and First Nations representatives, on how to deliver short, medium, and long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and review child and family services under the *1965 Agreement* with Ontario
- provided support for the First Nations component of the next Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect
- committed to no longer ask agencies to recover maintenance costs from their prevention or operations budgets (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada will provide additional funding to cover any maintenance cost overruns.)
- launched an online [engagement](#) including an online survey to gather input from Canadians on how to improve the First Nations Child and Family Services program
- began work with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, to [develop a remoteness quotient](#) that can be used for funding First Nation child welfare agencies that serve various remote communities
- signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with the First Nations Health Council](#) to engage First Nations on ways to improve the health and well-being of First Nations children, youth and families
- worked with the First Nations Leadership Council on a tripartite working group improve child welfare in the province of British Columbia

For [Jordan's Principle](#), Canada welcomed last year's decision and has put in place concrete measures to implement the tribunal's orders. Canada has expanded Jordan's Principle to:

- eliminate the requirement that a First Nations child must have multiple disabilities that require multiple service providers
- apply Jordan's Principle to all jurisdictional disputes and include those between federal government departments
- apply Jordan's Principle to all First Nations children, regardless of where they live in Canada
- establish new processes to ensure that appropriate services for any Jordan's Principle case will not be delayed due to case conferencing or policy review

In support of the expanded application of Jordan's Principle, Canada has also undertaken several new policy initiatives to improve access to services and supports (such as health, social and education) for First Nations children, including:

- the Child-First Initiative, which aims to facilitate and improve access to services and supports for First Nations children
- supporting children who need help right away and setting up the structures that will improve access to care and services over the long term
 - o We have mobilized staff across the country to work with local partners and service organizations to proactively identify First Nations children who need help and get them the services they require. We encourage all First Nations families and caregivers who need help for their child to visit the [Jordan's Principle](#) webpage for more information.
- covering a broad range of long- and short-term services, including respite care, mental health supports, mobility aids, transportation to appointments, addiction treatment and education support.

As part of our reconciliation efforts, we are also committed to working with partners on the extended application of Jordan's Principle. To support this commitment we have:

- invited the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada to attend, along with the Assembly of First Nations, the Oversight Steering Committee on Jordan's Principle.

If any case is brought to the attention of Health Canada or Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada where a First Nations child does not have similar access to care or services as non-First Nations children in that province or territory, we will take steps to ensure that care or service is provided.