

# Indigenous Services Canada

Saskatchewan Region  
Annual Report to Partners  
2024-2025

# Table of Contents

<b>A Message to Partners</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Regional Senior Executives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Saskatchewan Region 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Overview</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Improving Access to Non-Insured Health Benefits</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Advancing Operational Improvements in Jordan's Principle</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Empowering Communities Through Data</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Enhancing Public Health Response</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Prioritizing Mental Wellness and Treatment</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Fostering Partnerships</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Strengthening Governance, Employment, and Community Safety</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Investing In Indigenous Communities</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Special Purpose Allotment</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Non-Special Purpose Allotment</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Final Expenditure Distribution</b>	<b>29</b>

# Message to Our Partners

We are pleased to present the 2024-2025 Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Saskatchewan Region Annual Report. This report reflects our continued commitment to transparency, collaboration, and meaningful progress as we work alongside First Nations partners to share our journey, celebrate successes, address challenges, and remain focused on long-term, sustainable change in alignment with ISC's mandate.

ISC continues to work closely with partners to improve access to high-quality services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. Our vision is to empower Indigenous communities to assume control over service delivery at their own pace and in culturally appropriate ways, while addressing the unique socio-economic conditions of each community.

Our work is grounded in two core principles: first, we honour the diversity of Indigenous cultures, traditions, and knowledge systems in everything we do; second, we prioritize strong, transparent partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations. In working collaboratively with rights holders, organizations, and institutions, we aim to ensure that initiatives have a meaningful and positive impact on Indigenous individuals, families, and communities.

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan Region supported First Nations, Tribal Councils, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, Child and Family Services, education authorities, and health agencies through 372 funding arrangements. This work was carried out in alignment with ISC's five-year (2020-2025) strategic plan.



**Andrea Reynoldson**  
Acting Regional Executive Officer



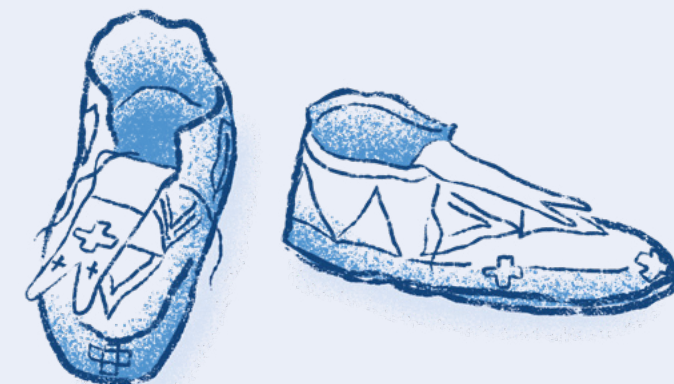
**Rob Harvey**  
Regional Director General

As we sunset our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, and with an evolving strategic direction, ISC is set to prioritize the department's reorganization strategy in the coming years.

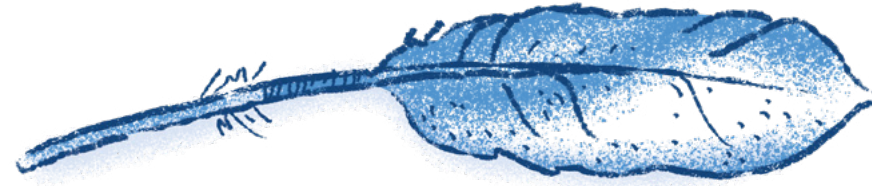
This strategy is helping ISC to define what is core to our mission, how we deliver services, and how we can ensure all operations are effective, client-centred, culturally appropriate and relevant, and sustainable over time. As we move forward, our focus will be on:

1. Clarifying and strengthening ISC's core functions and services to better support Indigenous communities
2. Improving how we work by aligning our operations with long-term sustainability and service excellence
3. Ensuring responsible resource and budget management while maximizing impact
4. Building a future-ready organization that is adaptable, transparent, and focused on delivering results

This year's annual report highlights the region's commitment to Indigenous communities and organizations in Saskatchewan and to building the foundation for broader transformation. We look forward to continuing this important work in partnership with Indigenous communities, guided by shared values and a collective vision for self-determination and reconciliation.



# Regional Senior Executives



**Andrea Reynoldson** Acting Regional Executive Officer

[andrea.reynoldson@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:andrea.reynoldson@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides strategic direction and management for the Saskatchewan region and ensures high-quality service delivery in the areas of primary health care and population health, non-insured health benefits, medical health officer, and strategic policy, planning, and transformation.



**Cathy Huber** Regional Director, Corporate Services

[cathy.huber@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:cathy.huber@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support for financial, administration, security, information management, and information technology services in support of the Saskatchewan region.



**Cheri Moreau** Associate Regional Director General

[cheri.moreau@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:cheri.moreau@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides strategic support to the Regional Director General in delivering a full range of integrated and client-focused services in the areas of child and family services, community infrastructure, education and social development, lands and economic development, governance and individual affairs, partnerships and agreements, and emergency management.



**Cindy Roache** Regional Director, Primary Health Care and Population Health

[cindy.roache@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:cindy.roache@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support to ensure the delivery of high-quality and safe health programs and services in areas including primary care and clinical services (nursing and home and community care), health promotion and disease prevention (mental wellness and addictions), health professional support services, health protection (communicable disease control and environmental public health services), and health emergency management.



**Crystal Pinay** Acting Regional Director, Strategic Policy, Planning, and Transformation

[crystal.pinay@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:crystal.pinay@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support to advance the transfer of services to First Nations control as well as internal transformation through strategic policy and planning, and horizontal support and advice. Ms. Pinay oversees health facilities programs, e-health, community health planning and health services transfer, and policy, planning, and partnerships.



**Dr. Ibrahim Khan** Medical Health Officer

[ibrahim.khan@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:ibrahim.khan@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides oversight and advice as a public health physician with designated roles in health protection under Saskatchewan's *Public Health Act*. Dr. Khan also oversees health surveillance and assessment.



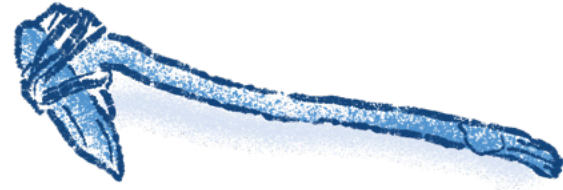
**Jacquelyn Conrod** Regional Director, Community Infrastructure and Partnership Development

[jacquelyn.conrod@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquelyn.conrod@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support in program implementation for community infrastructure projects that improve the quality of life for First Nations communities by supporting projects in housing, water and wastewater, schools, and other community infrastructure.



# Regional Senior Executives Continued



**Kelly Ulrich** Director, Non-Insured Health Benefits

[kelly.ulrich@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:kelly.ulrich@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support in overseeing delivery of the non-insured health benefits program in Saskatchewan, which provides registered Indians and recognized Inuit with coverage for a range of medically necessary health benefits. The Saskatchewan regional office administers vision care, medical supplies and equipment, mental health counselling, and medical transportation benefits, and plays a supportive role in the delivery of pharmacy and dental benefits, which are administered centrally from the national office.



**Mary-Lou Sanderson** Acting Regional Director, Jordan's Principle

[mary-lou.sanderson@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:mary-lou.sanderson@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support for the regional implementation of the initiative, ensuring First Nations children receive timely, equitable access to essential services through community-driven approaches, emergency supports, intergovernmental coordination, and advocacy for systemic reform.



**Merv Morin** Regional Director, Education, Social Development, Governance, and Individual Affairs

[merv.morin@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:merv.morin@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support to advance Indigenous control of Indigenous education and ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to social services appropriate to their needs. This includes programs in education, income assistance, assisted living, and family violence prevention. Mr. Morin also oversees programs that support First Nations communities in establishing strong, effective, and sustainable governments, as well as individual services such as registration and status cards, Treaty annuity payments, estate services, and capital and revenue management for individuals and First Nations.



**Rhonda Dawiskiba** Regional Director, Partnerships and Agreements

[rhonda.dawiskiba@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:rhonda.dawiskiba@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support to ensure the allocation and prioritization of funding through management of grant and contribution agreements and advancing the new fiscal relationship including new comprehensive funding agreements and 10-year grants.



**Rob Harvey** Regional Director General

[rob.harvey@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:rob.harvey@sac-isc.gc.ca)

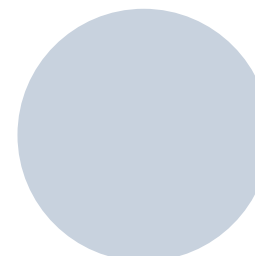
Provides strategic direction and management for the Saskatchewan region and ensures high-quality service delivery in the areas of child and family services, community infrastructure, education and social development, lands and economic development, governance and individual affairs, partnerships and agreements, and emergency management.



**Sherry Daniels** Regional Director, Lands and Economic Development

[sherry.daniels@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:sherry.daniels@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Provides leadership and strategic support in programs and legislation regarding reserve-creation, land management, solid waste management, environmental stewardship, financial management, urban Indigenous programs and partnerships, economic development opportunities, and supporting CIRNAC in the resolution of specific claims. Ms. Daniels oversees the lands, environment, additions to reserve, and community opportunities teams.



**Vacant** Regional Director, Child and Family Services

Provides leadership and strategic support for supporting the safety and well-being of First Nations children and families that includes funding prevention and protection services, reducing the number of children in care, and improving Indigenous child and family services.

# Saskatchewan Region

# 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Overview



## Improving Access to Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

### Advancing Local Administration of NIHB Transportation Benefits

In 2024-2025, Indigenous Services Canada Saskatchewan Region (ISC-SK) worked in close collaboration with Lac La Ronge Indian Band Health Services (LLRIBHS) to successfully transfer the administration of meals and accommodations related to NIHB transportation benefits. This transition increases LLRIBHS's capacity to directly support on-reserve community members in accessing essential medical transportation services.

By enabling local administration, ISC-SK helped enhance service responsiveness and cultural relevance, while strengthening community capacity to manage health-related supports. This accomplishment reflects ISC's commitment to fostering Indigenous-led service delivery and improving access to care for First Nations individuals across Saskatchewan.

Regional investments supported five additional NIHB Navigators for the Saskatchewan region, bringing the total to seven Navigators located in Prince Albert, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Yorkton, Regina, and two in Saskatoon.

NIHB eliminated the requirement for prior approvals for routine eye exams in the fall of 2024, streamlining access to eye exams.

## Advancing Operational Improvements in Jordan's Principle

### Expanding Access and Strengthening Sustainability

Since its implementation in 2016, Jordan's Principle has seen exponential growth in Saskatchewan, reflecting the increasing demand for culturally appropriate services and supports for First Nations children. In 2021-2022, over 614,000 products, services, and supports were approved. By 2023-2024, that number had surged to nearly three million, representing a 367% increase in approved supports.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of Jordan's Principle, the Government of Canada introduced updated operational guidance on February 10, 2025, through an Operational Bulletin. These changes provide greater clarity and consistency around the types of services available and the documentation required to process requests, streamlining access while maintaining accountability.

Importantly, these updates do not affect the eligibility of First Nations children under Jordan's Principle, as defined by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The Saskatchewan region remains committed to supporting families and communities in navigating these changes and ensuring that children continue to receive the care and services they need.

## Empowering Communities Through Data

### Sharing Back the Data

In 2024, the health surveillance and assessment team led the development of the fourth edition of the Saskatchewan region's Health Status Report, a significant undertaking that takes place approximately every five years - in partnership with the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA). The Health Status Report provides a comprehensive overview of the health landscape in First Nations communities throughout Saskatchewan. It aims to serve as a meaningful tool for community leadership by sharing accessible, community-relevant data to support planning, programming, and decision-making.

### Supporting Syphilis and HIV Testing in Rural and Remote Saskatchewan

To improve testing access in First Nations communities, ISC has worked to train community health nurses in testing and treating for sexually transmitted and blood borne infections at the community level. ISC also collaborated closely with the Wellness Wheel Clinic's syphilis and HIV point-of-care testing project in Indigenous communities. The study's results, presented at the National Rural and Remote Medicine Conference, highlighted the positive impact of enhanced equitable access to sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections testing services and its potential to reduce syphilis and HIV transmission among equity-deserving populations in Saskatchewan.

### Advancing Indigenous-Led Service Coordination Under Jordan's Principle

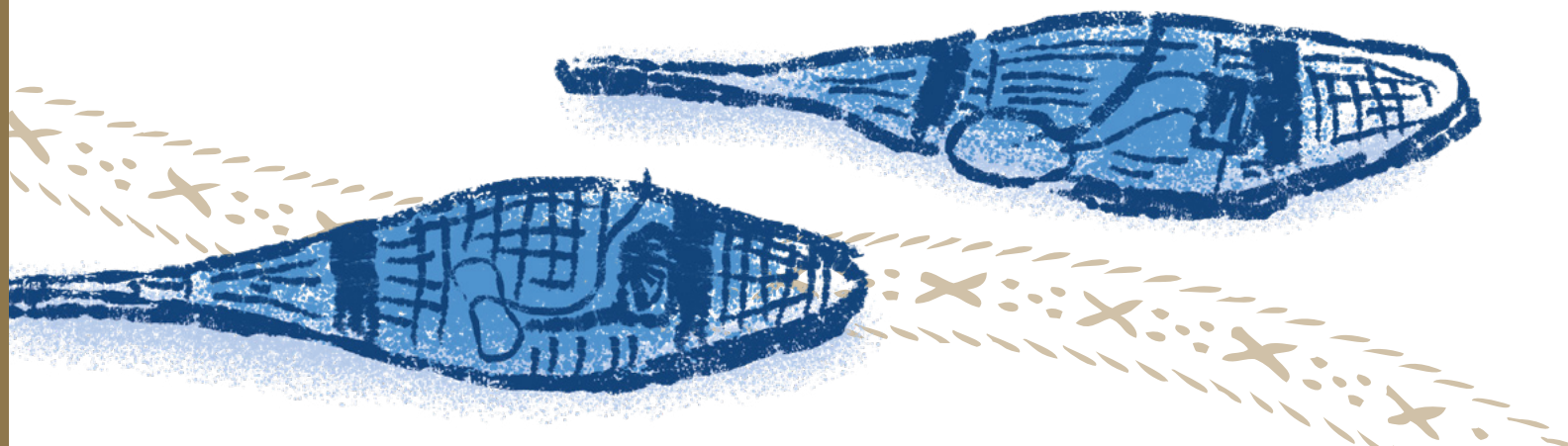
In alignment with Indigenous Services Canada's mandate, the Saskatchewan region prioritized the advancement of Indigenous-led service coordination under Jordan's Principle in 2024-2025. This approach recognizes the importance of culturally informed, community-rooted supports for First Nations children and their families.

By the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Jordan's Principle funded 92 Service Coordinators across 70 organizations in Saskatchewan, including First Nations, Tribal Councils, and non-profit organizations.

### Expanding Jordan's Principle Services Through Capital Investment

As of 2024-2025, Saskatchewan has 14 active capital projects underway under the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal CHRT 41. Regional staff continue to work in close partnership with communities and organizations, offering guidance at every stage of the process, from initial planning to documentation and implementation. These efforts ensure that infrastructure development is community-led, well-informed, and aligned with the unique needs of First Nations children and families.

This work reflects ISC-SK's commitment to building sustainable, culturally grounded service environments that support long-term health and wellness outcomes.



## Enhancing Public Health Response

In South Central Saskatchewan, Indigenous Services Canada's Medical Health Officers (MHOs) work with regional public health teams to deliver population-level communicable disease prevention and control services in First Nations communities. Indigenous Services Canada's MHOs are designated under Saskatchewan's *Public Health Act* to advise on mandatory reportable public health issues the same as provincial Medical Health Officers.



## Prioritizing Mental Wellness and Treatment

### Linking Mental Wellness Supports with Emergency Response

In recent years, First Nations and Tribal Councils across Saskatchewan have faced increasingly frequent and prolonged wildfire evacuations, often requiring communities to relocate multiple times each year, sometimes for long periods of time. These experiences have underscored the critical importance of mental wellness supports both during displacement and upon returning home.

In response, Saskatchewan region's health emergency management and mental wellness programs have expanded their focus to prioritize relationship building and direct support. Regional staff provided on-site assistance at evacuation centres, fostering stronger connections with communities and improving coordination with partners such as the Saskatchewan Health Authority and other organizations. This collaborative approach has been well received and has proven effective in navigating complex and evolving emergency situations.

A key milestone in 2024-2025 was the February 2025 gathering in Saskatoon, supported by ISC-SK, which brought together health directors, mental wellness team leads, and other health partners. The event focused on pressing topics including climate change, problematic substance use, mental wellness, safety and security, and interagency partnerships. It also served as a platform for First Nations to provide feedback on ISC programs and services.

### Eagle Sky Healing Lodge Grand Opening

On October 7, 2024, the Eagle Sky Healing Lodge officially opened its doors in Kahkewistahaw First Nation, marking a significant milestone in regional efforts to address addiction and withdrawal management. This 10-bed, 10-staff transitional and withdrawal management program offers stays of up to 21 days and has already made a meaningful impact: of the 65 individuals admitted, 48 successfully completed the sobriety program.

Indigenous Services Canada Saskatchewan Region played a key supporting role in the success of this initiative. Through ongoing technical support, funding coordination, and collaborative planning with Kahkewistahaw First Nation and other regional health partners, ISC-SK helped ensure the lodge was not only operational but positioned for long-term sustainability.

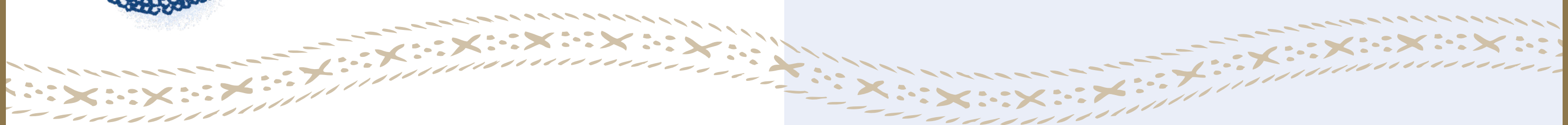
### Reopening of Yuasni Family Treatment Centre

On October 4, 2024, the Yuasni Family Treatment Centre, formerly Sakwatamo Lodge Inc., reopened its seven-week residential family treatment program in Wahpeton Dakota Nation. The renovated facility, fully funded by Indigenous Services Canada, can accommodate up to eight families (up to 62 family members) and is currently accredited and operated under a funding agreement with the Prince Albert Grand Council.

The new facility features six two-bedroom family suites and two individual suites, along with a range of culturally grounded amenities, including:

- A cultural room and space for elder support and holistic practices
- Two classrooms for continuing education
- A multi-purpose room for physical activity, group gatherings, and programming

This reopening marks a significant step in expanding access to family-centred, culturally safe treatment services in Saskatchewan.



## Fostering Partnerships

### Onion Lake Cree Nation Treaty Relationship-Based Funding Arrangement

In December 2024, a Treaty relationship-based health funding agreement was signed between the Onion Lake Health Board Inc. and Indigenous Services Canada, which includes health-related funding, institutional care, and the Ekweskeet Healing Lodge. The first-of-its-kind agreement became effective on December 18, 2024, with full implementation effective April 1, 2025. This achievement was led by Onion Lake Cree Nation, the Onion Lake Health Board Inc., Assistant Deputy Minister Jennifer Wheatley, and Acting Regional Executive Officer Andrea Reynoldson. Onion Lake Cree Nation's new Treaty relationship-based health funding arrangement is a step towards strengthening the Treaty relationship between the Nation and the Crown and working to improve the delivery of health services. The joint working group between ISC and Onion Lake Cree Nation was instrumental in advancing the implementation of this agreement and demonstrates strong collaboration between the Nation and the Government of Canada to improve public services.

### Launching the Indigenous Health Equity Fund Through Collaborative Planning

In 2024-2025, the region led a series of successful engagement sessions with First Nations partners across Saskatchewan. The sessions focused on supporting the development of distribution and implementation plans for the newly established 10-year Indigenous Health Equity Fund.

As a result of these collaborative efforts, implementation plans were finalized, funding was distributed, and the initial rollout of the health equity fund began. This marks

a significant step forward in addressing the specific health needs of Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan through short-term, community-driven investment.

### Expanding Health Accreditation Across First Nations Communities

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan region secured additional funding to strengthen the accreditation program, enabling more communities to begin their journey toward health service accreditation.

As a result, four new First Nations communities were supported in launching their accreditation processes. With these additions, the region now has 41 First Nation health organizations engaged in accreditation, of which 37 are fully accredited.

### Strengthening Funding Partnerships and Advancing Self-Determination

In 2024-2025, the Partnerships and Agreements Unit continued to play a vital role in supporting 220 funding recipients across Saskatchewan, including 70 First Nations, nine Tribal Councils, and a range of other organizations such as child and family services agencies, health authorities, education authorities, and treatment centres.

Throughout the year, the funding services teams provided consistent support through email summaries, calls, and virtual sessions to help agreement holders address backlogs in audits and reporting, many of which had been delayed due to the pandemic. This proactive engagement helped restore compliance and strengthen accountability.

The unit also worked closely with health funding arrangement holders interested in transitioning to more flexible funding models. In 2024-2025, four First Nations and one Tribal Council were prepared to move from a flexible funding approach to a block funding approach, supported by multi-year

health planning processes that guide program and service delivery.

Additionally, two First Nations and four Tribal Councils adopted the New Fiscal Relationship (NFR) Grant effective April 1, 2025. With these latest adoptions, the Saskatchewan region now includes 20 First Nations and four Tribal Councils participating in the NFR Grant since its launch in 2019, an initiative that promotes predictable, flexible funding and supports long-term self-determination.

This proactive engagement reflects ISC-SK's commitment to building strong, transparent partnerships and empowering Indigenous communities to lead their own planning and service delivery.





## Strengthening Governance, Employment, and Community Safety

### Investing in Capacity and Self-Determination

In 2024-25, Indigenous Services Canada Saskatchewan Region made significant investments to support Indigenous communities in building capacity, enhancing well-being, and advancing self-determination.

- **Governance Capacity Building:** A total of \$3.8 million in professional and institutional development program funding was transferred to support 68 governance capacity projects across 36 First Nations, Tribal Councils, and Indigenous organizations. These projects have strengthened local leadership, administrative systems, and strategic planning capabilities, contributing to more effective and responsive governance
- **Pre-Employment Supports:** Through the Income Assistance Program, \$12.4 million in proposal-based funding was provided to 16 recipients, representing 48 First Nations. These supports have helped individuals prepare for and transition into employment, addressing barriers and promoting economic participation in communities across the region
- **Pathways to Safe Communities Initiative:** ISC-SK also provided \$4 million in proposal-based funding to assist Indigenous communities and organizations in developing and delivering culturally relevant and identity-specific safety and well-being initiatives. These projects reflect community-driven approaches to healing, violence prevention, and holistic wellness, tailored to the unique needs of Indigenous populations

These investments demonstrate ISC-SK's commitment to supporting Indigenous-led solutions and fostering resilient, thriving communities. Through flexible funding mechanisms, collaborative planning, and ongoing technical support, the regional office continues to play a vital role in advancing priorities that matter most to Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan.

### Honouring Treaty Commitments and Modernizing Treaty Annuity Payments

In 2024, the Saskatchewan region successfully hosted 80 Treaty annuity payment events across First Nations communities and urban centres, reaffirming the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to Treaty obligations.

2024 also marked the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 4. The final Treaty Days event was held at the historic Treaty Four Gathering site in Fort Qu'Appelle, where the Treaty was originally signed. The event brought together community members to reconnect, recognize, and honour the spirit and intent of Treaty 4.

Looking ahead to 2025-2026 fiscal year, ISC-SK is preparing to implement a new streamlined electronic payment system, aimed at improving efficiency and accessibility for Treaty annuity recipients across Saskatchewan.

### Advancing First Nations Registration and Access to Entitlements

The Saskatchewan region continues to support First Nations individuals in accessing the benefits, rights, programs, and services to which they are entitled through improved registration processes.

In collaboration with the Joint Action Committee on First Nation Registration, a pilot initiative was launched to test a new form designed to capture parental consent for registering children in temporary care. In cases where parents are unavailable, the Ministry may provide consent on their behalf. This pilot aims to reduce barriers and streamline access to registration for children in care. Results from the pilot will be evaluated and shared in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

This initiative reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen access to entitlements and improve service delivery for First Nations individuals across Saskatchewan.

## Investing In Indigenous Communities

In 2024-25, ISC-SK continued to explore ways to better support First Nation partners to improve the quality of life in Saskatchewan's Indigenous communities. Service delivery excellence was prioritized by consistently meeting service standards for the review and response to major capital submissions, holding multi location capital application meetings to reduce travel and time requirements for First Nations, and implementing customized supports to help communities meet housing reporting requirements. The region also worked in collaboration with Saskatchewan First Nations to advance over 200 major capital projects with a total investment of \$309,527,760.

### Lifted Long-Term Drinking Water Advisory in Star Blanket Cree Nation

In summer 2024, Star Blanket Cree Nation marked the completion of a new state-of-the-art water treatment plant. With the dedication of community leadership and water treatment operators, the new plant permitted the lifting of the long-term drinking water advisory in the community. The facility uses advanced biological filtration and membrane treatment technology to deliver a safe, reliable, and sustainable drinking water supply for on-reserve homes and community buildings. The project also included upgrades to raw water infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing wells, and improvements to the distribution system.

Indigenous Services Canada invested more than \$10.5 million in the project, including funding for a three-year operator training program, supporting long-term system sustainability and improved community health.



### Muskoday First Nation Water Treatment Plant Completion

The completion of the Muskoday First Nation Water Treatment Plant in 2024 marks a significant achievement in strengthening community access to safe and reliable drinking water. Previously reliant on an external service provider, the community now has more direct influence on their water source, providing greater local control over water quality and long-term infrastructure planning. This transition represents an important step toward increased self reliance and improved service reliability for the community.

This multi year project modernized and expanded the water treatment facilities building and reservoirs, enhanced system capacity, and addressed critical water distribution components to ensure year round service. Funded through ISC for \$8.6 million, the project progressed from early water source exploration and planning in 2017 to detailed design and construction between 2018 and 2023, with final completion in summer 2024. The completion of this project significantly strengthens Muskoday First Nation's drinking water infrastructure and represents a long term investment in community health, operational independence, and sustainability.

### Groundbreaking for the Okanese First Nation Water Treatment Plant

The groundbreaking for the new Okanese Water Treatment Plant represents an important milestone in improving access to safe and reliable drinking water for the community. The facility will serve key community infrastructure, including the school and community buildings, and 52 homes. Of these, 29 homes are connected to the water distribution system, while an additional 23 rural homes will receive treated water through truck haul service, ensuring broader community access.

Construction began in February 2024 supported by \$11.8 million in funding from ISC, marking a major investment in Okanese First Nation's water infrastructure. In addition to supporting construction, this funding includes operator training over the next three years, strengthening local capacity and ensuring the long-term, sustainable operations. Together, these efforts demonstrate meaningful progress toward protecting community health and improving quality of life.

### Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation Water Treatment Plant

Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation reached a major infrastructure milestone with the ceremonial groundbreaking of its new Water Treatment Plant in April 2024. This event marked the successful transition from planning to construction and represents a significant step toward strengthening access to safe and reliable drinking water for the community.

ISC provided \$14.3 million in funding to support the project, including \$2 million for planning and design and \$12.3 million for construction. With completion scheduled for 2026, the project reflects another strong investment in community health, infrastructure, and long-term sustainability.





### Chief Moosomin School Grand Opening in Moosomin First Nation

In June 2024, Moosomin First Nation celebrated the opening of its new kindergarten to grade 12 school, marking a significant milestone in strengthening education infrastructure and community wellbeing. The state-of-the-art facility replaces outdated and overcrowded spaces, eliminating the need for portable classrooms and providing more than 5,000 square metres of modern learning space.

The school is designed to reflect the culture and traditions of Moosomin First Nation and includes dedicated areas for cultural activities including the historically significant Chief Yellow Sky cultural room, trades and industrial arts training, and a full gymnasium. The facility contains flexible gathering spaces for students and the wider community, while also serving as a community hub and emergency shelter.

Since 2016, Indigenous Services Canada has invested nearly \$37 million in this project, supporting improved access to education and long-term opportunities for current and future generations.

### Advancing First Nations Housing Through Strategic Investment and Planning

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan region allocated \$80.8 million in immediate needs housing funding and \$70.5 million through the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) housing stream to support First Nations housing priorities. Funding is expected to increase in 2025-2026, with \$93.4 million for immediate needs housing and \$74.8 million for FNCFS housing.

These investments have positioned Saskatchewan as a leader in supporting First Nations communities to plan, deliver, and leverage future funding for housing development. The region's allocation methodology provides predictability and flexibility, enabling communities to address their unique housing needs in a sustainable and strategic manner.

In 2024-2025, ISC Saskatchewan supported 43 subdivision projects across 70 First Nations, ensuring the availability of serviced housing lots with water, sewer, electrical, and energy connections where possible. These projects are designed to enhance the long-term efficiency and delivery of housing programs.

The Saskatchewan region also maintains a major capital plan, which outlines funding allocations for current and future infrastructure projects. As of this year, the plan includes 1,481 projects totaling over \$6.6 billion in capital requests, encompassing housing, health, and solid waste infrastructure.

### Building Capacity Through Education and Partnership

The Saskatchewan region identified a unique opportunity to enhance education and career pathways for Indigenous students through a collaborative initiative. The lands and economic development unit, in partnership with the community infrastructure, partnerships and development unit, worked with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) to develop and deliver the Indigenous Project Management Program.

This partnership resulted in a \$300,000 co-funded investment to train Indigenous students to become project managers for capital, environmental, and other community-based projects. The program is designed not only to build project management skills, but also to retain capacity within communities, ensuring that project supports are aligned with First Nations' priorities and needs.

This initiative reflects the region's commitment to sustainable development and Indigenous-led solutions through education and skills training.

### Supporting Indigenous Economic Development Through Tourism Investment

In July 2024, Whitecap Dakota Nation celebrated the sod-turning ceremony for the Dakota Dunes Thermal Spa, a landmark project that will bring long-term economic and community development benefits to the community.

Aligned with Canada's commitments to Reconciliation and Indigenous economic participation, the spa project supports the

growth of Indigenous-led tourism and unlocks the potential of First Nations lands. Indigenous Services Canada committed \$15 million toward the construction of the spa, which expected to generate 320 construction jobs and create 166 permanent employment opportunities for residents of Whitecap Dakota Nation and the nearby City of Saskatoon.

The Dakota Dunes Thermal Spa is a strong example of how strategic investments can advance economic reconciliation and foster inclusive growth. The grand opening is anticipated in November 2026.

### Advancing Clean Energy and Infrastructure

On February 27, 2025, the Little Black Bear's Band of Cree and Assiniboine Nations celebrated the grand opening of their electric vehicle charging station with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located on Little Black Bear's urban reserve, this initiative marks a significant step toward sustainable energy adoption and infrastructure development within the community.

The project was supported through a \$160,000 investment from the Saskatchewan Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative, along with an additional \$55,000 from Prairies Economic Development Canada. This collaboration reflects ISC's commitment to promoting clean energy solutions and supporting Indigenous-led infrastructure projects that align with Canada's broader goals of Reconciliation, environmental sustainability, and economic inclusion.

The charging station not only enhances local infrastructure but also contributes to long-term community development and environmental stewardship.



## Strengthening Environmental Stewardship and Land Clarity in Saskatchewan First Nation Communities

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan region made significant progress in supporting environmental management and land development for First Nation communities:

- \$21.5 million was invested to support the development, construction, and operation of solid waste infrastructure, improving environmental health and sustainability across Saskatchewan First Nations
- An additional \$8.1 million was allocated to remediate contaminated sites, helping restore land for safe and productive use
- 100 impact assessments were completed to ensure sound environmental management of proposed projects, supporting informed decision-making and regulatory compliance
- 65 environmental site visits were conducted to facilitate the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process, helping advance land expansion and community growth
- 32 survey projects were completed to provide greater clarity and certainty around First Nation lands, supporting land use planning, governance, and economic development

These accomplishments reflect the Saskatchewan region's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, land stewardship, and supporting Indigenous communities in building resilient infrastructure and economies.

## Enhancing First Nation Land Governance and Economic Opportunity

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan region continued to support First Nations in building capacity to manage reserve lands, resources, and the environment. Through targeted investments and collaborative initiatives, the region advanced Indigenous-led land governance and economic development:

- \$4 million was provided through the First Nation Land Management (FNLM) Framework Agreement, enabling participating First Nations to develop their own laws related to land use, environmental protection, and natural resource management. This support empowers communities to pursue culturally grounded and economically strategic development opportunities
- \$575,000 in project-based funding was delivered under the Lands and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP) to support eight land management projects, strengthening local capacity and planning
- \$13 million in revenue was collected from land management activities, benefiting First Nations and their members directly
- An additional \$5 million in revenue was released from suspense accounts, further supporting community priorities
- \$123,000 in debt was recovered, and five litigation files were resolved. Efforts are ongoing to address 46 active litigation files related to leases and permits

These activities reflect ISC's commitment to advancing Indigenous land governance, economic reconciliation, and community-led development.





### Advancing Economic Development and Community Readiness in Saskatchewan First Nations

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan region continued to support First Nations in building economic capacity and advancing community-led development through a range of targeted programs and investments:

- \$3.5 million was provided through the Community Opportunities Readiness Program (CORP) to support pre-development activities for 36 First Nation communities and Tribal Councils, enabling progress on 59 economic development projects
- Under the CORP Prioritization Framework, \$12.9 million was invested in seven First Nation communities to advance complex, high-impact economic development initiatives
- \$7.3 million in core funding was delivered through the Lands and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP) to support programming in 18 First Nation communities and eight Tribal Councils
- An additional \$1.7 million supported 12 targeted LEDSP projects, focusing on key economic development activities such as land designations and lease development
- Through the Strategic Partnership Initiative, \$2 million was invested in 13 clean energy projects, which successfully leveraged an additional \$2.1 million in external funding
- \$400,000 was provided to support four Saskatchewan urban coalition groups under the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) program, enhancing urban Indigenous community services and collaboration
- \$1.3 million was allocated to two projects under the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund, supporting infrastructure development in First Nation communities

- Continued progress was made in land management, with 18 new leases developed and 39 existing leases actively monitored
- Six successful designation and ratification votes were held, enabling First Nations to move forward with land-based economic opportunities

These investments underscore ISC's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth, community readiness, and Indigenous-led development across Saskatchewan.

### Advancing Additions to Reserve and Land Certainty in Saskatchewan

In 2024-2025, the Saskatchewan region continued to make meaningful progress in supporting First Nations through the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process, contributing to land expansion, certainty, and reconciliation:

- \$1.06 million in funding was provided to support 19 First Nations and First Nation organizations in advancing their ATR files
- Under the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process, six ministerial orders were signed, adding 3,998 acres to reserve lands
- Through the specific claims process, one ministerial order added 155 acres to reserve
- Under the policy stream, one ministerial order added 3.3 acres, and three certainty orders were issued confirming the status of railway reversion lands
- A strategic partnership was maintained with the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Lands Technicians, supporting technical expertise and collaboration in advancing ATR priorities

These investments and partnerships reflect ISC's ongoing commitment to supporting First Nations in reclaiming and expanding their land base, strengthening governance, and advancing long-term community development.

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### Additional Information

**Website:**

[www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html)

**Social Media:**

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/GCIndigenous](http://www.facebook.com/GCIndigenous)

**X:**

@GCIndigenous or [x.com/GCIndigenous](https://x.com/GCIndigenous)

**YouTube:**

[www.youtube.com/GCIndigenous](http://www.youtube.com/GCIndigenous)

**Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/gcindigenous/](http://www.instagram.com/gcindigenous/)

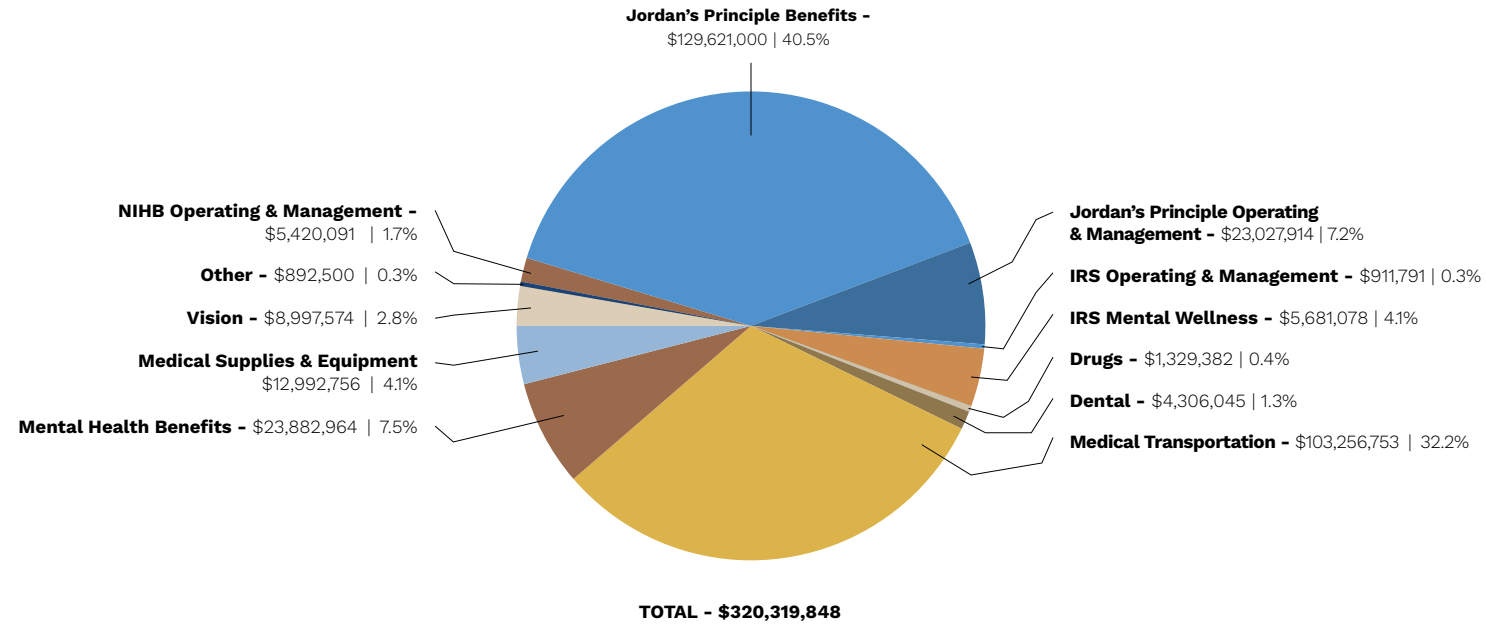
**LinkedIn:**

[www.linkedin.com/company/isc-sac/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/isc-sac/)

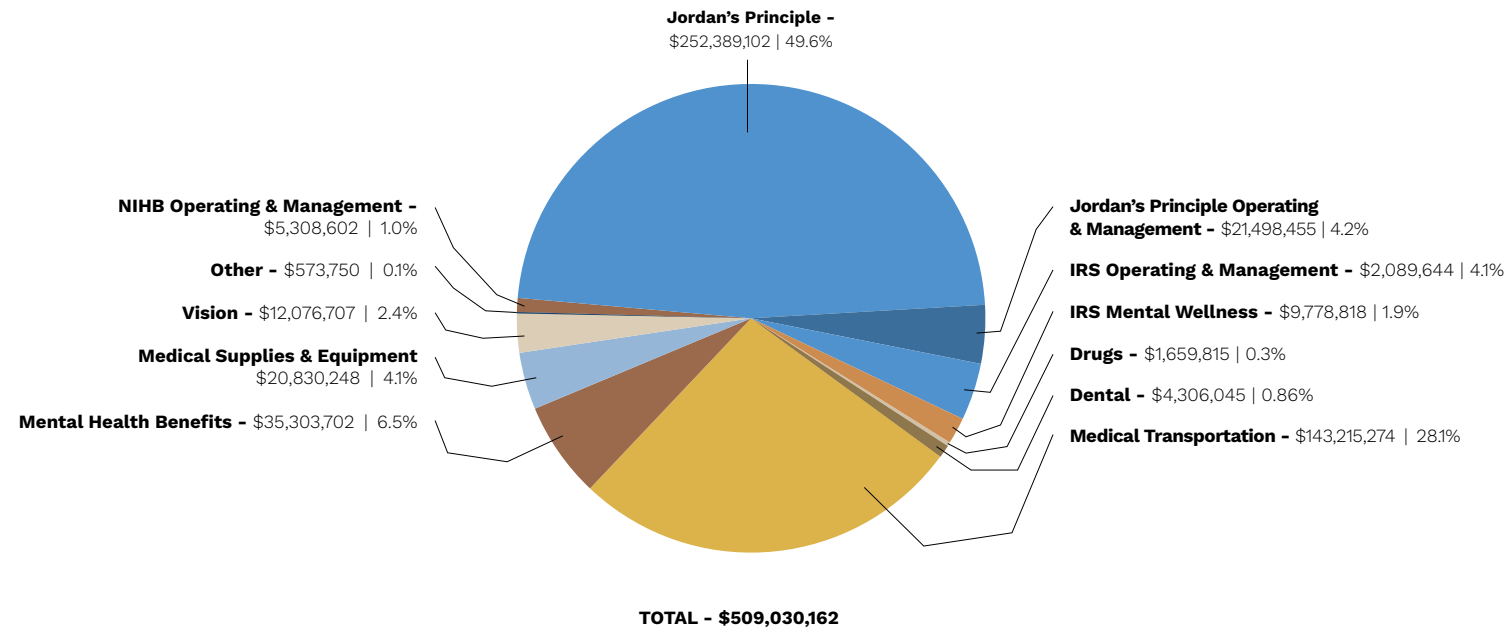


# Special Purpose Allotment

## Initial Budget by Program



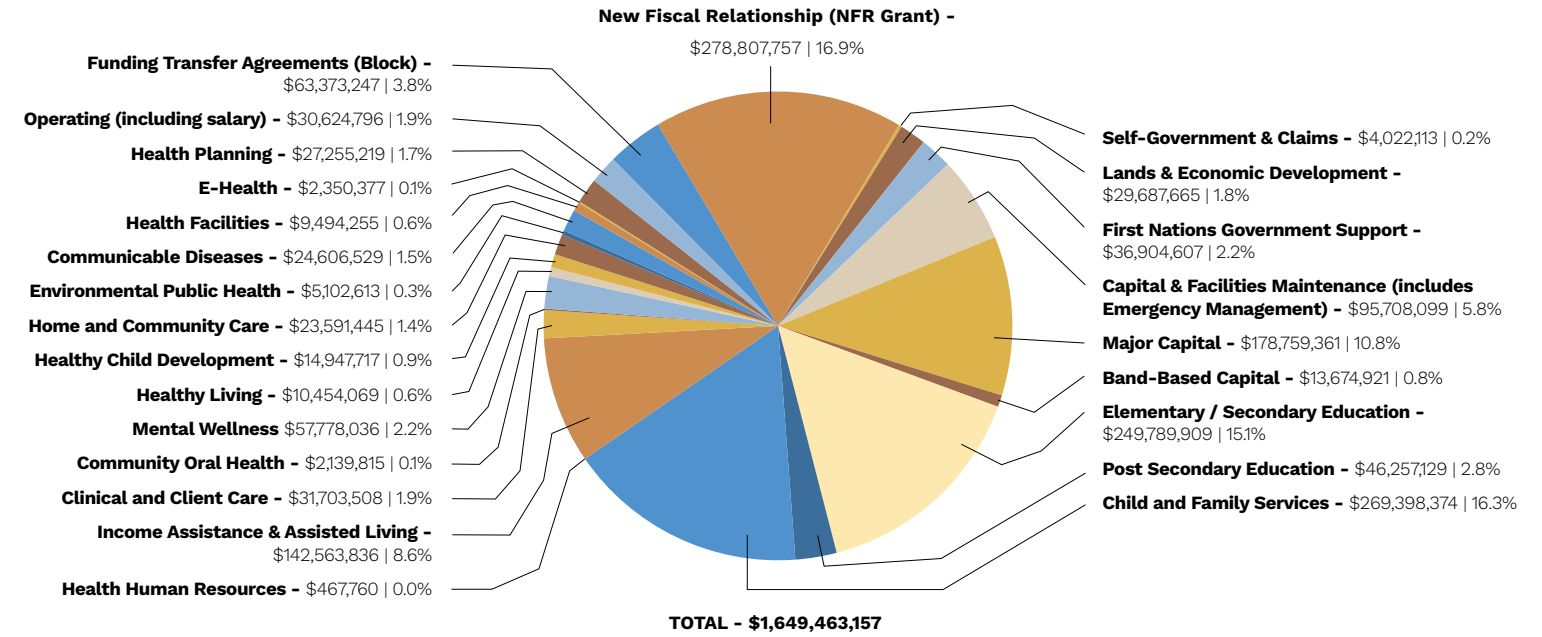
## Final Expenditure by Program



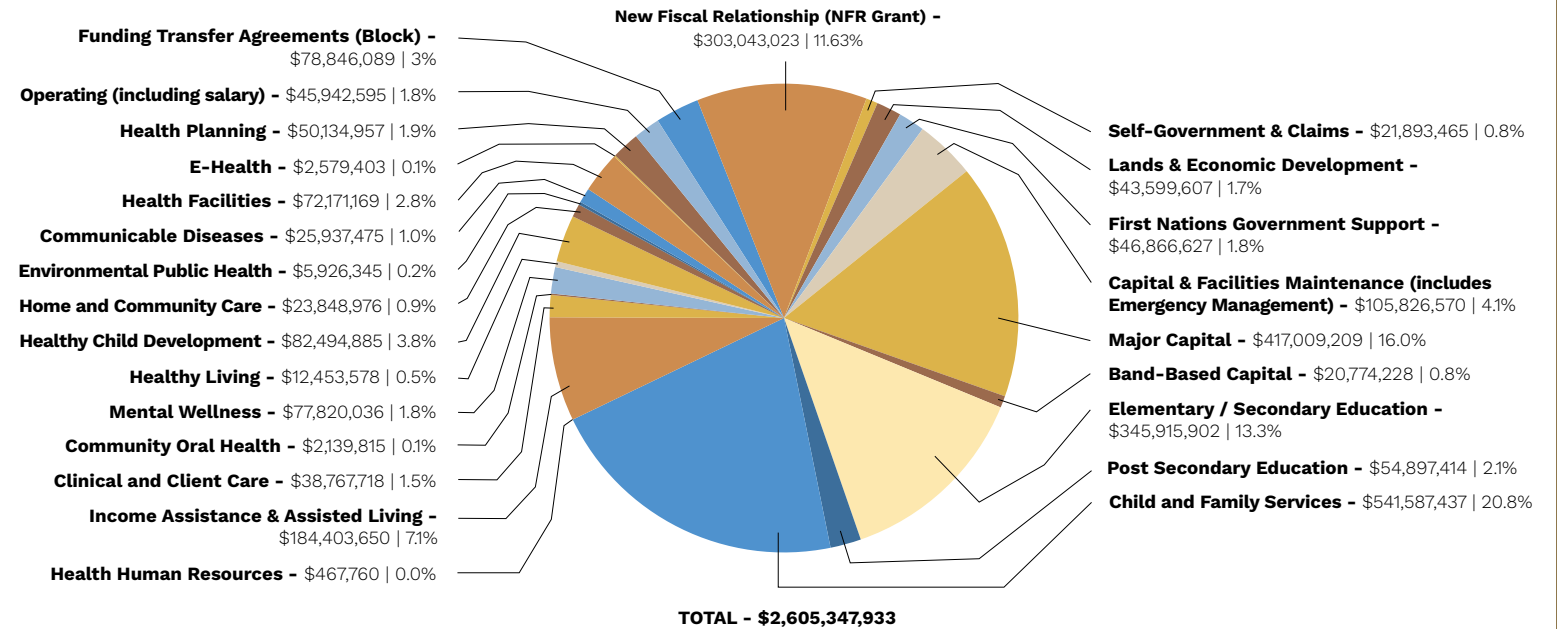
Special Purpose Allotment (SPA): SPA is Special Purpose Allotment and is used to set aside a portion of the Department's voted appropriation for a specific program or initiative (i.e. Non-Insured Health Benefits, Indian Residential Schools, and Jordan's Principle), thereby prohibiting its use for another program.

# Non-Special Purpose Allotment

## Initial Budget by Program



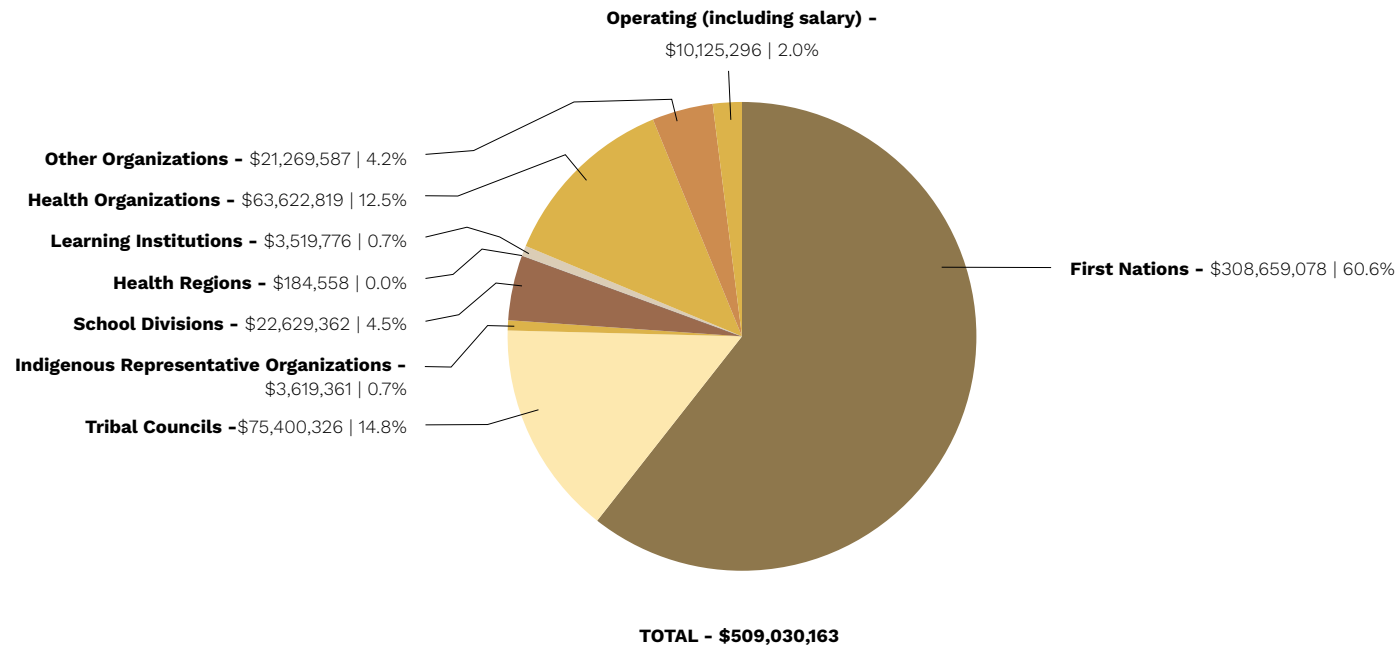
## Final Expenditure by Program



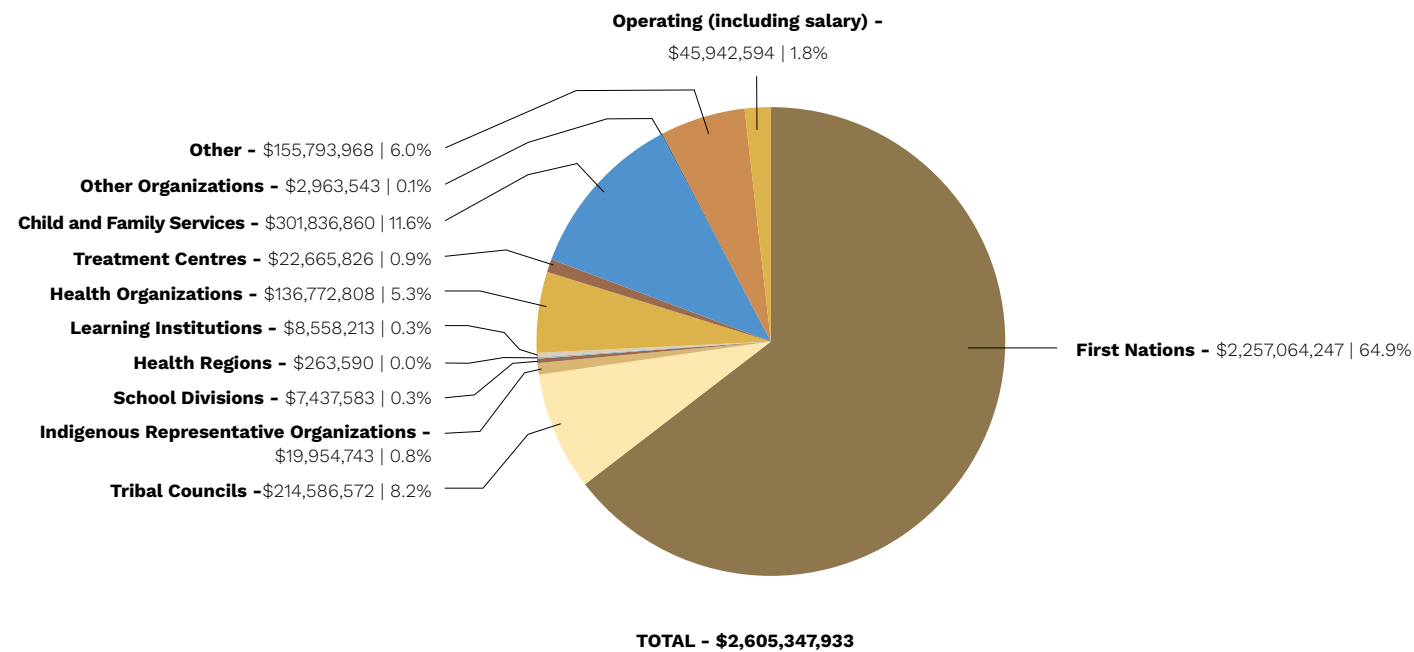
Non-Special Purpose Allotment: funding from Initial Budget Allocations, Budgets 2016-2019, Fall Economic Statement 2020, Budgets 2021-2024, and Other Funding Sources (Health Services Integration Fund, Long-Term Capital Plan, Victims of Violence, Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare, Anti-Indigenous Racism, Building Healthier Communities), as well as approved Additional Funding Pressures.

# Final Expenditure Distribution

## Special Purpose Allotment

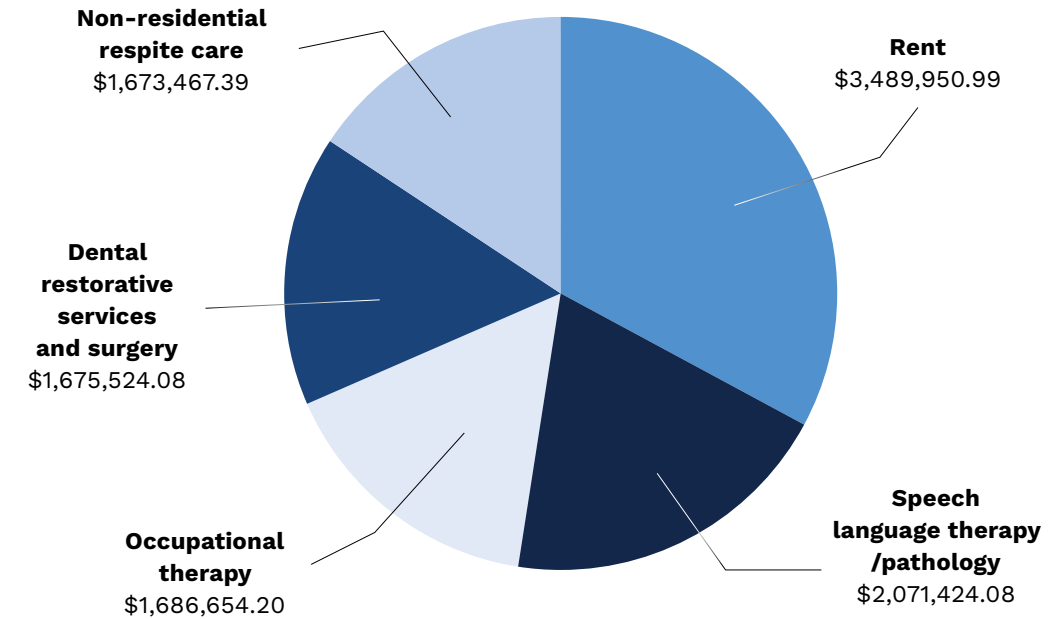


## Non-Special Purpose Allotment

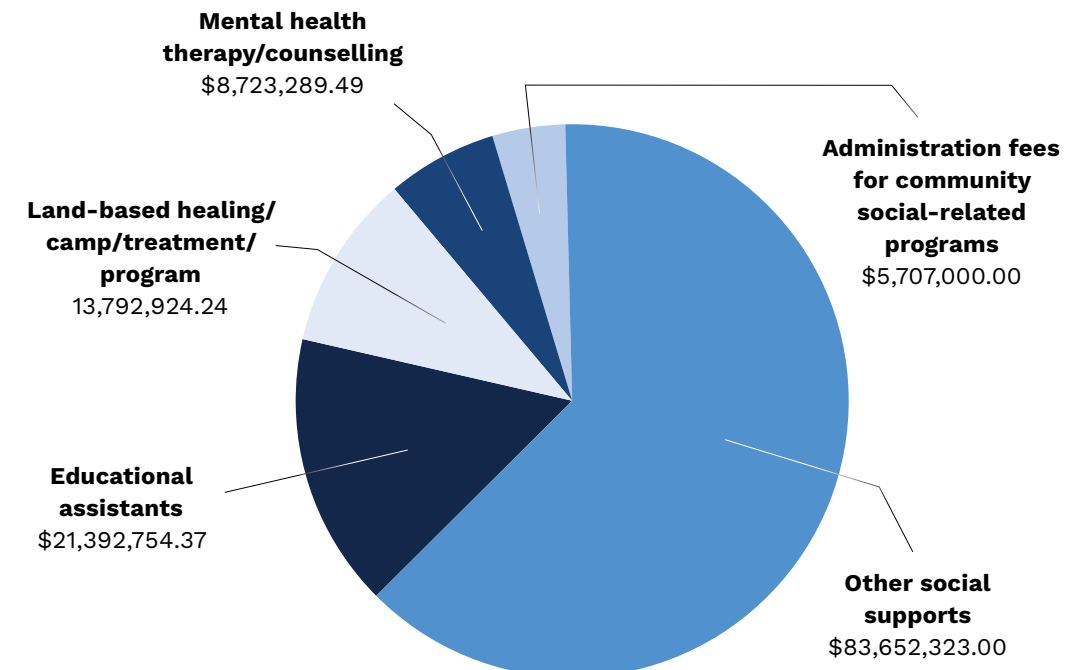


# Jordan's Principle:

## Individual Requests Top 5 Categories 2024-2025

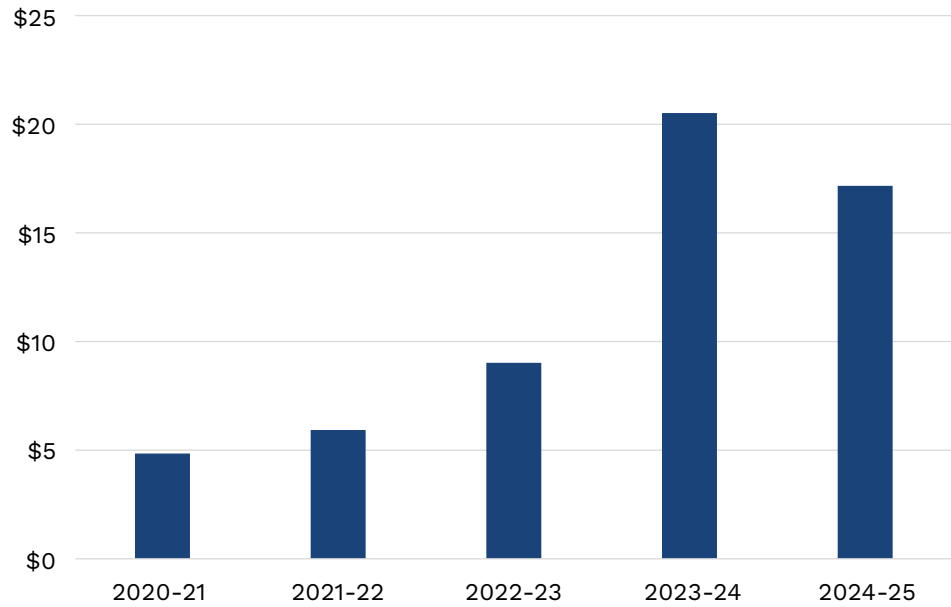


## Group Requests Top 5 Categories 2024-2025



### Jordan's Principle:

#### Expenditures (in Millions) For Operations (client reimbursements and direct billing from vendors/service providers)



\$8,245,000 was added to the 2024-2025 fiscal year that was to be carried over for use in the 2025-2026 fiscal year for service coordination in the grants and contributions funding.

#### Expenditures (in Millions) for Contribution Agreements

