

## What is Jordan's Principle?

Jordan's Principle is a legal requirement resulting from the Orders of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT).

Jordan's Principle is a child-first and needs-based principle that aims to eliminate service inequities and delays for First Nations children and youth.



Sourced from August 2012  
Paediatrics & Child Health 17(7):368-70 by Cindy Blackstock



Find out if  
Jordan's Principle  
can help a child  
you know

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We provide support and advocacy for First Nations children, youth and families living in the South Vancouver Island region, which includes the ten local First Nations: Malahat, Tseycum, Tsawout, Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Beecher Bay, T'souke, Pacheedaht, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

"We respectfully acknowledge the territory of the Lekwungen Peoples on whose land our office is located"



Logo Created and Donated by Leslie McGarry, Cultural & Community Liaison - United Way Member Agency -



# Jordan's Principle

Providing culturally appropriate support to ensure First Nations children and youth aged 0-19 receive the services they need when they need them.



## Service Coordination Approach

The VNFC Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator provides child-centered support by establishing a circle of care around the child to ensure the child and family are holistically supported in all areas of need. The identified need is entirely family-led and all Jordan's Principle services are voluntary. The Service Coordinator works to advocate for existing services and when a gap, delay or denial is identified, the Service Coordinator will submit a request for additional Jordan's Principle funding to support the child's need.

**Jordan's Principle focuses on the holistic needs of the child and is guided by the following fundamental principles:**

### Substantive Equality

Substantive equality means giving extra help when it is needed, so that First Nations children and youth have an equal chance to thrive as other children in Canada.

### Safeguarding the Best Interests of the Child

### Providing Culturally Appropriate Services

Jordan's Principle aims to make sure First Nations children and youth can access all public services in a way that is reflective of their distinct cultural needs and takes full account of the historical disadvantage linked to colonization.

## What can Jordan's Principle help with?

Jordan's Principle aims to ensure there are no gaps in health, social and education programs, services and supports for First Nations children and youth. All requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with an understanding that each situation is unique. Products, services and supports may range from health, social, cultural, and educational needs.

#### Health:

- services from Elders
- mental health services
- traditional healing services
- assessments and screenings
- transportation to appointments
- medical supplies and equipment
- long-term care
- therapeutic services (speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy)
- addiction services

#### Social:

- land-based activities
- personal support worker
- specialized summer camps
- respite care
- specialized programs based on cultural beliefs and practices
- activity programming

#### Educational:

- school supplies
- tutoring services
- teaching assistants
- specialized school transportation
- psycho-educational assessments
- assistive technologies and electronics

Sourced from the film "Jordan River Anderson, the messenger" by Alanis Obomsawin

## Jordan's Story

Jordan was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. He was born with complex medical needs and spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the province of Manitoba and the federal government argued over who should pay for his at home care. Jordan died in the hospital at the age of five years old, never having had the chance to spend a day in a family home.

"Jordan's death ignited a movement to uphold human rights for all First Nations children through the creation of the child first principle called 'Jordan's Principle'" - First Nations Caring Society.