

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
28th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SWAN LAKE FIRST NATION
Swan Lake, Manitoba
September 20, 21 & 22, 2016

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

SEPT-16.07
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RE: FIRST NATIONS DIRECTIVES FOR JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Moved by:

Chief Betsy Kennedy
War Lake First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Walter Spence
Fox Lake First Nation

CARRIED

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Chiefs-in-Assembly unanimously supported “Action for the Implementation of Jordan’s Principle” resolution JAN-11.03, including the *Declaration on Action for Implementation of Jordan's Principle* and mandating action to be led by the AMC and Chiefs Task Force on Health; and

WHEREAS, in a landmark ruling released on January 26, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) found that the Canadian government is racially discriminating against 163,000 First Nations children and their families, and failing to implement Jordan's Principle to ensure equitable access to government services available to other children; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada “called upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan’s Principle” in order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation with the First Peoples; and

WHEREAS, in 2014-2016, the AMC commissioned a Process Evaluation of the “Case Conferencing to Case Resolution Process in Manitoba” designed by provincial and federal governments, and the findings conclude that:

- Government departments/representatives in Manitoba continue to use a narrow definition of Jordan’s Principle limited to “multiple complex medical need” resulting in no cases meeting the definition; and
- The Process raises significant ethical issues as, through the case conferencing process which takes up to 12 months, most families remain limited to the 2 options of: placing their children in CFS care to access service or relocating off-reserve; and

WHEREAS, in July 2016, Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott and Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett issued a joint statement committing \$382-million over 3 years to actively engage with the First Nations and the provinces to establish supports, better co-ordinate efforts, and “ensure that First Nations children living on-reserve receive the health and social services they need in a timely manner”; and

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WHEREAS, the AMC and Nanaandawewigamig have participated as Observers in the Terms of Reference Official Working Group (TOROWG) which was established by the Province of Manitoba and Federal departments (INAC and FNIHB) to develop a common understanding on Jordan's Principle and help ensure that First Nations children with disabilities are able to access services comparable to children in similar circumstances (Normative Services); and

WHEREAS, the TOROWG is moving forward with decisions in relation to the July 2016 announcement made by the Government of Canada for “enhanced service coordination and service access resolution”, without First Nations engagement or consultation; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Urban Transition Centre has successfully established the First Nations Special Needs Advocate Office with funding from Health Canada to assist families in accessing supports and services, as well as leading collaborative efforts across federal and provincial jurisdictions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief to issue formal correspondence to the Federal Ministers of Health and Indigenous Affairs and the Ministers of Health and Families for the Province of Manitoba to bring forth the First Nations recommendations for new investments into Jordan's Principle implementation as hereby endorsed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

Recommendation #1: Restructure the existing intergovernmental table (TOROWG) to support a new approach for the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba that serves the function necessary to make health, social, and educational services accessible to all First Nations children regardless of residency.

Recommendation #2: That the AMC/Eagle Urban Transition Centre – Special Needs Advocate Office are best suited to lead this new enhanced service coordination and thereby to receive core operational funding to function with their two (2) current Service Coordinators for urban and southern First Nations and any additional staff required to train and build capacity at the Tribal Council and community level.

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Recommendation #3: That three additional Service Coordinator positions are strategically placed to serve all Northern First Nations including Keewatin Tribal Council, Cree Nation Tribal Health Centre, and Island Lake Tribal Council/Four Arrows Health Authority.

Recommendation #4: Revive the Children's Special Services Program (developed by Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba and Norway House Cree Nation) and implement it across Manitoba (assisting families with children born with technology dependencies).

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC Grand Chief call for a meeting with Federal Ministers of Health and Indigenous Affairs and the Ministers of Health and Families for the Province of Manitoba to establish an Intergovernmental Task Force to:

- (a) Define the ethical, moral, and legal authorities for implementation of Jordan's Principle including but not limited to:
 - Legislation; and
 - First Nations governance standards.
- (b) Uphold the implementation of Jordan's Principle to its fullest extent.

CERTIFIED COPY
*of a Resolution Adopted
on September 20, 21 & 22, 2016
Swan Lake First Nation, Manitoba*


Grand Chief Derek Nepinak