



# Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

## Jordan's Principle

### NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

## AMC Jordan's Principle Implementation Team Regional Researchers Meeting

The AMC Jordan's Principle Implementation Team (JPIT) hosted a hybrid Regional Researchers Meeting on February 6, 2023. The event consisted of presentations by groups of regional researchers engaged in ongoing work around Jordan's Principle. The focus of the gathering was to bring research teams together to present and discuss their specialized areas of research related to the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba.

The research teams included: the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre, the First Nation Health Social Secretariat of Manitoba, FOX LLP, the Waapihk Research team, and The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba Research Team.

Each team presented compelling overviews of their research ranging from; *The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final Report*, an Alternative Federal Budget for First Nations in Manitoba, First Nations Adults with Disabilities Human Rights and Age of Eligibility, and First Nations-Specific Systemic Racism in Federal Programs.

The gathering was the first step leading to AMC's Jordan's Principle Virtual Research Symposium on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. The AMC is looking forward to leveraging our collective knowledge, creating new connections between projects, and ensuring AMC member First Nations are kept apprised of ongoing research related to the 13 recommendations of *The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba Final Report*.

## MESSAGE FROM MARCEL BALFOUR, Director of Policy & Legal Affairs

Tansi, and welcome to the February Edition of the AMC Jordan's Principle Newsletter. As the winter winds continue to bring us long, cold nights, I am hopeful you are all finding warmth in the security of your family and loved ones.

This month AMC Jordan's Principle Implementation Team (JPIT) has been busy planning and assisting with events that are fast coming up. The **AMC Jordan's Principle Virtual Research Symposium** will be taking place March 15. Researchers from across Canada will be gathering to share their findings, supporting to develop an overall view, in turn identifying critical gaps that need to be recognized to increase services and supports for First Nations children in Manitoba. Staff are also busy planning the **ISKWEW MINAYAWIN Women's Gathering** that will be taking place at the RBC Convention Centre March 8-10. This three day event is intended to bring together First Nations women from across Manitoba to take part in sharing and strengthening in personal healing practices through ceremony and cultural traditions. A gala night with a banquet and entertainment will be taking place the first evening March 8.

***Please see the promos in this issue for more information on both events.***

The AMC Jordan's Principle Newsletter is intended to inform you, keep you connected and ensure your accessibility to ongoing developments that affect your First Nation.

Most recently, Canada's recent commitment to AMC that supports the Jordan's Principle Equity Round Table, and project management support for continued discussions/engagement with ISC. Canada has also recently supported the AMC for research and planning to inform long-term approach to further implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba, including regional research symposium.

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## Technical Advisory Group Update

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) representatives (specialists and technicians) from the sixty-three First Nations, and MKO, SCO, and Tribal Councils gather monthly to monitor the ongoing regional implementation of Jordan's Principle, conduct case conferences, and ensure the continued implementation of Jordan's Principle into all areas including health, education, and social development. In addition to developing the Jordan's Principle implementation plan, the members of the TAG also liaise with and coordinate efforts between their representative organizations and/or First Nations.

The TAG's monthly meeting for the 2023 year resumed January

24 & 25 at the Hilton Winnipeg Airport. Topics for this two-day event included:

- Perimeter Airlines – Several issues were discussed regarding Perimeter's ongoing flight delays and cancellations, that impact children's access to their appointments or the visiting doctors and specialized services into the First Nations. Another outstanding issue is the sub-standard service citizens experience including lack of access to proper meals/foods at the airport, language barriers and often discriminatory attitudes.
- The TAG recommends organizing trainings and certifications for case managers and other Jordan's Principle staff.



Grand Chief Cathy Merrick visited the TAG members February 23, 2023 at the Canad Inns Polo Park. For more information on TAG, contact Angela Young at [ayoung@manitobachiefs.com](mailto:ayoung@manitobachiefs.com)

Specialized workshops for respite and cultural workers will enhance supports within First Nations.

- Inter-Agency also known as the Circle of Care, developing a database; policy & procedures, and funding; including the development of the Capacity Enhancement Centre.
- Proposals/Communication – A vast discussion regarding the sharing of proposals within the TAG, and how all First Nations should have access to the same product/ services. One of the topics included the Back to Basic Proposals. There is a lack of clarity and the lines of communication regarding the proposals, the due dates, and subject matters which includes everything from food hampers to specialized equipment to infrastructure requirements. Ongoing assistance and access is required for all of the TAG and Jordan's Principle staff.

- On February 23, the TAG took part in a day long training by Legacy Bowes entitled "From Lateral Violence to Lateral Kindness", led Kent Brown.



**GRANDMOTHER FULL MOON CEREMONY**

Hosted by: Grand Chief Cathy Merrick, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
along with Grandmother, Knowledge Keeper Sherry Copenace

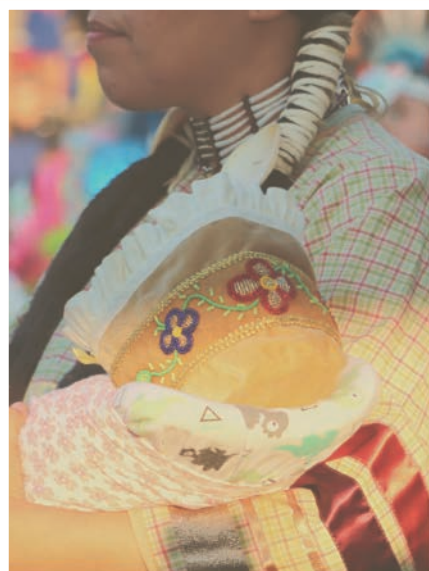
Where: Oodena Celebration Circle – The Forks  
When: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Water Teachings, Songs and Spirit Dish Offering  
(Items to bring: ½ metre yellow cloth, tobacco, cedar)

This is a Public Event

Drums and Shakers Welcome!

 Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs



*Save the date*

AMC WOMEN'S GATHERING:

**ISKWĒW  
MINWĀYĀWIN**

GRASSROOTS WOMEN, HEALING OUR  
SPIRITS, HEALING OUR HEARTS

March 8-10, 2023  
WINNIPEG, MB

 Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

**ISKWĒW MINWĀYĀWIN:**  
**Grassroots Women, Healing our  
Spirits, Healing our Hearts**

**When:** March 8, 9, 10, 2023

**Where:** RBC Convention Centre,  
375 York Avenue, Winnipeg, MB.



# Knowledge Sharing on The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final Report

*Each newsletter will provide knowledge translation of the research that led to the 13 recommendations of The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final Report.*

## Overview

The research conducted for *The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final Report* involved a comprehensive review of the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba. It was completed as a partial settlement for the systemic discrimination in the CHRT complaint *Sumner Pruden v Canada*.

The Final Report contains four years of data collection completed in partnership with a team of researchers from the University of Colorado, McGill University, the University of Victoria, and the University of Manitoba. It concludes that while Jordan's Principle has significantly increased available services and supports for First Nations children in Manitoba, there remain significant and ongoing gaps in service, denials, and delays that must be addressed.

The 237-page Final Report has 13 comprehensive recommendations aimed at Canada and outlines a plan for moving forward.

## Recommendation #2

### Extend eligibility for Jordan's Principle through age 21

This recommendation is essential to end situations where families have little choice but to rely on Child and Family Services when they need services for youth moving into adulthood.

An extended eligibility age for Jordan's Principle will ensure that First Nation youth have access to equitable services that meet their needs through to age 21.

The Final Report Recommendation #2 explains that in addition

to extending the age of eligibility, Canada must also commit to funding and supporting the development of equitable disability services throughout the persons' lifetime because the best interests and needs of First Nations children don't expire as they age.

## Chapter 2:

This chapter describes the approach to Jordan's Principle right now in Manitoba, gives an overview of the development of Jordan's Principle funded services, and identifies some patterns in the current system:

- First Nations in Manitoba have called for a self-determined system of locally available services and for the capacity enhancement needed to achieve a service system that can address the physical, mental, social/ emotional, and spiritual needs of our children, and
- Manitoba's approach to implementing Jordan's Principle is laying the foundation for a systemic approach to services and differs from the federal government approach – which includes denied and short-term funding and funds allocated only to meet the needs of individual children;
- Canada's systemic approach to services can't work within short-term and demand driven funding structures;
- First Nation leadership has been both supported and hampered by Canada's discretionary approach to the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba; and
- There has been a failure to support the formal development of First Nation-led coordination structures. And a lack of transparency by governments around decision-making, failures to establish long-term funding, and failures to support the development of formal First Nation coordination, governance, and technical support structures undermine the goals of a systemic and self-determined approach.

### For further information please contact:

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Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS