



The AMC Jordan's Principle Virtual Research Symposium

This month, the AMC Jordan's Principle Implementation Team hosted the AMC Jordan's Principle Virtual Research Symposium. The event focused on Recommendation No. 13 of *The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final Report*, which states, "Commit to funding a First Nations owned and controlled program of research to support the further implementation of Jordan's Principle." The intent of the symposium was to give the participants who, included; researchers, case workers, specialized service providers, educators, health professionals, and other interested participants, an opportunity to identify critical gaps in Jordan's Principle research and the need to enhance existing capacities for First Nations regionally.

The day began with an opening by Elder Barb Nepinak, who conducted a beautiful opening prayer, and a welcome message by AMC Grand Chief Cathy Merrick. The event proceeded with break out sessions with researchers from across Canada and the US. Some of the workshops included: *The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Lessons and Recommendations*, by Dr. Vadna Sinha, *Supporting the Gifts of First Nation Adults with a Disability*, by Marsha Simmons of the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, and *Jordan's Principle: Key Findings on the Implementation of Jordan's Principle Across Canada*, by Carol Blair, *Jordan's Principle and First Nations-Specific System Racism: A Regional System Review of Federal Programs and Services for First Nation in Manitoba and Waapihk Research*, *Costing Jordan's Principle in Manitoba*.

The full agenda and videos of the workshops can be found on the AMC website on the Jordan's Principle page.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS MARCEL BALFOUR

Tansi and welcome to the March edition of the Jordan's Principle Newsletter,

This month's issue examines the ongoing knowledge translation sharing on *The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final Report*. The breakdown of this report is of the utmost importance for all AMC member First Nations citizens to learn about. The report examines and uncovers the gaps in supports and services that Manitoba First Nations continue to experience and gives an overview of the 13 Recommendations that reveal ongoing inequities around housing, clean water, digital infrastructure, and all other areas that contribute to overall health disparities.

I hope that your reading of these knowledge translations will assist you in further understanding the developments taking place in First Nations for Jordan's Principle.

Read on about the Virtual Research Symposium hosted by Jordan's Principle Implementation Team on March 15, 2023.

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Technical Advisory Group Update

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on February 22 & 23, 2023, at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg. Discussions on the first day continued about the issues regarding safe and reliable flights for remote First Nations. Because of the inconsistencies of the airline, the health, and wellbeing of families and children are often compromised. As well, discussions about furniture, food hampers, and Back to Basics accessibility were explored. Case managers also spoke of the successes they experienced with land based activities. In the afternoon, Chris Prince, Manager of the Eagle Urban Transition Centre (EUTC), presented and answered TAG's questions. Mr. Prince was joined by Megan Johnson, Jordan's Principle Case Manager for EUTC. The email for further information is jordansprincipleadmin@manitobachiefs.com Office number: 204-987-4139, and Fax Number: 204-942-0253. Megan told the TAG they had assisted First Nations families from 62 of the 63 First Nations.

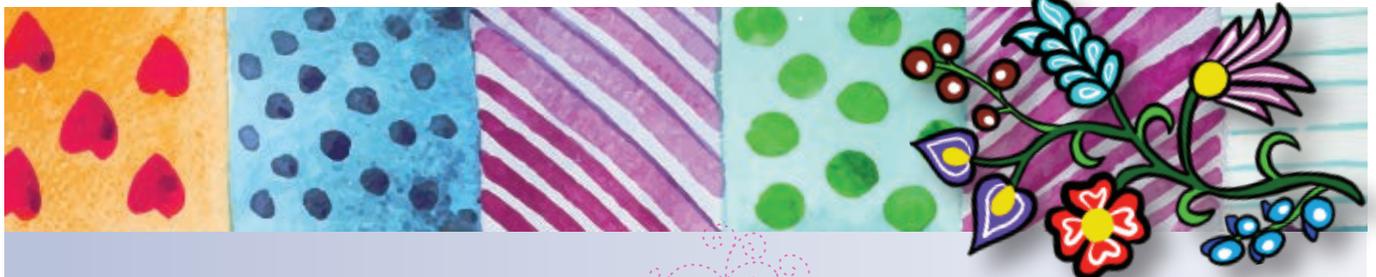


On February 23, the Shifting From Lateral Violence to Lateral Kindness workshop took place for TAG members. Legacy Bowes staff Kent Brown conducted this full day workshop.

Participants of the workshop will receive certificates of participation.

TAG members attended the Iskeww Minwayawin Women's Gathering on March 8-10. Lynda Hamoline, Jordan's Principle Case Manager, Barren Lands First Nation, Marilyn Halchuk, Jordan's Principle Case Manager, Dauphin River First Nation and Joy Keeper, AMC Jordan's Principle Knowledge Translation Specialist, assisted at the AMC Jordan's Principle display booth, handing out information to those interested.

The next TAG meeting will take place in Winnipeg, April 25 & 26. For more information, contact Angela Young at ayoung@manitobachiefs.com



The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Jordan's Principle Implementation Team wants to come to Your First Nation

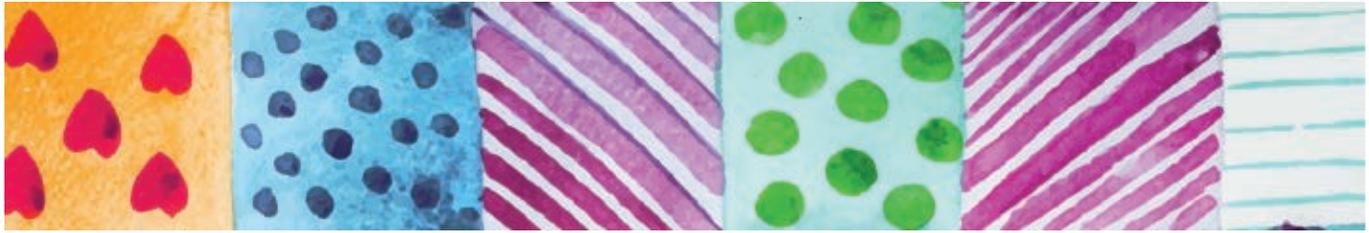
Let's discuss the long-term implementation of Jordan's Principle so that it reflects what your First Nation wants for generations to come.

We need your input!

A representative from the AMC will contact AMC Member First Nations to arrange an in-person visit. Joy Keeper, AMC Knowledge Translation Specialist, Jordan's Principle Implementation Team, jkeeper@manitobachiefs.com, (204) 791-6824, can be contacted if your office has any questions.



The AMC's position on Jordan's Principle remains grounded in information gathered from First Nations in Manitoba identified from the 2016-2017 *Keewaywin Closer to Home* engagements mandated by the Chiefs. This includes that First Nations in Manitoba should design, control, and implement Jordan's Principle in ways that support their self determination. Since *Keewaywin*, there have been several developments regarding Jordan's Principle implementation that your First Nation should be aware of to be fully informed and involved in designing the long-term implementation of Jordan's Principle.



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.

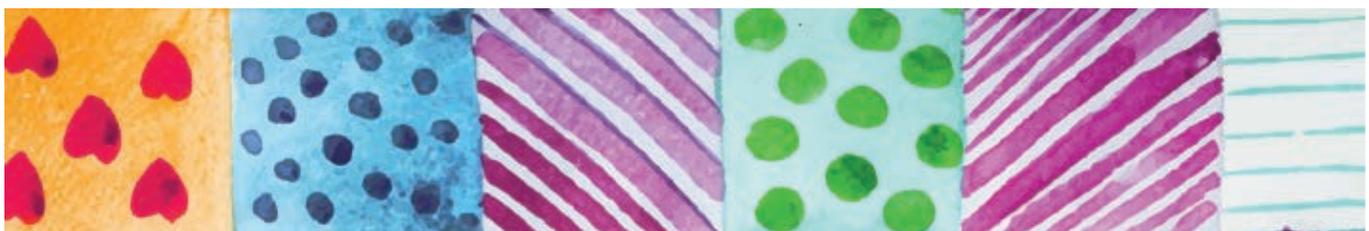
The 237-page Final Report has 13 comprehensive recommendations aimed at Canada and outlines a plan for moving forward.

Chapter 3: Context for Jordan's Principle – The pre-existing Structure of Services for First Nation Children

This chapter examines the problematic issues surrounding the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba. Though First Nations and FNHIB acted quickly to implement Jordan's Principle, there was not much consideration given to the decision making for governance, design and control for First Nations coordination, including technical support structures. This lack of transparency has led to a failure for accessible long-term funding and supports achieve each First Nation's right to self determination in their systemic approach to Jordan's Principle. As a result, delays and gaps in services have continued.

Recommendation #3 Commit to working with First Nations to analyze and extend funds to cover the real costs of implementing Jordan's Principle in remote, northern Nations.

Jordan's Principle costs for services and supports in Manitoba's Northern First Nations must allocate funding for the real costs of: retaining qualified staff; purchasing and shipping basic necessities such as groceries and specialized equipment; ensuring equitable in-community time for specialized service providers who commute to remote First Nations; and providing safe and reliable transportation that meets the needs of children and families. Child welfare services in these First Nations will have the real costs to serve as a starting place for review.



Making a Difference in Barrens Land First Nation!

Barren Lands First Nation Jordan's Principle strives to promote customary practices through our land-based healing program. Ensuring traditional knowledge and practices is passed down to children and youth is a priority. We hired one of the traditional dog mushers to teach throughout the winter months. Barren Land's oldest musher is 82 year old Phillip Bighetty Sr. who is also a renowned trapper and knowledge



keeper. The young mushers are taught how to care for the teams of dogs; to gather fish for dog feed; to clean pens; how to tie the teams correctly and how to race. Two separate races with youth teams were held, where the youth raced with their instructors guiding them. A closing race, feast and celebration will be held in April for all who participated. The goal is to have a Jordan's Principle dog team program

year round, so that the children and youth can compete with other communities.

On March 3, Barren Lands First Nation Jordan's Principle hosted a skate party for the children of the First Nation. We purchased skates for all children ages 3 and up. We had a skating rink cleared on Reindeer Lake and had a snow maze built. Many of the children had never been on skates before, nor been in a snow maze. Everyone was provided with bottles of food coloring and spray paint and decorated the snow maze. The children also built snow castles and went snowshoeing. When it got dark, we had lights added to the skating rink, so they could skate in the night. A bonfire ended the day to roast wieners and marshmallows. It was a fun experience for all!

*Submitted by Lynda Hamoline, Case Manager
Barren Lands First Nation Jordan's Principle*

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Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS