

RECOGNIZE. REFORM. RENEW.

Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle

Support from the Hope for Wellness Helpline 1-855-242-3310

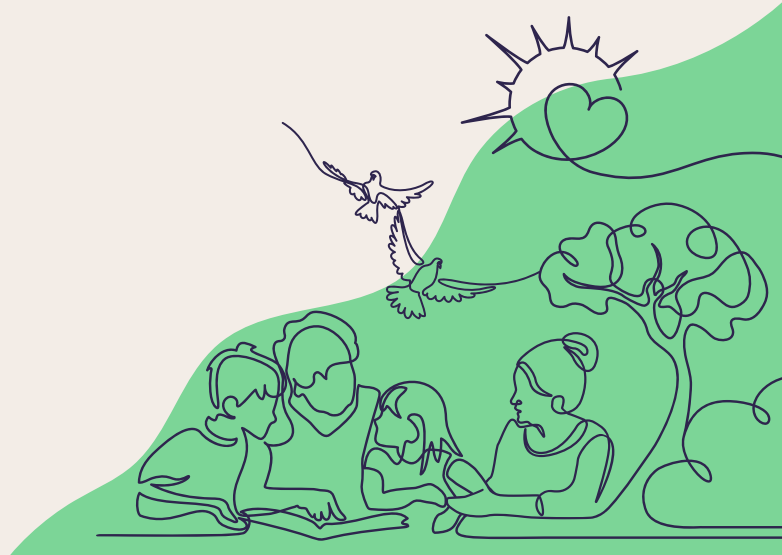
We recognize that Survivors may need support during the reform process. The Helpline offers free, anonymous counselling and crisis intervention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by telephone at 1-855-242-3310.

Children and youth can call Kids Help Phone anytime at 1-800-668-6868.

Every child in Canada deserves to grow up with their family, supported by their community and their culture. However, for decades thousands of First Nations children have been unnecessarily removed from their homes, families and communities. Thousands of First Nations children have also been denied the essential services and supports they needed, or have received them after a delay, because the Government of Canada has failed to meet the legal requirements of Jordan's Principle.

Change is coming. On December 31, 2021, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Government of Canada and other parties, including the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, reached two historic agreements – one on long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and Jordan's Principle, and one on compensation.

The Government of Canada has agreed to invest close to \$20 billion in reforms that will ensure that the profound discrimination in the FNCFS Program and improper application of Jordan's Principle ends and does not happen again.

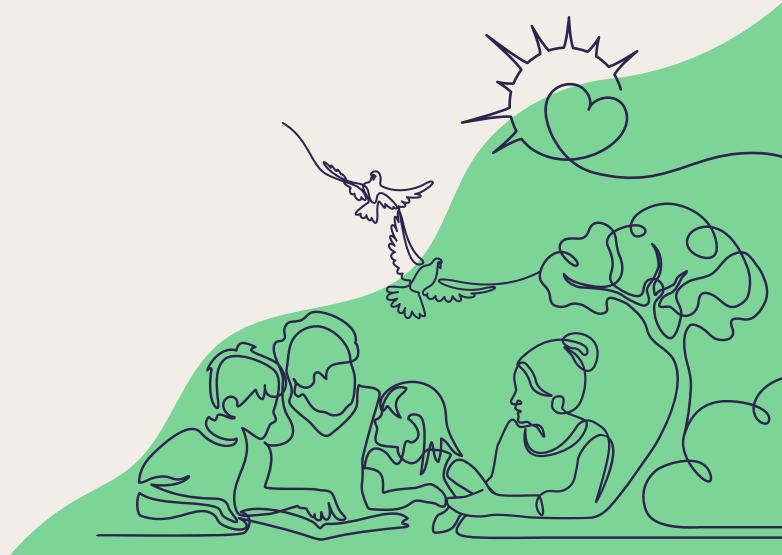


Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Reform for the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle

Here are answers to questions you may have about reform.

What will the reforms change?

These reforms will fill long-standing, known gaps in services and support for on-reserve First Nations children, including youth reaching the age of majority. They will address the underlying reasons that First Nations children enter the FNCFS Program—including poverty, inadequate housing and other infrastructure, and a lack of services to support families in crisis. They will also ensure full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle so that gaps in essential programs and services for First Nations children are addressed. Long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle has a clear priority: the wellness of First Nations children, families, and communities.



How will the Assembly of First Nations consult with First Nations about long-term reform?

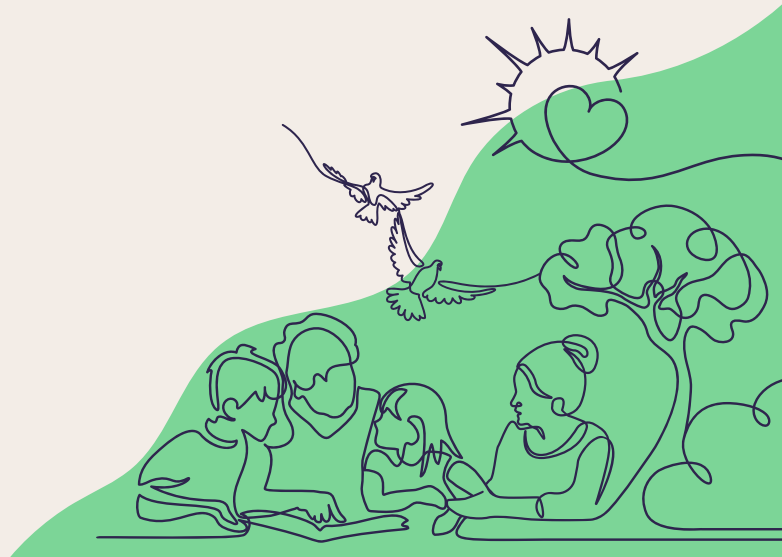
The AFN's negotiations with the Government of Canada will be guided and informed by engagement with First Nations. The AFN will meet with leadership and First Nations to hear their views on reform. This will ensure that the reforms are relevant and responsive to the needs of First Nations children, families and communities across the country.

The AFN has shared the Agreements-in-Principle (AIPs) with Chiefs and First Nations. Once we have a Final Settlement Agreement on long-term reform, we will share the details with the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly. We are aiming for this to take place by the AFN Annual General Assembly in July 2022, or at a Special Chiefs Assembly called for this purpose at a later date.

How long will reform take?

Funding for long-term reform will be spread over five years. The AFN, the Government of Canada and other parties have committed to move ahead as quickly as possible.

The Agreement-in-Principle on long-term reform outlines some immediate program reforms which will begin rolling out this year, such as additional prevention funding and extending supports for First Nations youth transitioning out of care up to and including age 25, which started in April 2022. Other reforms will take more time to design and implement.



How much money is there for reform?

The AIP with the Government of Canada includes \$19.807 billion in funding for long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. This is separate from the \$20 billion in compensation.

What will long-term reform of the FNCFS Program include?

Long-term reform of the FNCFS Program will include:

- A baseline amount to cover the actual costs of a child in care. This amount will be increased over time to match population growth, which will be determined by First Nations, and inflation.
- Funding to address poverty, improve housing, ensure families have enough food and safe water, as well as meeting other challenges that can result in child and family services becoming involved.
- Prevention funding for cultural and community-based programs and services that help First Nations children and families thrive.
- Funding that considers the higher costs of providing services to First Nations in remote areas.
- Capital and infrastructure funding to ensure that First Nations and FNCFS agencies have the funds they need to purchase, maintain, renovate and repair the buildings, vehicles, and other property they use to provide services to First Nations.
- Information technology (IT) funds for FNCFS providers to buy, upgrade and maintain computers, hardware and software and other equipment.
- Funds to support the implementation of the *Measuring to Thrive* framework and data system to measure, track and report on results.
- Emergency funds for when an unexpected crisis puts additional demands on FNCFS.
- Administrative funds for a First Nations-led, non-profit secretariat to support First Nations and FNCFS agencies with technical and operations support, as well as serving as a national-level data collector.
- Funds for First Nations and Band Representative Services to ensure that child and family services are culturally appropriate and truly meet the needs of First Nations.



What is Jordan's Principle?

Jordan's Principle is a child-first legal Principle that ensures First Nations children have access to the services and supports they need, no matter where they live, without delay or denial. Learn more about Jordan's Principle [here](#).

How will reform affect Jordan's Principle

The reforms will ensure full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle to support First Nations children.

This includes:

- Ensuring it follows the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders, including eligibility, what is covered, and when. These changes will prevent delays, refusals and children falling through the cracks.
- Funding to identify and close systemic gaps in essential services that adversely impact First Nations children.
- Fixing problems people have had with Jordan's Principle, like being asked for too much paperwork, or differences in the way it is applied across the country.
- Funding to explore ways to support First Nations youth when they reach the age of majority to make sure they are connected with the services and support they need in adulthood.
- Keeping the government accountable to First Nations about Jordan's Principle by listening to complaints and quickly taking responsive action.
- Exploring ways to support greater First Nations control over Jordan's Principle service coordination, delivery and determinations.

