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## FACTSHEET

April 2009

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### **JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE: A CHILD-FIRST APPROACH**

Jordan's Principle honours the memory of a boy from the Norway House Cree Nation in northern Manitoba, where a jurisdictional funding dispute prevented him from leaving hospital to receive care in a family home.

On January 24, 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell endorsed [Jordan's Principle](#), a child-first approach that commits the provincial government to ensure that jurisdictional funding disputes do not prevent or delay First Nations children from accessing available health and social services.

As the federal and provincial governments share responsibility for funding health and social services for First Nations, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has worked in partnership with First Nations, and provincial and federal partners to support the development and implementation of the principle.

### **PROGRESS TO DATE**

- The Province of British Columbia is applying Jordan's Principle to **all First Nations children** under the age of 19 living in B.C. and covers **all health and social services currently available** to all children in the child's geographic region.
- Under the principle, the government of first contact must fund the available services to ensure the needs and care of the child are met first and resolve funding responsibilities later.
- In B.C., the Province is addressing jurisdictional disputes on a case-by-case basis and continues to collaborate with First Nations and the federal government to better coordinate service needs which cross jurisdiction and support easier access to the complex system of health and social services.
- The child-first approach will ease access to available services and prevent delays caused by jurisdictional payment disputes.
- The following areas are not addressed in Jordan's Principle: quality of services, cross-jurisdictional differences in services, gaps in services, waitlists, and service expectations regarding the cultural appropriateness of services. Work to help close socio-economic gaps between First Nations people and other British Columbians continues as part of the broader government-wide commitment to the [Transformative Change Accord](#).
- For further enquiries on Jordan's Principle and information on available services please contact your local MCFD regional office or MCFD Client Relations Branch toll free at 1 877 387-7027 or email [JordansPrinciple@gov.bc.ca](mailto:JordansPrinciple@gov.bc.ca).

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