



The long-term reform of FNCFS: Funding, structure, and accountability

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

AFN Dialogue Session

December 4, 2023

IFSD's mandates: The importance of your contributions

[Phase 1](#): Costed the FNCFS system and identified gaps.



[Phase 2](#): Developed a bottom-up needs-based funding structure, with a well-being focused measurement framework.



[Phase 3](#): IN PROGRESS; test and model the approach from Phase 2, into First Nation and agency specific delivery models.



We are grateful to FNCFS agencies and First Nations for their contributions that helped us understand needs and shared information to cost them.

Phase 3 progress update

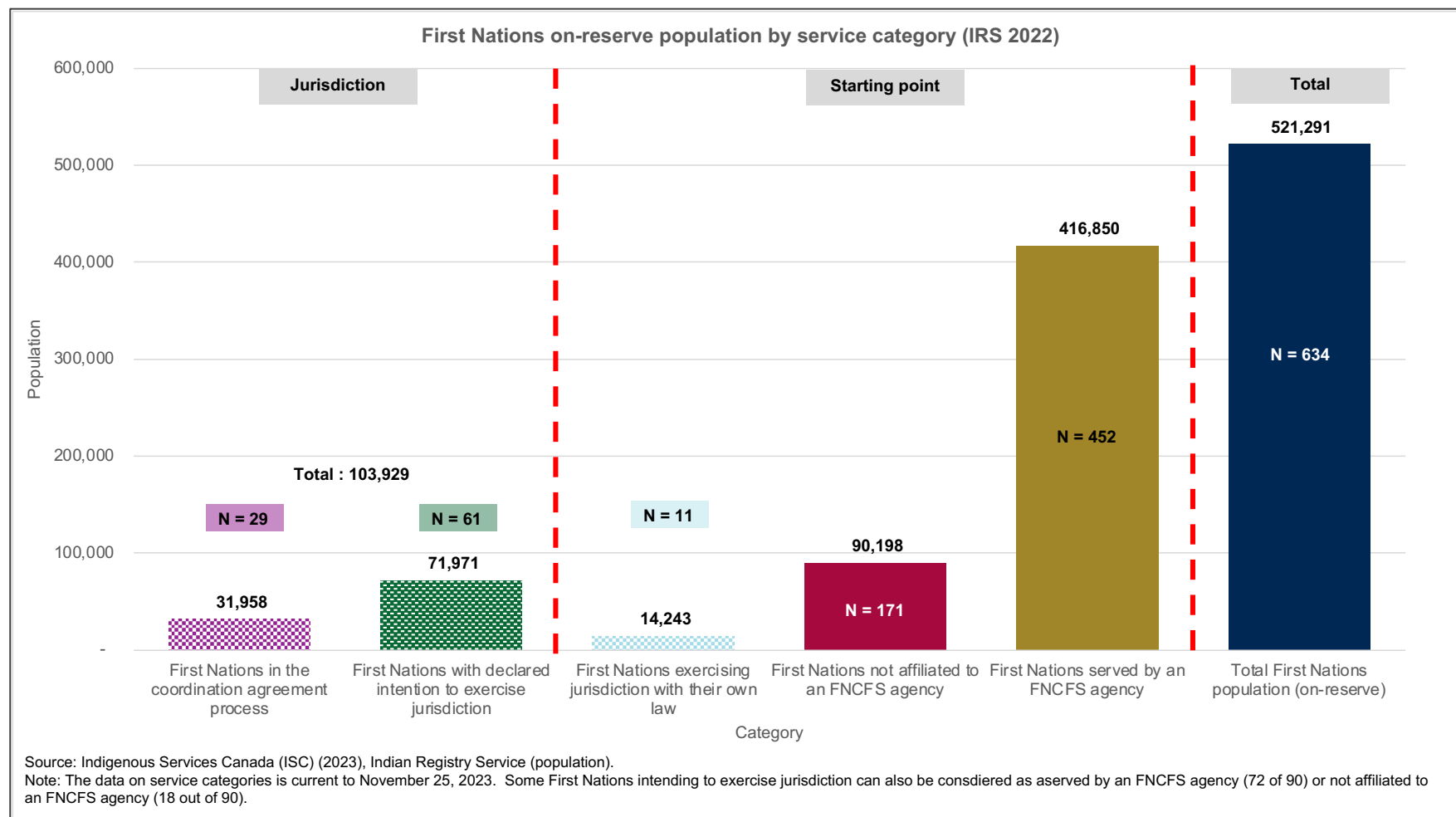
- On-track: Phase 3's research will be completed in March 2024 (as originally planned).
- Interim findings are released through **monthly updates** and will continue to be shared.
- Full and final report (to be released by AFN) in Winter 2025.

Phase 3's project website includes monthly updates (contact info@ifsd.ca to receive updates via email)



Current landscape

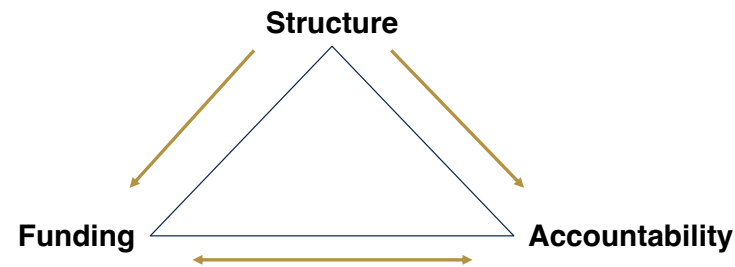
- A significant majority of First Nations are served by a FNCFS agency
- The reform of the FNCFS Program should consider how changes in outcomes will be monitored



Component	Deliverable/Action	Progress
Jurisdictional scan and development of typologies	Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current state of First Nations (e.g., housing, water, etc.) - Past and current federal expenditures in FNCFS and related areas 	Not yet started
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative collaborator group (agencies and First Nations exercising/contemplating jurisdiction) - Provincial CFS legislation analysis - Capital needs assessment (collaborators) 	Complete
Test funding principles from Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of baseline budget and funding components 	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenarios for national funding estimates 	Not yet started
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tools/guides to apply funding approach and assumptions - Transition considerations for funding based on starting point 	Not yet started
Review and refine Measuring to Thrive tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify indicators for testing and federal reporting - Collaborator working sessions on measurement and data gathering approaches (event-based approach) 	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tools for applying the framework 	Not yet started
Secretariat options analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Options for organizational design and cost, e.g., regional offices, national office, etc. 	Not yet started
Transition tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User-focused tools for transition (people; strategy; systems; processes) - In-depth analysis of collaborator cases for models of change 	Not yet started

Funding structure

- Sustainable change of FNCFS with the goal of supporting holistic well-being of children, families, and communities, requires changes to structure, funding, and accountability together as a whole: change to one element requires similar changes to all three elements.



- 1) Structure: The incentives, rules, and conditions that determine when and how funding moves in a system.
- 2) Funding: The amount of money allocated to recipients.
- 3) Accountability: Monitoring of detailed indicators to determine if the system structure and funding are working to achieve desired goals (i.e., performance, outcomes for children and families).

Structure and long-term success

Changes to those three elements (structure, funding, accountability) will require adjustments across various activity areas:

- Policy change
- Regulatory change
- Program performance criteria
- First Nations care and control of delivery
- Transition time

These changes are necessary to uphold the basis of the CHRT's rulings, which are to:

- End discrimination
- Ensure it does not reoccur

Fighting hundreds of years of institutional path dependency requires different incentives and time.

First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency

- 46% national participation in a questionnaire (2022); 9 regional workshops; 1 national gathering.
- Draft final report: December 2023.

“It’s like we’re being setup to fail.” “We’re moving too quickly.”

- Time and space needed to reflect, engage with, and support children and families. This does not happen quickly or easily.
- Funding must be clear, sustainable, and on-going.
- Consider the different starting points for First Nations not affiliated to an FNCFS agency that will impact their transition to future/desired states.

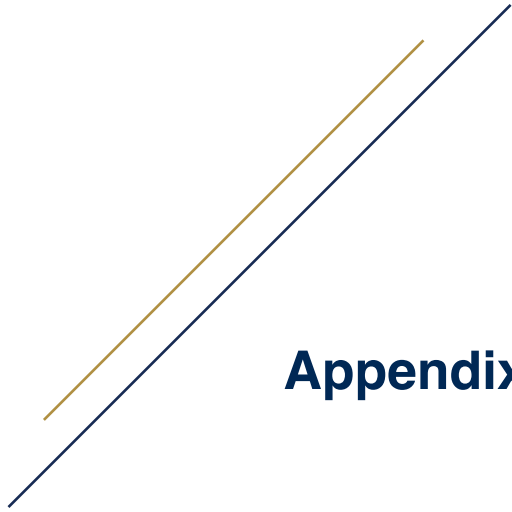
Jordan's Principle

- **Purpose:** To propose options for the long-term sustainability of Jordan's Principle, with recommendations to develop and implement structural solutions to achieving substantive equality for First Nations children, youth, and families.
- Final report planned for December 2024.

This work has four parts:	Description and progress
1) Development of a policy framework	Defining and evaluating Jordan's Principle.
2) Review of existing programs and services	Understanding current services and gaps (relative to the Spirit Bear Plan or a similar set of indicators).
3) Options and considerations for reforming the operationalization of Jordan's Principle	Capturing the implementation of Jordan's Principle and opportunities for change/improvement.
4) Financial analysis and costing of the baseline and any proposed reforms	Current and estimated short-, medium-, and long-term costs of delivery.

[Report 1: Assessing the application of Jordan's Principle](#)





Appendix

What is IFSD?

- The Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) is an independent self-funded research consulting firm hosted at the University of Ottawa.
- IFSD was established by Kevin Page, Canada's first Parliamentary Budget Officer.
- IFSD specializes in solving complex problems and providing decision-support in Canada and other countries.
- Since 2018, IFSD has been working at the request of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Caring Society on First Nations child and family services (FNCFS).

IFSD's work on FNCFS

- IFSD was asked to undertake research and analysis on the long-term reform of FNCFS.
- This work is intended to support First Nations, First Nations leadership, FNCFS agencies, and the negotiating parties.
- As a research consulting firm, IFSD does not have decision-making authority, nor does it sit at the negotiating table.
- IFSD provides monthly updates on the progress of its work in FNCFS. To receive the updates via email contact info@ifsd.ca or view on them on the project website www.ifsd.ca/fncfs

