



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
Special Chiefs Assembly

December 5-7, 2023

Shaw Centre – Ottawa, Ontario

*Ottawa is located on the unceded unsurrendered
Territory of the Algonquin People.*

ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
**Assemblée extraordinaire
des Chefs**

Du 5 au 7 décembre 2023 – Centre Shaw - Ottawa (Ontario)

*Ottawa est située sur le territoire non cédé et non abandonné
du peuple algonquin.*



DIALOGUE SESSION

First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Long-Term Reform Dialogue Session and Technical Update

*Monday, December 4, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST
Room 208, Shaw Centre*

SESSION PLAN:

In this session, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will provide a technical update on the long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle. Participants will receive a technical update on the AFN mandates and advocacy relating to FNCFS and Jordan's Principle long-term reform, compensation, the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy's (IFSD) Phase 3 FNCFS research and Jordan's Principle research. This session will include a discussion on the priorities for FNCFS reform, implementation of Jordan's Principle, and provide an update on the path forward towards long-term reform from the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and AFN.

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) found that Canada discriminated against First Nations children and their families in its provision and funding of the FNCFS Program and ordered Canada to immediately and completely overhaul the program. The CHRT also found that Canada discriminated against First Nations children and their families by applying a narrow definition of Jordan's Principle. In 2020, the AFN, Canada and other Parties entered into intensive negotiations to settle the matters of compensation and long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, which resulted in an Agreement-in-Principle on long-term reform in December 2021.

In AFN Resolution 40/2022, *To Ensure Quality of Life to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle*, First Nations-in-Assembly called for extended timeframes for negotiating a Final Settlement Agreement on long-term reform to ensure the development of evidence-based policy reforms for FNCFS. This resolution further called on Canada to uphold First Nations' rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Pursuant to this resolution, the AFN and Caring Society collaborated on an approach to long-term reform for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle towards reaching a Final Settlement Agreement.

SPEAKERS:

Lawrence Courteoreille, Knowledge Keeper

Stephanie Wellman, Director of Social Development, AFN (Facilitator)

Dr. Helaina Gaspard, Director of Governance and Institutions, IFSD

Mary Teegee, Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services and National Advisory Committee (NAC)
on FNCFS Representative

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, Caring Society



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Agenda

Monday December 4, 2023		
Time	Agenda Item	Leads
5 mins	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Lawrence Courteoreille
5 mins	AFN Opening Remarks, Mandates and Advocacy	Facilitator – Stephanie Wellman AFN Director, Social Development
5 mins	Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy Phase 3 and Jordan's Principle Research Update	Dr. Helaina Gaspard Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy
10 mins	Priorities for Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle	Dr. Cindy Blackstock Caring Society
5 mins	Update on Priorities from the National Advisory Committee on FNCFS	Mary Teegee NAC Representative
20 mins	Discussion, Questions and Answers	Stephanie Wellman
5 mins	Closing Remarks and Next Steps for Long-Term Reform and Compensation	Stephanie Wellman
5 mins	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Lawrence Courteoreille