

Dialogue Session: Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan’s Principle: The Path Forward

- 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 reform (FNCFS).
- This work is intended to support First Nations, First Nations leadership, FNCFS agencies, and the parties as recognized under 2022 CHRT 8. There are three projects:
 - Phase 3
 - First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency
 - Jordan’s Principle
- As a research consulting firm, IFSD does not have decision-making authority.
- IFSD provides monthly updates on the progress of its work in FNCFS. To receive the updates via email contact info@ifsd.ca or access them on the project website www.ifsd.ca/fncfs

Overview: Phase 3 and First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency

Component	Phase 3 (Contract holder: AFN)	First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency (Contract holder: Caring Society)
Goal/purpose	Test and model the approach from Phase 2, (with refinements), into First Nation and agency specific delivery models, to build tools and setup First Nations and FNCFS agencies for success in transition.	Define the current state and needs in child and family services of First Nations not affiliated to a First Nations child and family services (FNCFS) agency.
IFSD’s mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Close data gaps, e.g., capital needs, baselines – Model and test the proposed funding approach – Refine and test the Measuring to Thrive framework – Enhance fiscal certainty and planning tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assess needs for the delivery of prevention and other child and family related services – Quantify a structure and a range of costed approaches for the delivery of child and family services focused activities on-reserve – Consider capital, programming, and operational requirements (e.g., staff, IT, etc.) in the analysis
Approach	Bottom-up; questionnaire (FNCFS agencies); in-depth collaboration (1.5 years) from 20 collaborators (First Nations and FNCFS agencies); research and analysis; expert support	Bottom-up; questionnaire; case study collaborators; research and analysis
Project end	March 2024 (project end); final report to follow *Monthly updates	December 2023 *Monthly updates

For more information on Phase 3:

Component	Phase 3 (Contract holder: AFN)	Where can I find additional information on Phase 3 interim findings?
IFSD's mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Close data gaps, e.g., capital needs, baselines 	Capital needs initial summary FNCFS questionnaire 2022 analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Model and test the proposed funding approach 	Funding approach considerations Funding components overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Refine and test the Measuring to Thrive framework 	November 2022 Measuring to Thrive workshop summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enhance fiscal certainty and planning tools 	IFSD is preparing a transition framework and tools Note: national estimates of the FNCFS program are anticipated in Fall 2023 using IFSD's proposed funding approach

For more information on First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency:

Component	First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency (Contract holder: Caring Society)	First Nations not affiliated to a FNCFS agency (Contract holder: Caring Society)
IFSD's mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assess needs for the delivery of prevention and other child and family related services – Quantify a structure and a range of costed approaches for the delivery of child and family services focused activities on-reserve – Consider capital, programming, and operational requirements (e.g., staff, IT, etc.) in the analysis 	Questionnaire 2022 summary of analysis Monthly update texts for April and May 2023 Note: regionally-specific portraits of questionnaire findings and workshop summaries were shared on a regional-basis

Overview: Jordan’s Principle

- Part 1: IFSD’s 2021 report, [Data assessment and framing of an analysis of substantive equality through the application of Jordan’s Principle](#) found that while Jordan’s Principle is addressing needs on the ground, there was no way of understanding if substantive equality was being achieved using Indigenous Services Canada’s (ISC) public reporting or its internal data.
- Part 2 is designed to respond (in part) to the recommendations made in part 1, and to propose options for the long-term sustainability of Jordan’s Principle. The approach will be bottom-up with a focus on engagement with practitioners (see table below for project overview).
- Part 2 of Jordan’s Principle is expected to be completed by December 2024.

This work has four parts:	Guiding questions/considerations
1) Development of a policy framework	<p>What is the problem Jordan’s Principle is intended to address?</p> <p>How should Jordan’s Principle be evaluated?</p> <p>What indicators can be used to monitor changes in outcomes of children? How can formal equality and substantive equality be measured for children?</p>
2) Review of existing programs and services	<p>What do we know about the current state for First Nations children and families?</p> <p>Cost analysis of program activity areas including, but not limited to, education, health, water, child and family services, housing (on-reserve) and community infrastructure, and other social services</p>
3) Options and considerations for reforming the operationalization of Jordan’s Principle	<p>How is Jordan’s Principle operationalized?</p> <p>Lessons from: those working in related fields, e.g., maternal health, early childhood, etc.</p> <p>Alignment of structure and the goal of substantive equality</p> <p>Approaches for the delivery of Jordan’s Principle</p> <p>Lessons from First Nations-based Jordan’s Principle administrators on recipient needs and operating considerations</p> <p>Changes to provincial services and impacts on Jordan’s Principle</p> <p>Lessons on the provision of Jordan’s Principle on- and off-reserve</p>
4) Financial analysis and costing of the baseline and any proposed reforms	<p>Current and estimated short-, medium-, and long-term costs of delivery</p> <p>Estimated costs to close gaps in formal and substantive equality, with consideration of estimated costs over the short-, medium-, and long-term (with consideration of standard program growth drivers, population + inflation)</p>