



DIALOGUE SESSION

UPDATE ON LONG-TERM REFORM OF THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM AND JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE: THE PATH FORWARD

1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M. ADT • MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023 • ROOM A1

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

In this session, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will provide an update on the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and Jordan's Principle. Participants will receive an overview of the AFN and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society's (Caring Society) approach to long-term reform and receive an update on the progress of the First Nations-led research supporting evidence-based reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle.

In 2016, the 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 intensive negotiations to finalize the matters of compensation and long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, which resulted in an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on long-term reform in December 2021.

Negotiations for long-term reform have progressed since then and continue to be informed by feedback provided through regional engagements on long-term reform, and the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy's (IFSD) research. 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 long-term reform to ensure the development of evidence-based policy reforms for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle, and further called on Canada to uphold First Nations' rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Pursuant to the calls of AFN Resolution 40/2022, the AFN and Caring Society collaborated on an approach to long-term reform for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle towards reaching an FSA.

SPEAKERS:

- Knowledge Keeper Jim Anderson, Manitoba
- AFN Director, Social Development, Stephanie Wellman
- AFN Manitoba Regional Chief, Portfolio Holder, Cindy Woodhouse
- Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Dr. Cindy Blackstock
- Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, Director of Governance and Institutions, Dr. Helaina Gaspard



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
1:00pm-1:05pm	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Jim Anderson
1:05pm-1:10pm	Welcome and Introductions	Stephanie Wellman, Director of Social Development, AFN (Facilitator)
1:10pm-1:20pm	The Road to a Final Settlement Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of the AFN's advocacy and the CHRT Priorities for Long-Term Reform Resolution 40/2022 	Cindy Woodhouse, AFN Regional Chief, Manitoba
1:20pm-1:35pm	The Path Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timelines for Final Settlement Agreement on First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Discussion on housing, prevention, and Jordan's Principle 	Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, Caring Society
1:35pm-1:55pm	Phase 3 Research updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Results of Phase 3 Jordan's Principle Project Update 	Dr. Helaina Gaspard, Director, Governance and Institutions, IFSD
1:55pm-2:20pm	Discussion and Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on Path Forward and Phase 3 Question and answer period 	Stephanie Wellman, Director of Social Development, AFN (Facilitator)
2:20pm-2:25pm	Closing Remarks	Stephanie Wellman, Director of Social Development, AFN (Facilitator)
2:25pm-2:30pm	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Jim Anderson
Meeting Adjourns		