



Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator Gathering: *Rooted in Support, Rising in Strength*

Treaty 6 Territory
Edmonton Alberta
September 23-25, 2025



Program Agenda



Dedication

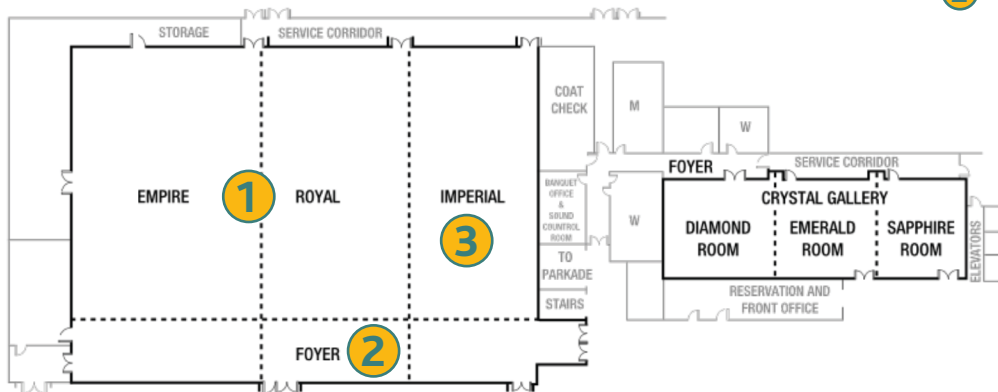
The Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators Gathering is dedicated to Jordan River Anderson and his family. Jordan, from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, was born with complex medical needs, and did not receive the services he needed because the governments of Canada and Manitoba could not agree on payment for his care. Jordan's Principle is a child-first legal principle named in Jordan's honour, aimed to ensure that all First Nations children in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, where and when they need them.

Jordan's fight for equity has created a lasting impact for all First Nations children and families. Jordan River Anderson's legacy lives on through Jordan's Principle, and will continue to improve the lives of First Nations children and families for generations.

Venue

Delta Edmonton South Conference Centre, 4404 Gateway Blvd NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 5C2

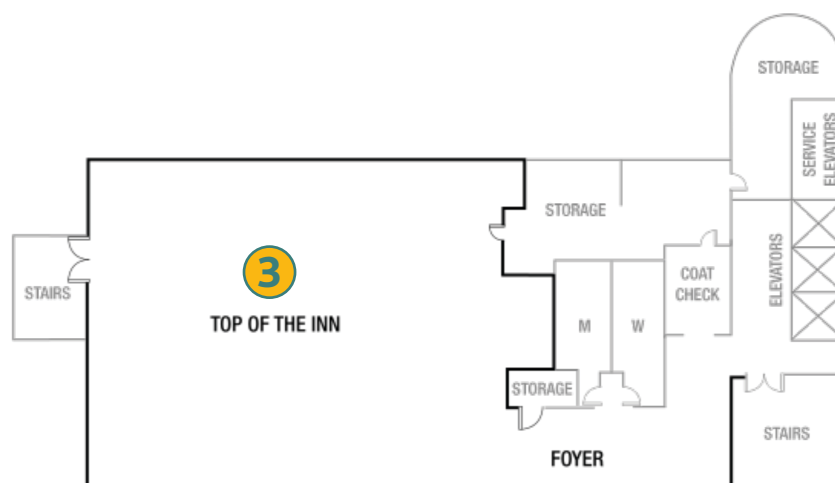
MAIN FLOOR - GRANDE BALLROOM



- ① **Plenary Room:**
Empire/Royal (1st Floor)
- ② **Registration:**
Foyer (1st Floor)

11TH FLOOR - TOP OF THE INN

- ③ **Breakout Rooms:**
Imperial (1st Floor),
Top of the Inn (11th floor)



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Day 1 – Tuesday, September 23, 2025		
Time	Agenda Item	Location
7:30am	Sunrise Pipe Ceremony	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
8:00am – 4:00pm	Registration	Foyer
8:15am – 9:00am	Hot Breakfast (provided)	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
9:00am – 9:45am	Opening - Chubby Cree Drum Group - Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine, <i>Louis Bull First Nation</i> - National Chief Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak, <i>Assembly of First Nations</i> - Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse, <i>Nishnawbe Aski Nation</i> - Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais, <i>Treaty 6 (TBC)</i> - Okimaw Cody Thomas, <i>Enoch Cree Nation (TBC)</i> - Wina Sioui, <i>Facilitator</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
9:45am – 10:45am	Jordan's Principle, a sacred responsibility: Achieving non-discrimination for First Nations children Brittany Mathews, <i>First Nations Child and Family Caring Society</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
10:45am – 11:00am	Health Break	
11:00am – 12:00pm	Decolonizing the Desk: Transforming Frontline Support Through Indigenous Policy and Advocacy Joey Belleau, <i>Queen's University; Toronto District School Board Urban Indigenous Education Centre</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)	Plenary (Empire/Royal)



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Day 1 – Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Location
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Jordan's Principle Storyline Jessica Goodman, <i>Assembly of First Nations</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Breaking Barriers: Our 2 Year Journey Coordinating Necessities of Life Shadelle Chambers, <i>Council of Yukon First Nations</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Health Break	
2:45pm – 4:00pm	From the Ground Up: Navigating complex systems and transforming policy through Jordan's Principle Sylvina R Rickard, <i>Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
4:00pm – 4:15pm	Day 1 Closing - Wina Sioui, <i>Facilitator</i> - Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine, <i>Louis Bull First Nation</i> - Chubby Cree Drum Group	Plenary (Empire/Royal)

Day 2 – Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Location
7:30am	Sunrise Pipe Ceremony	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
8:00am – 12:00pm	Registration	Foyer
8:15am – 9:00am	Hot Breakfast (provided)	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
9:00am – 9:15am	Day 2 Opening - Chubby Cree Drum Group - Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine, <i>Louis Bull First Nation</i> - Wina Sioui, <i>Facilitator</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)

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Day 2 – Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Location
9:15am – 10:45am	Walking Together in Relational Accountability: Introducing the ALIGN Well-Being Toolkit to Support Culturally Grounded Service Navigation and Wellness Jacqlyn Padavell and Beverly Keeshig-Soonias, <i>ALIGN</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
10:45am – 11:00am	Health Break	
10:45am – 12:00pm	We -are- the system Dr. Wraychel Gilmore, <i>Renegade Consulting</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Regional Discussion Groups: - How is First Nations self-determination reflected in the implementation of Jordan's Principle within your region? - What supports are necessary to achieve self-determination? (e.g., more Service Coordinators, training, infrastructure, funding, etc.) - What is the future vision for Jordan's Principle in your region?	Breakout Rooms: - Plenary (Empire/Royal – Translation Available) - Imperial - Top of the Inn
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Health Break	
2:45pm – 4:15pm	Understanding Trauma and Healing Through Grief - Lisa V. Wesley, <i>Attawapiskat First Nation</i> - Summer Rickard	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
4:15pm – 4:30pm	Day 2 Closing - Wina Sioui, <i>Facilitator</i> - Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine, <i>Louis Bull First Nation</i> - Chubby Cree Drum Group	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
5:30pm – 9:00pm	Evening Networking Event - Dinner (Served from 6:00pm – 8:00pm) - Networking and Evening Entertainment until 9:00pm	Top of the Inn



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Day 3 – Thursday, September 25, 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Location
7:30am	Sunrise Pipe Ceremony	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
8:15am – 9:00am	Hot Breakfast (provided)	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
9:00am – 9:15am	Day 3 Opening - Chubby Cree Drum Group - Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine, <i>Louis Bull First Nation</i> - Wina Sioui, <i>Facilitator</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
9:15am – 10:15am	Reconciliation with Self – Inner Reflection for Outer Resilience Cher Obediah, <i>Six Nations of the Grand River</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
10:15am – 10:30am	Health Break	
10:30am – 11:15 am	Positive Impacts of Collaboration Between Services on W8banakiak Child Development and Well-being Justine M'Sadoques-Plourde, <i>Odanak First Nation</i> <i>Note: this presentation is in French. Please pick up a headset at the back, if required.</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
11:15am – 12:00pm	Demand Your Data – Accessing Data to Cost Jordan's Principle Dr. Alain Beaudry, <i>Waapihk Research</i>	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Closing - Wina Sioui, <i>Facilitator</i> - National Chief Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak, <i>Assembly of First Nations</i> - Knowledge Keeper Ivy Raine, <i>Louis Bull First Nation</i> - Chubby Cree Drum Group	Plenary (Empire/Royal)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch (provided)	Plenary (Empire/Royal)

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Session Descriptions

Day 1 – Tuesday, September 23, 2025

9:45am: Brittany Mathews, *Jordan's Principle, a sacred responsibility: Achieving non-discrimination for First Nations children*

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found Canada to be discriminating against First Nations children in its provision of First Nations Child and Family Services and by failing to implement Jordan's Principle, and ordered Canada to stop its discrimination immediately. Nearly 10 years later, there have been 32 non-compliance and procedural orders against Canada. This presentation will critically review ISC's current implementation of Jordan's Principle, alongside Tribunal and Federal Court rulings on Jordan's Principle. Further, this presentation will provide an overview of legal avenues available to address Canada's non-compliance.

11:00am: Joey Belleau, *"Decolonizing the Desk: Transforming Frontline Support Through Indigenous Policy and Advocacy"*

Frontline Indigenous workers are often called to serve families in systems that uphold colonial policies and procedures. This session will explore how service providers can challenge those barriers from within, using advocacy and relational leadership to support systemic change. Drawing from firsthand experiences in urban Indigenous education and language revitalization, this presentation centers the power of speaking up - in school boards, policy meetings, and hiring panels - to ensure that Indigenous families receive the culturally grounded support they are entitled to under Jordan's Principle and beyond.

1:00pm: Jessica Goodman, *Jordan's Principle Storyline*

In this presentation, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will provide an overview of the history and mandates pertaining to the AFN's work, including the development and recommendations of the Jordan's Principle Storyline.

1:30pm: Shadelle Chambers, *Breaking Barriers: Our 2 Year Journey Coordinating Necessities of Life*

The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) has been the Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator for Yukon since 2017 and over the last two years, CYFN has delivered culturally grounded and family centered supports through the Necessities of Life (NOL) program through Jordan's Principle. This presentation will share insights, outcomes and best practices on the delivery of NOLs and support provided to Yukon First Nations and Indigenous families in accessing vital services and supports.



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Day 1 – Tuesday, September 23, 2025

2:45pm: Sylvina Rickard, *From the Ground UP: Navigating complex systems and transforming policy through Jordan's Principle*

Rooted in lived experience and political advocacy, this presentation will explore how Indigenous leaders, service providers and community advocates can strategically navigate complex provincial and federal systems while simultaneously working to dismantle the systemic barriers that limit equitable access to health services for Indigenous families.

Drawing on the presenter's experience in securing Jordan's Principle funding to establish a land-based detox program, this session will share how grassroots partnerships led to the creation and change for NIHB travel benefits, resulting in a national policy change that now benefits families across Canada.

This presentation will address how Jordan's Principle guidelines, while intended to provide timely services to First Nations children, often create additional barriers through inconsistent interpretation, jurisdictional ambiguity and narrow application, further entrenching systemic inequities. These barriers are especially harmful in remote communities, where access to culturally, land-base services is already limited.

Participants will leave this session/presentation equipped with rights-based strategies, political tools, and real-world insights into how grassroots initiatives and partnerships can challenge inequities and reshape national policy while remaining grounded in the Indigenous values of care and connection.

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Day 2 – Wednesday, September 24, 2025

9:15am: Jacqlyn Padavell, *Walking Together in Relational Accountability: Introducing the ALIGN Well-Being Toolkit to Support Culturally Grounded Service Navigation and Wellness*

This session will focus on key topic areas, including tools for empowering families and building relationships, as well as land- and culture-based approaches to supporting children and families. This session introduces the ALIGN Well-Being Toolkit—a culturally grounded, principle-based resource designed to support service providers in assessing and enhancing the well-being of children, youth, families, caregivers, and staff. Rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and guided by ethical space, the Toolkit offers practical tools, storytelling methods, and community-defined indicators across seven holistic domains of well-being. It promotes relational, reflective, and strengths-based practice across all systems that impact children and families, ensuring culturally safe and equitable supports.

Developed in Alberta through collaboration with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, service providers, and families with lived experience, the Toolkit responds to the call for wellness frameworks grounded in Indigenous ways of being, knowing, and relating. It helps bridge community wisdom with service delivery by fostering wellness, cultural safety, parallel process, and relational accountability.

For Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators, the Toolkit offers valuable insight into a resource that measures well-being and can strengthen the broader network of supports available to First Nations children and families. By becoming familiar with the Toolkit, Coordinators can help guide service providers toward culturally grounded tools that foster ethical space, promote community-driven service delivery, and support holistic outcomes. The Toolkit can also enhance advocacy efforts by equipping providers with a framework to measure well-being and report on culturally defined outcomes for individuals, families, and communities—supporting long-term healing and systemic change.

An Elder involved in the Toolkit's creation will share reflections on its cultural foundation and vision. Participants will also explore how the Toolkit is currently being used in Alberta and how it may be adapted or introduced in other regions through partnership with ALIGN.

10:45am: Dr. Wraychel Gilmore, *"We -are- the system"*

This presentation is based on creating a sense of positive belonging, community, and support within the child and youth sector. At a time when 'the system' is viewed with such negativity in the media and even by our own funders at times, this is an uplifting and inspiring discussion about how at this juncture of federal policy and public service, the expertise in the sector is invaluable. Growing and maintaining a viable community of practice that works for you, is your pathway to curating the systemic changes you want to see happen.



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2:45pm: Lisa V Wesley and Summer Rickard, *Understanding Trauma and Healing Through Grief*

The presentation offers a holistic approach to addressing trauma through body-based responses and traditional Indigenous teachings. Together, we explore how reconnecting to ancestral knowledge and inner wisdom can support the healing journey of both Service Coordinators and the families they serve to walk the journey towards intergenerational healing.

In this two-part presentation, Lisa V. Wesley will first share insights on understanding trauma which includes identifying the body's response to trauma, the different types and symptoms of trauma, and the importance of recognizing the impact of intergenerational trauma. She will also speak to the value of healing work for those supporting others.

The second part, led by Summer Rickard, will explore how trauma and grief shape the mind, body, spirit, and community, with a focus on intergenerational healing. Through an Indigenous lens, we share cultural teachings, land-based practices, and trauma-informed tools that transform pain into resilience. Together, we honour the past, support the present, and empower the future with hope, strength, and the reminder that healing is always possible.



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Day 3 – Thursday, September 25, 2025

9:15am: Cher Obediah, *Reconciliation with Self – Inner Reflection for Outer Resilience*

This session is focused on mental and emotional wellness with a holistic approach. It's designed to help individuals overcome everyday stressors with positive psychology and inner understandings. Self-reflection isn't just for self; it's a catalyst for meaningful and lasting change for future generations.

10:30am: Justine M'Sadoques-Plourde, *Positive Impacts of Interdepartmental Collaboration on W8banakiak Child Development and Well-being*

This presentation offers tools to facilitate the coordination of requests within communities. It also highlights the beneficial effects of close collaboration between different services (school, community, clinics, etc.) on the overall development and well-being of w8banakiak children. Using examples from the field, we will explore how a collaborative approach can improve access to care and services and strengthen the safety net for w8banakiak children.

11:15am: Dr. Alain Beaudry, *Demand Your Data – Accessing Data to Cost Jordan's Principle*

Drawing on our own extensive research experience and a recent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD), Waapihk Research will discuss both the challenges and opportunities involved in accessing data relevant to Jordan's Principle. The presentation will discuss the barriers First Nations face in obtaining essential data, offering practical strategies to overcome these obstacles and improve data access for accurate costing.

