



# The Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba:

**A Mixed Methods Study in Partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs**

**Jordan's Principle** requires Canada to ensure timely services that meet the needs and best interests of First Nation children. Under Jordan's Principle, the federal government must fund services and equipment that extend beyond provincial standards if required to meet First Nations children's needs. Jordan's Principle applies to a broad range of needs, including health, education and social needs and currently applies to all First Nations children, living on or off reserve, who are under age 19. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs advocates for extending Jordan's Principle eligibility to the age of 26.

## How did we do this research?

**Research was co-designed** and undertaken in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and involved 35 interviews and 5 focus groups with Jordan's Principle Case Managers and Service Coordinators, Specialized Service Providers, and region policy experts. Additional data was collected through: participant observation, document review and analysis of administrative data.



## What were some of the findings?



**(Re)building long-term relationships** within Nations, including with families, Elders and knowledge keepers and among service providers and leadership that involves:

- Deep healing work to rebuild trust; being present in the community and a relational understanding of community, family and child health and wellbeing
- Disrupting 'practice as usual' – broadening the scope of practice and questioning normative procedures and practices.

Growth in demand for Jordan's Principle services shows that service providers have been able engage and build relationships with families and to work, in an ongoing way (beyond just assessment) to address children and families' needs and priorities.

## Inter-related structural inequities that limit the current implementation of Jordan's Principle

Service providers described the growing caseloads and waitlists as having a devastating impact on their practice, undermining a relational and responsive approach and forcing them to focus on crisis work.

Case load and waitlist data for four Specialized Service Providers (SSPs) offering services in many First Nations shows that caseloads grew between 150% to 425% from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

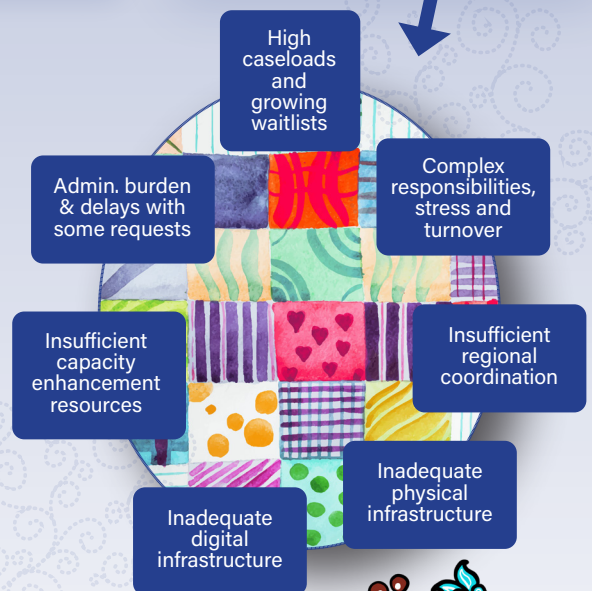
In addition to increasing caseloads and waitlists, are inter-related structural inequities that are limiting the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba.

**Caseloads or waitlists** are likely to keep growing. In order to meet the needs of First Nation children, service providers need to continue to adapt and move towards:

- A focus on wellness and prevention that incorporates universal/group approaches.
- Flexible models of service provision that are responsive to communities and families' resources, preferences and priorities.
- A hybrid model of service delivery that provides the option and choice of in-person and virtual services.

**In keeping with Canada's commitments** to honour the self determination of First Nations, and with the need for culturally grounded, locally based services in order to meet the needs of First Nation children, Jordan's Principle must be extended to support:

- Capacity enhancement initiatives that-build local capacity to expand the scope of services managed and controlled by First Nations.
- Flexible funding models that support Nations in taking on services at self-determined pace and sequence.
- Infrastructure development to ensure universal access to digital technology.



Please see final report for full description of findings and key recommendations – Sinha, V., Sangster, M., Gerlach, A.J., Bennett, M., Lavoie, J.G., Lach, L., Balfour, M., & Folster, S. (2022). *The implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba: Final report*. Winnipeg, MB: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. <https://manitobachiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/22-01-28-The-Implementation-of-Jordans-Principle-in-Manitoba-Final-Report.pdf>

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MB-Jordan's Principle Infographic #1

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