



Canadian Council of
Child and Youth Advocates

Conseil Canadien des Défenseurs
des Enfants et des Jeunes

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Child and Youth Advocate

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Representative for Children and Youth

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Ontario

Office of the Ombudsman

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Prince Edward Island

Office of the Child and Youth

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Québec

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MEDIA STATEMENT

November 20, 2025

Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates Seeks Compliance to Jordan's Principle on National Child Day and Every Day – Our Children, Our Future

SASKATOON – November 20th is National Child Day - a day to celebrate children and youth, and a reminder of Canada's commitment made to children's rights. In 1991, Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a legally-binding international human rights instrument.

The UNCRC outlines 54 articles that cover a range of special rights and protections for children by setting standards in health care, education, and legal, civil, and social services. Sadly, over 30 years later, children and youth continue to face barriers, and their adult allies continue to fight to have their rights upheld - especially by governments.

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates raises the alarm to the concerns about the delays with Indigenous children receiving much needed services under Jordan's Principle across Canada.

"Indigenous children are languishing without supports due to the jurisdictional disputes and inequities in services," said Dr. Lisa Broda, President of the Council.

The current challenges surrounding Jordan's Principle (also known as The Inuit Child First Initiative in Nunavut) and the government of Canada's delay in addressing the service barriers for Indigenous children is having devastating impacts on their safety and well-being.

"Canada's abrupt cancellation and changes to funding, increasing number of request denials, and enormous backlog of requests are resulting in Indigenous children and youth not receiving the services and supports they desperately need to have the best quality of life, and to which they are entitled under the UNCRC," said Broda.

"These delays, disruptions, and denials are severely and egregiously impacting the health, mental health, and overall well-being of Indigenous children and youth," said Broda. Tragically, like Jordan River Anderson for whom Jordan's Principle was named in 2005, many children and youth continue to pass away while they wait for the resources they need.

On National Child Day - and every day – the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates, urges Canada to immediately end the discrimination and address the systemic barriers that prevent Indigenous children and youth from receiving the services and supports to which they are entitled.

We must all continue to advocate for Indigenous children and call the provincial and territorial governments to action to urge Canada to do better. Our Indigenous children's future depends on it.

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates is an association of children's Advocates, Representatives, and Ombudspersons from across Canada who hold independent offices of the legislatures in their respective jurisdictions, with legislated mandates to promote and protect children's human rights through advocacy, advice to government, amplification of child and youth voices, and public education.

For more go to www.cccya.ca

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