



MEETING SD 70-20-25

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2025
DET'ANCHOGH KÚÉ - EAGLE ROOM
9 AM**

AGENDA

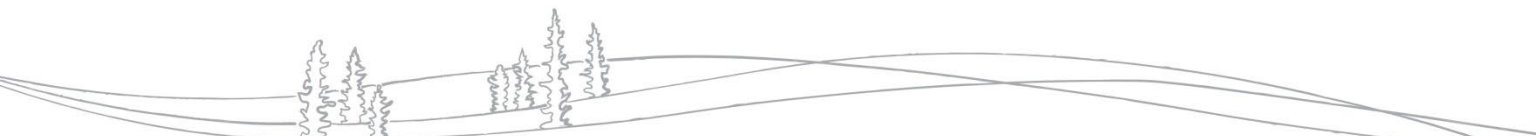
1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters
 - a) Public Briefing on Education Supports with ECE Minister Honourable Caitlin Cleveland
6. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) Statutory review of the *Legal Aid Act*
 - c) SCOSD Workplan
7. New Business
 - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - a) Thursday August 14, 2025 at 1:30pm
9. Adjournment



Jordan's Principle in the JK-12 School System

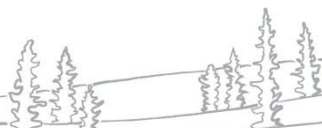
Standing Committee on Social Development

August 14, 2025



Overview

- Jordan's Principle
- Inuit Child First Initiative
- Federal Funding in NWT Schools
- Impact of Federal Changes
- Operational Response to Date
- Planning for 2025-2026 School Year



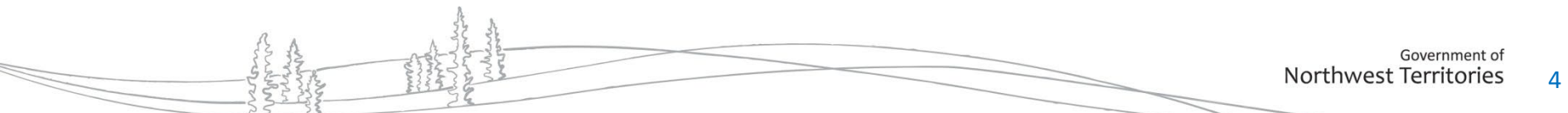
Jordan's Principle

- Jordan's Principle is a legal rule named in memory of Jordan River Anderson.
- Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle grounded in the legal concept of substantive equality that Canada is legally obliged to uphold.
- Canada is obliged to implement Jordan's Principle in accordance with the orders of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT).
- Under Jordan's Principle, First Nations children and their families (both on- and off-reserve) can access a wide range of health, social, and educational products, services and supports.



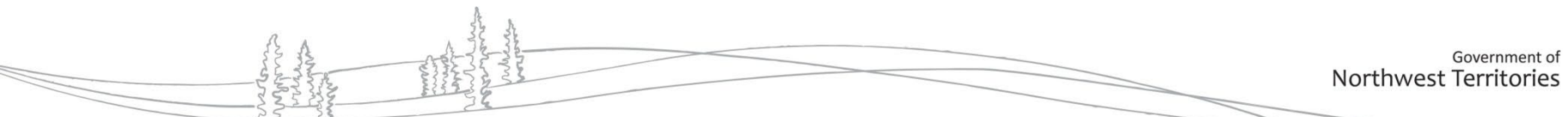
Inuit Child First Initiative

- Ensures Inuit children have equal access to essential government-funded health, social and education products, services and supports
- Supports substantive equality
- All Inuit children, no matter where they live in Canada, can request funding through ICFI. They must be:
 - Recognized by an Inuit land claim organization
 - Under the age of majority in their province/territory of residence



Federal Funding in NWT Schools

- Education bodies have accessed JP funding since 2018, and ICFI since 2019
- Jordan's Principle has provided \$58.6M in funding to NWT schools for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
- Most common support accessed is Support Assistants



Impact of Federal Changes

- **New Operating Procedures Introduced:**
 - Aim to ensure long-term sustainability
 - Provide clearer guidance on eligible services and required documentation
- **Ineligible Items Now Defined:**
 - Includes: home purchases/renovations, sporting events, international travel, childcare, clothing, furniture, vehicles, and general school-related requests
 - Exceptions may apply if linked to substantive equality
- **School-Related Funding Changes:**
 - No longer approved unless tied to a specific health, social, or educational need
 - Supports for off-reserve/private schools redirected to provincial/territorial programs
- **Urgent Requests Clarified:**
 - Must align with CHRT's interim definition of urgency



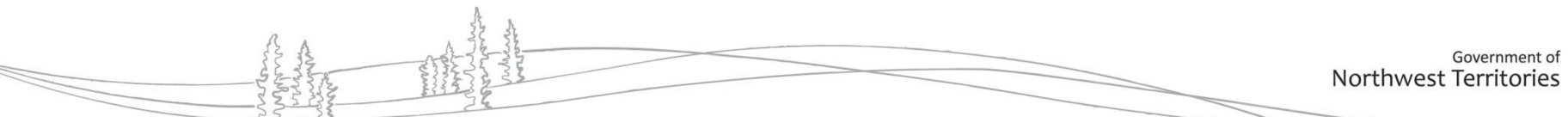
Impact of Federal Changes

- Denied Requests
- Pending Requests
- Increased Inequities
- Planning and Staffing Uncertainty



Operational Response – Education Bodies

- Program Realignment
- Salary Management
- Expenditure Controls
- Workforce Adjustments



ECE's Response

- Consistent Communication
- Public Advocacy
- Call for Federal Reconsideration
- Commitment to Collaboration



Planning for 2025-2026 School Year

- Service Continuity Planning
- Application Review and Adjustment
- Appeals to Indigenous Services Canada
- Inclusive Schooling Review
- Continued Collaboration and Advocacy



Discussion

