

Improving Access to Health and Social Services for First Nations Children

March 2, 2017



YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY... OUR PRIORITY.

Background

- In December 2007, Jordan's Principle was passed in the House of Commons in honour of Jordan River Anderson.
- In 2008, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada (HC) were tasked with implementing Jordan's Principle.
- In January 2016, a complaint from First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCSC) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was substantiated by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT). The Government of Canada was ordered to cease applying its narrow definition of Jordan's Principle, and take measures to implement its full meaning and scope.
- In addition to the full implementation of Jordan's Principle, Canada is actively working on improving access to health and social services for First Nations children through child first initiatives, including committing up to \$382.5 million over three years.

Jordan's Principle

- The GoC is committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous peoples and working in partnership to support the health and well-being of Indigenous children, families, and communities across Canada.
- Jordan's Principle applies to all First Nations children and is intended to resolve jurisdictional disputes – both between federal government departments and between federal government and provinces and territories – involving the care of First Nations children.
- Health Canada (HC) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) are implementing Jordan's Principle with First Nations partners and provinces and territories. Partners are actively engaged to ensure First Nations children receive needed care and services.

A New Approach

- Service Access Resolution
- Enhanced Service Coordination
- Data collection and management
- Engagement
- Communications

Service Access Resolution

The Service Access Resolution Fund will:

- Enable Health Canada and INAC to respond to the assessed immediate health and social needs of First Nations children in a timely manner;
- Meet the unmet needs that are not being addressed through existing federal, provincial and territorial programming; and
- Include an appeal process, for children and families.
- This initiative does not replace or duplicate existing services or programs such as those already funded through INAC, Health Canada, and the Province of Ontario.

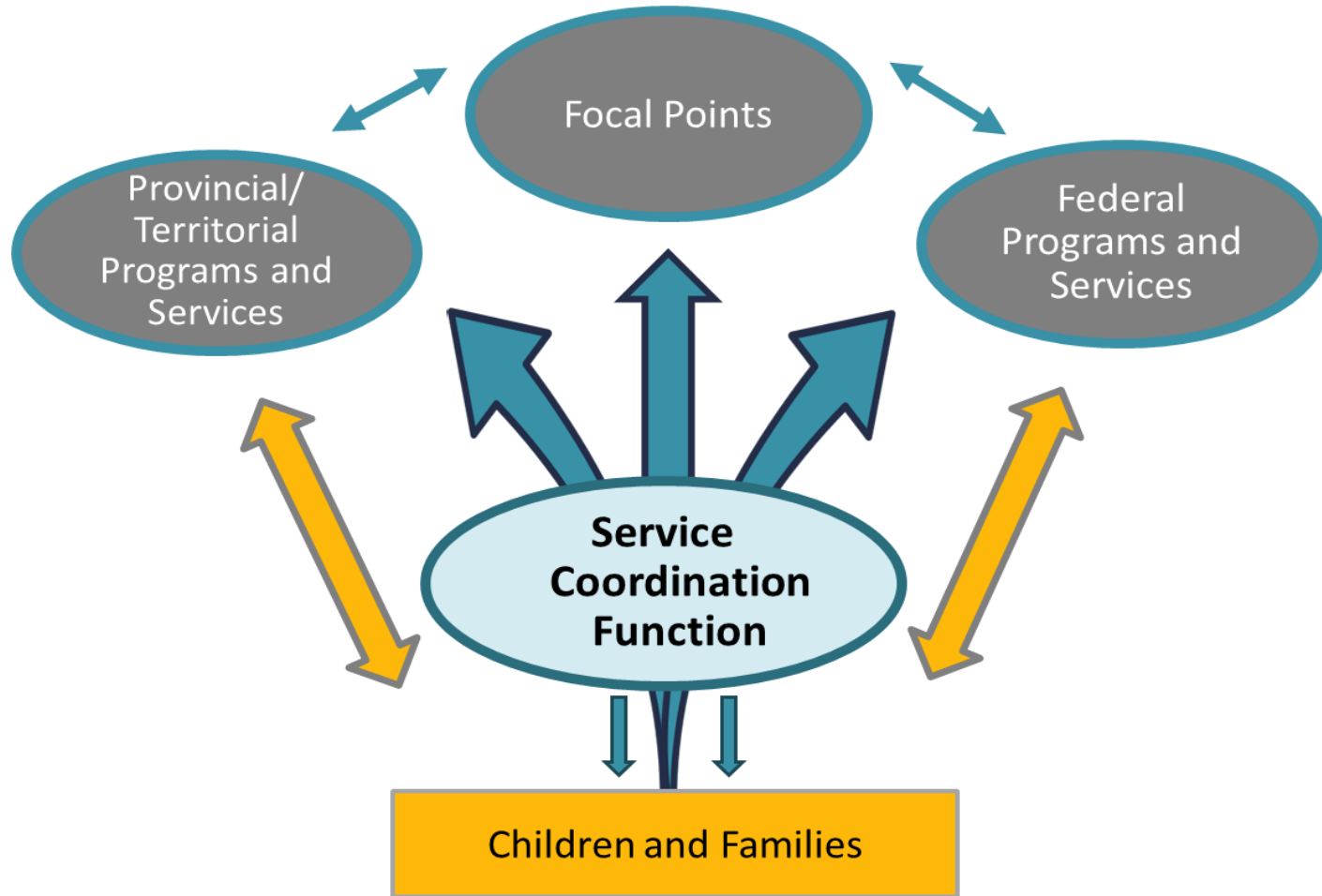
Service Access Resolution

- IN ONTARIO: As of March 1, 2017, 612 children have been identified with unmet needs and have been funded for services and supports.
- These have come forward via the case by case Intake Form, and the Call for enhanced respite services within Home and Community Care Programs
- Requests have been approved for:
 - Specialized medical equipment and supplies;
 - Medical transportation;
 - Addiction treatment;
 - Nutritional supplements
 - Mental health counselling
 - Rehabilitation therapies; and
 - Respite services.

Enhanced Service Coordination

- Enhanced Service Coordination is a proactive model of care that will help facilitate access for all First Nations children to Federal/Provincial/Territorial services on and off reserve by helping First Nations children and their families navigate the systems, and by coordinating service delivery.
- Regional Focal Points and agencies delivering the Enhanced Service Coordination function will work with all First Nations children and families to guide them to the appropriate supports and services, and help them navigate federal and provincial or territorial systems.
- Rather than wait for a dispute to be triggered, HC and INAC will respond immediately to cases brought to the departments' attention. Should a dispute occur between the GOC and provinces and territories (P/T, Canada will work with the P/T to help ensure all First Nations children have access to needed services comparable with what is available to other children in that jurisdiction.

Enhanced Service Coordination



Ontario Approach – First Nations Focal Points

- The federal government is working with partners to identify a proactive model of care that will help facilitate access for all First Nations children to Federal/Provincial/Territorial services on and off reserve by helping First Nations children and their families navigate the systems, and by coordinating service delivery.
- In Ontario Region, a decision was made to implement First Nations Focal Points in each PTO, Independent First Nations, and Six Nations of the Grand River.
- These focal points will work with all First Nations children and families to guide them to the appropriate supports and services, and help them navigate federal and provincial or territorial systems. In addition, they will identify unmet needs which will facilitate the development of options for a proactive model of care moving forward for 2017-2019 and beyond.

Ontario Approach – First Nations Focal Points

- Following discussions with SHEJ, HCU, and other First Nations partners, a recommended action was put forth by Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health* (OCCH) to guide the process going forward:
 - OCCOH approve that funding be allocated to each of the PTOs/IFN and Six Nations of the Grand River for the remainder of this fiscal year (2016/17) to engage JP Focal Point Positions who would assist in resolution of individual cases in collaboration with NIHB navigators, government and other focal points; as well as undertaking the required engagement and data collection for development of options for Service Coordination Delivery models for future years.
- **CONSENSUS.** No opposition

Data Collection and Management

- Data collection and analysis is an important aspect of the work moving forward to ensure a better understanding of the nature and scope of needs and service gaps, and will help refine the new approach, keep stakeholders informed, and inform the development of the longer-term approach.
- A new data collection tool was developed by FNIHB's national and regional offices, in consultation with INAC. The new "Jordan's Principle Intake Form" was finalized in early December 2016 after two training sessions with regional focal points.
- Regional focal points began using the final version of the form in mid-December. Data is being collected on an ongoing basis as cases emerge.
- The first year of data is expected to be available by August 2017.

Engagement

- Health Canada and INAC are organizing an engagement process with First Nations and provincial and territorial partners to collaboratively develop policy and program options for a long-term approach to improving children's access to health and social services. .
- Engagement will be guided by the principles of the AFN-FNIHB engagement protocol and will be supported by collaboration with First Nations leadership nationally and in all regions.
- Proposed a JP working group co-lead with the AFN that would:
 - Collaborate on long-term policy and/or program development
 - Communicate results and resolve issues
 - Share data, evidence, evaluation and research findings
 - Share progress and performance of the child-first approach

Proactive Measures/ Special Focus

- The Government of Canada also recognizes that First Nations families on reserve may face greater difficulties in accessing Federal/Provincial/Territorial services and supports. *substantive equity*
- Canada is focused on the most vulnerable children – Working for all First Nations Children with unmet health and social needs to get help that ensures the care and support they need is comparable to other Canadian children.
- Canada has committed up to \$382.5 million over three years to better meet the needs of these First Nations children. We are now at the end of Year 1.

Federal Jordan's Principle Focal Points

- FNIHB ON Focal Points:
 - Stephanie O'Brien Stephanie.obrien@canada.ca
 - Vanessa Follon Vanessa.follon@canada.ca
 - Kathleen Roberts (JP Program Support)
Kathleen.Roberts@hc-sc.gc.ca
- INAC ON Focal Points:
 - Elana Pal Elana.Pal@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca
 - Shelley Knott-Fife Shelley.knottfife@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca
 - Taia Tarvainen Taia.Tarvainen@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

First Nations Jordan's Principle Focal Points

PTO/Organization	Focal Point Name	Phone Number	Email
Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians	Fawn McDougall	(519) 434-2761 Ext. 234	Fmcdougall@aiai.on.ca
Grand Council Treaty #3	Noella Mandamin (until new fiscal year)	(807) 548-4214 (work) (807) 464-1588 (cell)	Fedhealth@treaty3.ca
Independent First Nations	Trudy Jacobs Leeann Shimoda (Lyndia Jones is the contact while emails are being set up)	(519) 708-5830	eaglemaiden2003@yahoo.com
Nishnawbi Aski Nation			
Six Nations of the Grand River	Marnie Morley		Marnie.lynn.morley@gmail.com
Union of Ontario Indians			

Jordan's Principle

- Thank you for your time and attention.
- Questions?