

I want to inform all Leq'á:mel members on the funding program, **Jordan's Principle** which is administered through Indigenous Services Canada. **Jordan's Principle** is a child-first **principle** intended to resolve jurisdictional disputes within, and between, provincial/territorial and federal governments concerning payment for services to First Nations children when the service is available to all other children.

It was named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation, who spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while Canada and Manitoba argued over payment for his at-home care. The reason for this is the province normally delivers health care off-reserve, but the federal government funds it on-reserve. In Jordan's case, the two governments could not agree on payment because Jordan was First Nations and, thus, left him in hospital while they argued over payment. Tragically, Jordan died at five years of age after waiting more than two years for both governments to resolve their dispute. In December 2007, Parliament unanimously supported Private Member's Motion 296 in support of Jordan's Principle 296 stating that "in the opinion of the House, the government should immediately adopt a child-first principle, based on Jordan's Principle, to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children". This should have ended tragic situations in which First Nations children are denied, or delayed receipt of, government services available to all others due to payment disputes. The achievement was so great that the Canadian Public Health Association celebrated its 100th anniversary by naming Jordan's Principle as one of the 12 most important achievements in the history of Canadian public health.

Jordan's Principle covers children up to the age of 19 years. If a child has an extra medical need, not covered by FNHA, then the parent can apply for extra support through the FNHA under Jordan's Principle funding. For non-medical issues the parent can apply directly to ISC (Formally INAC)

Some of the sponsorships reviewed by Indigenous Service Canada is support for extra-curricular for sport activities such as, Basketball, Soccer or dance lessons. Support under Jordan's Principle include fees; meal allowance, travel cost to get to practice and in some cases uniforms and shoes.

If you have a child or Children that want to be involved in extracurricular arts or sporting activities but you can't afford the fees, then you can apply directly to ISC. The turn around time is supposed to be 48 hours.

For Leq'á:mel the ISC contact is:

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