



Jordan's Principle Back to School Funding Background

“Jordan could not talk, yet people around the world heard his message. Jordan could not breathe on his own and yet he has given the breath of life to other children. Jordan could not walk but he has taken steps that governments are now just learning to follow.” - Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Jordan River Anderson was a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba who was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities. He lived over two years in a hospital because federal and provincial governments could not agree on who would pay for his at-home care. The reason for this is that federal and provincial/territorial governments cannot agree on which government should pay for services to First Nations children on reserves so they typically do not provide the service until they can sort out the payment issue. Unfortunately, Jordan died at the age of 5 before he could experience living in a loving home.

<https://fncaringsociety.com/jordans-principle/honouring-jordan-river-anderson>

Jordan's Principle is a federally funded program. Jordan's Principle ensures all First Nations can access the products, services, and support **they need when needed** (<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1583703111205/158370313443>).

Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre submitted a group application to Jordan's Principle to assist on-reserve and off-reserve children and youth with back-to-school supplies, clothes, winter clothing, travel costs, and food costs.

It is difficult for people to focus on their well-being when their basic needs are unmet. The reality is that many Anishinabek are concerned about addressing their day-to-day realities – including being unable to provide adequate food and shelter for their families and children.