



MEDIA STATEMENT **National Child Day 2025**

Saskatchewan Advocate 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.

Dr. Lisa Broda, the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, and the President of 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 here in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

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

The current challenges surrounding Jordan's Principle 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 physical and 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 Advocate, along with the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates, urges Canada to immediately end the discrimination and

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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 Advocate for Children and Youth is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who leads a team of professionals who work on behalf of the province's young people. Our vision is that the rights, well-being, and voices of children and youth are respected, valued, and supported to assist young people to reach their full potential.

- 30 -

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