



State of Emergency Declaration for Matawa First Nations Children, Youth, and Families due to Indigenous Services Canada Jordan's Principle and First Nation Representative Services Funding Failures

ORDER

WHEREAS the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council has determined that critical and ongoing funding failures and policy changes by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) under **Jordan's Principle** and **First Nation Representative Services (FNRS)** claim processes have created an urgent and severe crisis affecting the health, safety, and well-being of Matawa First Nations children, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS the failure to uphold equitable, timely, and sufficient funding constitutes a breach of Canada's obligations to First Nations children under the **Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT)** rulings, the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action**, and the principles of the **Crown-Treaty relationship**; and

WHEREAS these funding disruptions have resulted in immediate and escalating risks to essential prevention, protection, advocacy, and family-support services delivered by the Matawa **Awashishewiigihiwaywiin (Social Services Framework)**, including service interruptions, inability to provide mandated supports, and increased vulnerability for children and families across all nine (9) Matawa member First Nations, as of March 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS the Matawa Chiefs Council recognizes our responsibility to protect our citizens and to act decisively when external governments fail to meet their legal, moral, and fiduciary obligations; so

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby declares a State of Emergency to the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre and ISC due to the failures of Jordan's Principle and First Nation Representative Services funding systems; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the Matawa Chiefs Council call on the federal government—our Treaty Partner—to take immediate action to alleviate the effects of this emergency by:

1. Restoring and stabilizing funding to Awashishewiigihiwaywiin in full, specifically the Family Support (FNRS) and Post-Majority Care claims.
2. Resolving outstanding Jordan's Principle and FNRS funding failures.

3. Establishing an urgent action table with Matawa leadership to prevent further harm, and to immediately address funding gaps that extend beyond March 31, 2026.
4. Ensure long-term, sustainable funding that meets Canada's obligations under the TRC and CHRT.
5. Implement immediate funding measures for 2026-2027 Fiscal Year and aid Matawa in our effort to establish a long-term, sustainable funding path forward.

ORDERED by the Matawa Chiefs Council, on this 21st day of November 2025, and remaining in force until such time that the Matawa Chiefs Council deems it being concluded.

PER:

Dr. Sharon L. Nate, EdD, Matawa First Nations Management Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of the Matawa Chiefs Council