

Jordan's Principle: Enhanced Service Coordination
First Nations Health Consortium
Communique - October 2017

The First Nations Health Consortium begins service, one of few Canadian organizations implementing Jordan's Principle

First Nations children in Alberta now have a direct point of contact connecting families with education, social and health services when needed. The First Nations Health Consortium (FNHC) officially launched Jordan's Principle - Enhanced Service Coordination; the link between the child and the needed program, service, supplies, equipment and support. This service is now operational as one of the first organizations in Canada to implement Jordan's Principle. Enhanced Service Coordination ensures First Nations children are not subject to delay, denial or disruption of services due to disputes between governments or government departments.

Jordan Anderson died after spending over two years in hospital after government officials could not decide who should pay for his at-home care because he was First Nations. Jordan's Principle was created in his honour to ensure First Nations children have equal and fair access to services ordinarily available to other children and to shield them from jurisdictional disputes.

The First Nations Health Consortium has Regional Service Coordinators located throughout Alberta. The coordinators will navigate federal and provincial systems for First Nations children, youth and families to improve access to education, social and health services. The service is available to all First Nations children and youth in Alberta on or off reserve.

To use this service, ask questions or for simply more information about the First Nations Health Consortium call **1-844-558-8748** or visit **abfnhc.com**

For general inquiries, email the FNHC at **nochild4gotten@abfnhc.com**

Introducing FNHC's Regional Service Coordinators and Jordan Principle Access Workers

The First Nations Health Consortium is proud to announce our newest team members.

- Deanna Wolf Ear - Regional Service Coordinator
- Susan Bare Shin Bone - Regional Service Coordinator
- Dyan Harke - Regional Service Coordinator
- Wendy Cunningham - Regional Service Coordinator
- Bernadette Cardinal - Regional Service Coordinator
- Nicole Tailfeathers - Jordan's Principle Access Worker
- Peggy Minde - Jordan's Principle Access Worker
- Brenda Ann Dowhaniuk - Jordan's Principle Access Worker

Deanna Wolf Ear is from Siksika Nation and is part of Wolf Ear clan. She is a mother of three and a proud grandmother to one grandson. Deanna comes to the First Nations Health Consortium with a

background in education and taught throughout Cariboo Chilcotin and Nicola Valley Regional Districts. Deanna was also previously a Behavioural Consultant. She's excited to start her new role as the Regional Service Coordinator for Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and will strive to meet the needs of our First Nations families and children.

Susan Bare Shin Bone is proud mother of three and has 10 grandchildren. Susan has her Masters and Bachelors degree in Social Work from the University of Calgary and has worked closely with Indigenous Elders and the Elder advisory Committee which has enhanced her spirituality and knowledge. Susan worked on and off reserve in Child and Family Services for 20 years as a supervisor, manager and director. In the last 10 years, Susan worked as an advocate for Calgary children and families. She was a family coordinator at Pittoayis Family School and then a case manager for the Calgary Homeless Foundation. Susan has also been a sessional instructor the last two years at Bow Valley College in the Counselling program, Aboriginal Addiction diploma program and a practicum coordinator for the students.

Dyan Harke is a mother of two and grandmother of two. She's been a Registered Nurse for 27 years and has spent the last 17 of those years working with Northern First Nations communities. Dyan delivered a variety of health programs, including Maternal Child Health and has significant experience helping families access various services both in her career and personal life. Her compassionate and friendly nature paired with strong interpersonal skills made her a successful candidate as a Regional Service Coordinator. She's looking forward to helping make an impact by ensuring every child has access to Holistic Services

Wendy Cunningham is First Nations and is a member of Sucker Creek First Nations Band in Treaty No. 8. Currently residing in Grand Prairie, Wendy is a proud mother of three and is trained as both a registered social worker and a licensed practical nurse. Her passion for promoting equality, education, advocacy and holistic health made her an excellent fit as a Regional Service Coordinator and will bring that to her job each and every day.

Bernadette Cardinal is a plains Cree woman from Bigstone Cree Nation and a mother of five children and grandmother to 14. She has a diploma in Mental Health and a degree in social work. Bernadette's background has included working with delegated First Nations agencies/children's services, the Government of Alberta's Children's Services and many other social agencies since the 1990's. Bernadette comes with a strong understanding of the hardships families face today to ensure their basic needs are met, not only from the long line of work experience but in her personal life too. Bernadette regular looks to her culture and spirituality for her own self-care and believes this is also critical for working with these families that are in dire need.

Nicole Tailfeathers is from Blood reserve in Treaty 7 territory. Nicole received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Lethbridge in 2009. She started her career with the Canadian Mental Health Association and after a few years accepted a role with Treaty 7 Management Corporation in 2013 as the Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF) Continuing Care Coordinator/Researcher. It's here she was tasked with developing and implementing a First Nations Continuing Care Model and completed the project in 2015. Soon after, Nicole moved into the position of Co-Management Liaison with Treaty 7 Management Corporation. She increased First Nations participation in assessing, planning and managing programs and services funded by Health Canada and the First Nations Inuit Health Branch for the Alberta Region and was a First Nations health advocate on behalf

of Treaty 7 Chiefs and communities. Nicole is humbled to be one of the Jordan's Principle Access Workers to fulfil First Nations children's inherent rights to holistic services and supports.

Peggy Minde is a First Nations Cree woman from Treaty 6, a mother of four and a grandmother to three grandchildren with another on the way. Peggy grew up with ten siblings and numerous foster children. During her youth, the importance of family, culture, language, compassion, and helping those in need were instilled in her at a young age. These values, beliefs and life experiences have helped shape and mold the person Peggy is today. She started her career in social work, starting in 1977 and has worked on and off reserve in various roles in child protection such as Assessor, Case Manager, Kinship /Foster Care. After recently retiring from Children's Services, Peggy wanted to continue working for the people and finding something meaningful both personally and professionally. Peggy is looking forward to being part of a team that is committed and passionate about the wellbeing of First Nations people.

Brenda Ann Dowhaniuk moved to Calgary a year ago after living in Northern Alberta most of her life. Previously, Brenda worked in the oil field camps and lost her job due to the fires in Fort McMurray last year made it impossible to relocate to another camp. She feels fortunate to have been able to spend time with her grandchild who was born a couple months after she was laid off. She is the mother of two children and a member of Bigstone Cree Nation. She embraces her culture, participating in ceremony and learning more about her heritage is something she is very passionate about. In her down time, she loves going to the mountains, reading, practicing meditation and exploring her artistic side.

The **First Nations Health Consortium** is a new organization that developed in February 2017 to improve access to health, social and educational support to all First Nations children in Alberta. The Consortium links families to services to ensure First Nations children on or off reserve are not denied services. Jordan Anderson died after spending over two years in hospital after government officials could not decide who should pay for his at-home care because he was First Nations. Jordan's Principle was created in his honour to ensure First Nations children have equal and fair access to services ordinarily available to other children and to shield them from jurisdictional disputes.

Please feel free to contact us for further questions and clarification:

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