Independent First Nations of Ontario

Jordan’s Principle Model
November 2019
Independent First Nations of Ontario

Background

- Those Independent First Nations who chose not to belong to a PTO began forming an alliance with other like minded First Nations in the early 1990’s;
- In 1994, several IFN’s in Ontario acknowledged the need to bind their relationship through the development and recognition of an “Independent First Nation’s Protocol”
- In 1995, the IFN Protocol was implemented and from these actions funding from the Federal and Provincial government was received recognizing the IFN’s as a unique body of First Nations in Ontario;
- As a non-incorporated body, the Independent First Nations meet from time to time to determine necessary and appropriate political activity and actions for the betterment of all our Nation families through;

- IFN Chiefs Meetings
- IFN Health Directors Meetings
- IFN EVAIW/Social Network Meetings
- IFN Youth Meetings
- IFN Capacity Building and Training Sessions
Today, the *Independent First Nations Protocol* commits to working collectively together on issues of fundamental concern while respecting each other’s autonomy through the establishment of a political and working relationship of 12 autonomous First Nations;

**Guiding Principles**

- We shall be guided by respect and truth, each respecting our independent autonomy, while striving and working in unity to achieve the common good
- We shall, at all times, maintain open communication between our Independent First Nations and articulate, where possible, a unified and collective position
- We shall implement and work constructively on issues of mutual concern, jointly access funding from time to time, sharing information and knowledge, technical expertise and working documents
- The autonomy of each Independent First Nation must not be placed in jeopardy by this collective or joint working relationship
- We will utilize the expertise that we have within each of our First Nations in a cooperative manner
Independent First Nations of Ontario
Independent First Nations Leadership

We have representatives from the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabek and Oji–Cree Nations with a membership of over 29,670 First Nations people.
Since February 2017, the Independent First Nations of Ontario have hired IFN Jordan’s Principle Navigators;

- To act as a “Focal Point” for IFN Families with First Nations children with an unmet need, disability or interim critical condition and ensure they have access to needed health, social and educational services and supports
- To assist IFN children and their families/guardians to make application for Jordan’s Principle
- To act as a liaison between community workers, service providers and the families/guardians and their child(ren) to facilitate the delivery of services approved by the Department of Indigenous Services Canada under Jordan’s Principle;
- To track and gather data for reporting on claims, files, clients
- To train community workers on the completion of intake forms, services available through Jordan’s Principle, and keep them updated on the changing environment of Jordan’s Principle
Progress to date

IFN has been a leader on Jordan’s Principle in Ontario Region, and reaching out to their member communities and identifying true needs and service gaps. Since February 2017, IFN Jordan’s Principle Navigator’s have completed over 935 individual applications with over 2090 requests totaling 4.4 million. The collection of meaningful data and other information generated from the IFN JP Model will inform policy and program reforms, which will enable the IFN to better respond to the needs of our children over the long term.
IFN Jordan’s Principle Navigator’s Process

Consent Form
Substantive Equality Questionnaire
Community Support Letters
Diagnosis/Assessment Documentation
Receipts
Quotes for Items/Services

IFN Client → IFN JP Navigator → Community Worker → Application → Submit Completed Application → Indigenous Services Canada
IFN Jordan’s Principle Challenges

The IFN Jordan’s Principle Navigator’s identified a number of issues and challenges;

- Inconsistency in approvals
- The 48 hour response is not always being met
- Applications going to headquarters for several weeks without review, approval or denial
- The amount of paperwork required to receive funding can be overwhelming to families, workers, communities, and IFN Navigators
- Rolling out the Enhanced funding at the same time as individual funding has created chaos and/or opportunities
- 24 hour urgent file timelines not always being met
- Delays in payments has created increased mental and financial stressors on families or resulted in the loss of services/provider
Recognizing significant delays in payments from Canada, the IFN Leadership voted to forge ahead with an IFN Jordan’s Principle Pilot Project as Payment Processor for IFN Approved Applications by Indigenous Services Canada.

In June 2018, the Independent First Nations (IFN) and the Department of Indigenous Services Canada formally announced a joint pilot initiative that will expedite the payment of services that have been approved through the Department’s Jordan’s Principle Initiative for First Nations children who are members of IFN communities, beginning June 15, 2018.

IFN Jordan’s Principle applicants will have the option of working directly with the IFN JP Finance Department to process the payment of an approved claim(s).
IFN Jordan’s Principle Payment Process

Indigenous Services Canada → Approved Application → IFN JP Navigator → IFN Client → Process Payment → IFN JP Finance Clerk → IFN Client Happy

- Approval Letter/Email
- Direct Deposit Form
- Receipts
- Quotes for Items/Services
- Service Provider Reimbursement Form
- JP Community Worker
Purpose of IFN Jordan’s Principle Model

- The Independent First Nations Jordan’s Principal Model overall objective is to expedite the delivery of, and payment for, approved services to First Nations children who are members of IFN communities. This includes payments to U.S.A. providers and organizations where no Canadian provider or organization is accessible or available.

- To provide facilitation functions for IFN community members and their families who wish to make or have made applications to Canada via the Department of Indigenous Services for services or benefits under Jordan’s Principle.

- To work with existing or new providers and agencies to have them deliver the approved services, supports, or products.

- To train workers within the IFN communities creating streamlined services for the IFN families.
IFN JP Model Outcomes

- Independent First Nations driven, client-based service delivery
- Decreased delays in the application processes for Jordan’s Principle benefits and in payment for services, equipment, supports to our IFN members;
- Decreased mental health and financial stressors upon IFN families
- Improved processes, decreased pressure points; to accessing Jordan’s Principle
- Improved collection of meaningful data and other information to inform policy and program reforms, which will enable the IFN to better respond to the needs of our children over the long term
- Development of a model adaptable to another Political Territorial Organization or Region
IFN Jordan’s Principle Working Documents

Since the implementation of the IFN JP Model, a number of IFN JP forms needed to be created to be successful

- IFN JP Application Checklist Form
- IFN Reimbursement Payment Claim Form
- IFN Service Provider Payment Claim Form(s)
- IFN Notice to Self Employed Respite Providers and/or Support Workers
- IFN JP Travel Payment Claim Form
- IFN Consent to Disclose Personal Information Form
- IFN Product and Shipment Order Form
- IFN Service Confirmation Form
- IFN Direct Deposit Form
- IFN Advanced Payment Claim Form
- IFN JP Navigator Application Tracking Form
- IFN “What to do now that you have been approved” Information Sheet
IFN Jordan’s Principle Working Documents

- IFN Substantive Equality Form
- IFN Declaration Form for Mental Health Services
- IFN Confirmation of Residency
- IFN Intake Form 2

Finally, the IFN continues to utilize:
- ISC Jordan’s Principle Application
Sample of Services/Products that have been covered to date:

- Respite Care
- Land Based Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Tutoring Services
- Traditional Healer Services and Counselling
- Specialized camps
- Mental Health Services
- Assistive Technology/Devices i.e. laptops, iPad, C-pens
- Vehicles, ATV’s
- Vision Training
- Relocation Supports
- Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Specialized Formulas and Dietary Requirements
- Fencing, Security Systems
- Dental – Limited

- Special education and Supports
- Psycho-education Assessments/FASD Assessments
- Weighted Blankets
- Glasses
- Specialized Treatment Programs
- Speech Therapy
- Transportation to Appointments

- Beds – Household Furniture
- Mold Remediation
- Decks, Roofs
- Reimbursements of Services
- Clothing
IFN Jordan’s Principle Finance Summary

- Time Period of Statistics: June 18, 2018 – March 31, 2019
1089 claims total = $1,105,778.58
Children Served 2018 2019

- 517 Children served

![Bar chart showing the amount of children served per month from June to March. The highest number of children served was in March with 182, followed by December with 61.

- June: 2
- July: 16
- August: 32
- September: 30
- October: 41
- November: 46
- December: 61
- January: 62
- February: 45
- March: 182

The chart indicates a significant increase in the number of children served in March compared to other months.
Service Hours Processed Per Month 2018 2019

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS 28,010

- JUN: 638
- JUL: 1628
- AUG: 1522
- SEP: 1651
- OCT: 2472
- NOV: 2561
- DEC: 5880
- JAN: 2166
- FEB: 1385
- MAR: 8107

HOURS
There are so many IFN success stories;

Our families and communities are not accustomed to hearing yes..

- A grandmother no longer has to worry about the safety of her autistic grandchild because there is now a fence around the yard
- A special needs child can now learn and attend class because they have 1:1 support
- A parent exhausted from taking care of their special needs children can now find some self care time and relief from respite services
- Children who would have normally waited years to get assessed are now receiving the needed assessments so that they gain the services and educational supports they require
- Children with mental health needs are finding a voice and receiving the supports they need
- Tutoring services are assisting children progress positively with their school subjects
- Provision of assistive learning devices are helping children communicate at home and school
- Children are participating in recreational events and activities
- Children are accessing cultural and traditional services
- Children are accessing land based therapies and treatments
IFN Recommendations and Future Investments

The IFN supports Jordan’s Principle as a Child First Initiative
The IFN believes Jordan’s Principle is a Service, not a Program
The IFN recognizes that there is a need for a Jordan’s Principle Recruitment and Retention Strategy – the demand for services is greater than service availability
The IFN believes in building community capacity therefore each IFN community should have a Jordan’s Principle Worker
Training Resource Development to provide Community Level Training on the Jordan’s Principle Application Process
Training Resources to provide Case Management
Respite Training in IFN Communities is required
On-Reserve First Nations Disabilities Services are required for those children aging out (18+)
Transition supports and housing are needed for children aging out of the Child Welfare and returning to their homes communities
IFN Jordan’s Principle Staff Contacts

Lyndia Jones, IFN Health Director
Cell: 705 774 8007
Email: Lyndia@ifnc.ca

Joss Ann Russell Taylor, IFN JP Navigator
Cell: 519 379 1775
Email: JossAnn@ifnc.ca

Jessica Goodman, IFN JP Navigator
Cell: 807 620 7415
Email: Jessica@ifnc.ca

Leeann Shimoda, IFN JP Navigator
Cell: 519 708 5830
Email: leeann@ifnc.ca

Crystal Nayanookeesic, IFN JP Navigator
Cell: 807 355 0062
Email: crystal@ifnc.ca

Konwahontsiawi, IFN Jordan’s Principle Finance Clerk
P: 613.932.5852
Email: JPFinance@ifnc.ca