Please see annexes following:

Annex A: Responses to the Parties' May 10 and 24, 2023 Correspondence to the Panel

Area	Issue	Response
FNCFS Program		
Prevention Services	Use of the Indian Registry System to count population for the purpose of calculating prevention funding under the FNCFS Program. Raised by: The Caring Society, COO and NAN	 The Indian Registry System (IRS) is the only regularly updated, national source of data on the First Nations population on-reserve and in the Yukon. It was for that reason that Canada proposed to the Parties in its review of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) Phase 2 report in 2021 and confirmed in early 2022 prior to the submission of the March consent order to use a) the IRS' on-reserve population counts to calculate prevention funding provided at \$2,500 per First Nations person resident on-reserve or on Crown land, and b) the IRS' total population count to do the same calculation in the Yukon. In using IRS data, Canada is following past practice in implementation of the Tribunal's orders. To calculate per capita prevention funding under 2021 CHRT 12, Canada, the Caring Society and the AFN agreed to use the IRS' on-reserve, on Crown land and Yukon population counts.
		 Canada is supporting the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) to coordinate the development of a First Nations-led network of national and regional information governance centres. Once established, this new capacity will help to ensure best use of new or existing data to produce robust and timely population estimates for First Nations. In the meantime, Canada will continue to explore improved population measurement with the AFN, FNIGC and Statistics Canada as one of the highest priority data issues to be addressed in support of Indigenous-led service delivery.
	Whether the \$2,500 per capita for prevention was meant to cover staffing, program development, infrastructure or other operations related to prevention services. Raised by: The AFN	 In the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) and the consent motion that led to 2022 CHRT 8, Canada and the Parties agreed on prevention funding as \$2,500 per capita. That figure derives from a case study in the Phase 1 report of the IFSD. In that case study, \$2,500 per capita covered "all agency [prevention] programs and services." Staffing costs are generally a significant cost component in delivering programs and services to support children and families. Under 2021 CHRT 41, infrastructure required to support the delivery of child and family services,
		including prevention services, can be funded, which is in addition to the \$2,500 per capita amount provided for prevention.
	Communication to First Nations on the basis for the split of the \$2,500 per capita between First Nations and FNCFS agencies. Raised by: The AFN	• Canada has sent information bulletins or other communications to First Nations and FNCFS agencies a number of times since the AIP, most recently on January 27, 2023 and April 19, 2023. In each case, the Parties have reviewed and given feedback prior to the issuance of these communications. Canada also shared information at events such as Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's Prevention – Our Way conference in February 2023 and Our Gathering, kexwkexwntsùt chet, tə sqʻaqip ct conference in May 2023. The Parties agreed to the allocation distribution methodology for prevention funding in 2022-23 between agencies and First Nations where applicable (for example, unaffiliated First Nations receive the full allocation). Canada will continue to work with the Parties to shape communications to recipients on

		the allocation of the Program's prevention funding. Canada is happy to provide communications on this topic to First Nations should the Parties request these communications.
	Use of prevention funding by First Nations, especially unexpended funds from prior years. Raised by: The AFN	 First Nations with unexpended prevention funds from previous years are able to carry them forward under the terms of their funding agreements, which Canada has confirmed with the Parties in negotiations. With supporting materials (such as a discussion guide), ISC's regional staff will be working one-one-one with First Nations carrying unexpended funds to support those recipients in planning for use of those funds.
		• Canada is developing additional resources to help First Nations make best use of their prevention funding, such as a prevention toolkit which will provide detailed information on the full range of possible prevention activities that a First Nation might consider as examples when developing their prevention programming (including examples of activities at each of three levels of prevention). This information is also included in the terms and conditions agreed to by the Parties and provided to all funding recipients. Canada is also drafting a prevention-focused presentation and a discussion guide to support ISC regional offices in focused work with specific First Nations to build their prevention programming. Information products that are developed remain open for feedback from First Nations and community members to support the updating and refinement of future products. Additionally, these communication efforts are on top of Canada's support for workshops and other forums for recipients to share best practice in prevention.
Post-Majority Support Services	Continuation of funding for post- majority support services after March 31, 2024. Raised by: The Caring Society	 Canada has not proposed to end funding for post-majority support services on March 31, 2024. It will continue to fund those services at their actual costs until that date, at which time it intends, in discussion with the Parties, to transition to a more stable, predictable funding approach – an approach that does not rely on recipients having the knowledge, time and capacity to request funding. 2022 CHRT 8 envisioned a transition to a non-actuals post-majority funding approach by March 31, 2023.
	Awareness of funding for post-majority support services. Raised by: The Caring Society	 Soon after the implementation of post-majority support services on April 1, 2022, a post-majority support services toolkit, developed with input from the National Advisory Committee and all Parties, was shared with ISC regional offices, First Nations, and FNCFS service providers. The package outlined the supports, activities, types of costs and eligibility criteria.
		• In June 2022, information, including the toolkit, was made available on ISC's website (https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1650377737799/1650377806807). Regular updates are made to the webpage.
		 In November 2022, ISC began a social media campaign to raise public awareness about the April 1, 2022 reforms to the FNCFS Program. The campaign included Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn posts on post- majority support services for First Nations youth and young adults.
		 Since January 1, 2023, callers to Kids Help Phone have been able to obtain information 24/7 about post-majority support services. Kids Help Phone was chosen to provide that service due to its public reputation and name recognition. Communications by Kids Help Phone have raised awareness and will continue to do so. Canada and the Parties are planning out how to magnify those communications including a discussion held on June 5, 2023.

Remoteness	Application of remoteness adjustment to funding for prevention, post-majority support services, and First Nation representative services. Raised by: NAN	 Canada committed in the AIP to adjust the reformed FNCFS Program's funding for remoteness. It has considered closely the analysis and recommendations of IFSD's Phase 2 report on how to calculate that adjustment. It remains, however, in technical discussions with NAN on the details of the calculation. Those details will be outlined in a Final Settlement Agreement. Once a Final Settlement Agreement is reached, Canada will implement a remoteness adjustment alongside the other remaining AIP components of the reformed FNCFS Program.
Capital	Information for First Nations about funding eligibility and the process to request capital funding. Raised by: The AFN	 On March 10, 2022, Canada distributed copies of the capital guide to all First Nations and FNCFS agencies. Presentations have been made to raise awareness on the opportunity to request capital funding at First Nation and agency gatherings. For example, capital was part of a presentation at the AFN Virtual Town Hall on October 19, 2022, which included the distribution of copies of the capital guide as well as links to the application form and 2021 CHRT 41. ISC Jordan's Principle regional offices have also conducted regional outreach with relevant stakeholders, including First Nations. ISC has welcomed feedback on the capital guide from the Parties, First Nations, and agencies. It has proposed updates to improve the guide's clarity to the Parties. A presentation is under development for ISC regional offices to engage with First Nations and agencies to raise awareness of the support available through 2021 CHRT 41. Canada would be pleased to continue work with the Parties to build awareness
	Provision of additional information on capital projects not funded or that remain under review for longer than average. Raised by: The AFN	 Canada continues to work on enhancements to its capital dashboard, such as the incorporation of the types of assets requested, remoteness of applicants, and progression of projects through the project lifecycle. Canada has made updates to the dashboard based on the review and input of the Parties and is open to further improvements. To date, in addition to the dashboard, ad hoc reporting has been produced upon request of the Parties and ISC will continue to respond to these requests, including on projects not funded or under review for
		 Ionger than average timeframes. A copy of the most recent dashboard, shared with the Parties on June 8, 2023, is attached as Annex B.
Inflation	The use of a 2% constant inflation adjustment. Raised by: The Caring Society and NAN	 From 2002 to 2022, the average inflation rate for goods and services, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, was approximately 2% (the Bank of Canada's long-term target rate). Using an average annual inflation rate of 2% allows funding recipients to plan on a long-term basis in line with a rate that is reflective of long-term realities. By contrast, applying the actual inflation rate leaves recipients uncertain about next year's funding until that rate is known (the inflation rate in 2013 was less than 1%). This information was previously shared with the Parties in November 2022.
		 In 2023-24, Canada is applying the 2% inflation adjustment to the formula-based components of the FNCFS Program (prevention funding and First Nations representative services funding).
Performance	Suitability of the program measurement indicators proposed by Canada for the FNCFS Program.	The Measuring to Thrive framework is composed of a wide array of indicators which will inform ISC's overall Departmental Results Framework as it encompasses funding and services that include aspects of First Nations child, family and community-wellbeing that are influenced by other sectors: education, health, infrastructure, employment and social services(e.g. rates of chronic health conditions, community).

	Raised by: The AFN and the Caring Society	employment rate and percentage of households with internet connectivity). ISC has achieved significant transformation of its Departmental Results Framework and will continue to evolve in consultation with the AFN and other Indigenous partners.
		 Canada understands that most of the Measuring to Thrive indicators do not yet have data collection regimes in place. Canada, in recent years, has shifted towards requiring the least amount of information from First Nations in order to respect their demands for less data collection and acknowledge that not all First Nations have the capacity to provide detailed data, but nevertheless still require the services and supports ISC provides.
		 While IFSD continues its research on the FNCFS Program, Canada has proposed a subset of Measuring to Thrive indicators that fall within the scope of the FNCFS Program. Canada has proposed this subset as the basis of the reformed FNCFS Program's measurement framework. It has spoken to the Parties about the subset twice. That discussion remains open.
		• ISC has secured \$81.5 million over 3 years to support First Nations, as well as Inuit and Métis partners, in developing their own data strategies. This will have a significant positive impact in Indigenous-led data collection tools that will become available as data sources while respecting First Nations principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession of data.
		 Canada is open to discussing future funding opportunities to support research and longitudinal surveys as sources of data on the wellness of First Nations children and youth, such as by the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) to build upon their success with other health, employment and education surveys.
Prevention Reimbursement	Reimbursement of FNCFS agencies for prevention services to children off-reserve based on Jordan's Principle. Raised by: The Caring Society	Based on 2022 CHRT 8 and IFSD's Phase 2 report recommendations agreed to by the Parties, Canada no longer reimburses agencies for prevention costs under the FNCFS Program. Instead, prevention is funded at a per capita amount. This makes it easier for FNCFS agencies, and does not require them to bear the financial burden before being reimbursed. The criteria formerly applied by Canada to the reimbursement of prevention costs are not applicable to the per capita funding methodology, as the previous criteria is not a component of the Program under the AIP.
Off-Reserve		• The FNCFS Program has always served children and families on-reserve and in the Yukon. Jordan's Principle, as per 2017 CHRT 35, responds to requests where there is a service gap or an unmet need under the basis of best interest of the child, substantive equality or cultural appropriateness. These are two separate funding systems, as Jordan's Principle, through the Back to Basics Approach, is delivered by a different review and funding approach than FNCFS.
Jordan's Principle		
Post-Majority Supports	Progress in assessment of resources related to helping families and young adults identifying supports for highneeds Jordan's Principle recipients past the age of majority.	 Canada tabled a proposal with the Parties in 2022 to consider implementing its commitment under 2022 CHRT 8. Canada remains available to work with the Parties and First Nations partners on the costing to implement post-majority navigation immediately while work continues on a longer-term approach. Canada secured funding to move this commitment forward in March 2022.

	Raised by: The AFN and the Caring Society	
	Service provision for young adults past the age of majority. Raised by: The AFN and the Caring	 Jordan's Principle is focused on First Nations children, and thus eligibility is defined as up to the age of majority. Canada is committed to continuing the work to identify gaps in services and to support young adults with
	Society	high needs to access services, whether those programs are delivered by ISC, other federal departments or provinces and territories.
		 Individual Jordan's Principle requests are mostly made for children of a younger age. In 2021-22, the average age of a child for whom a request was made was under 9 years old, with approximately three quarters of those children under the age of 12.
	Degree to which Canada's implementation of Jordan's Principle satisfies the Tribunal's orders.	 Canada has expanded its capacity to address Jordan's Principle requests but has been challenged to forecast the incredible pace of growth in the number of requests seen year-over-year. Implementation of the Back to Basics approach, which was part of the Workplan appended to the December 31, 2021 AIP,
	Raised by: The Caring Society	has increased the pressure, in addition to other previous factors such as marketing campaigns and 2020 CHRT 36. Examples of this growth are noted below:
		 Since 2016, a total of \$4.3 billion has been committed to Jordan's Principle, which corresponds to 2.56 million products, services and supports for First Nations children across the country.
Implementation of Jordan's		 In 2022-23, Jordan's Principle funded 1.27 million products and services, a 148% increase from 2021-2022. As of April 1, 2023, expenditures for 2022-23 were estimated at \$949 million. This growth is projected to continue in 2023-24.
Principle Orders		 Canada has implemented 2020 CHRT 36 to expand eligibility of Jordan's Principle such that all First Nations children both on- and off-reserve are eligible under Jordan's Principle. In 2022-23, requests by those eligible under 2020 CHRT 36's expanded categories comprised over 1 in every 3 approved requests, compared to 1 in 10 in 2021-22.
		 Canada has proposed to the Parties mechanisms through which Jordan's Principle could be delivered that would alleviate the proportion of requests administered by ISC which would improve ISC's performance. As well, Canada has funded the IFSD needs assessments Phase 1 and 2 in order to obtain concrete recommendations that can inform a more sustainable model without compromising the timeliness or quality of response received by requesters.
	Level of progress in implementing the Back to Basics Approach.	Since January 2022, Canada has worked with the Parties to co-develop the Back to Basics Approach, an operational guideline to ensure requests are assessed in a fair and efficient manner in accordance with
Ongoing Implementation	Raised by: The Caring Society	the Tribunal's orders. This Approach replaced and simplified the lengthy and prescriptive Jordan's Principle Guide and Standard Operating Procedures.
implementation		• ISC has taken urgent steps to implement the Back to Basics Approach. The Jordan's Principle operational model has changed so that a) ISC presumes substantive equality for every request, b) requests are no longer denied on the basis of normative standard, and c) ISC's determination centers on the needs and

	 best interest of the child, including consideration of distinct community circumstances. Processes for decision-making were modified to include common-sense reasoning that reflects the spirit of Jordan's Principle. Following the implementation of Back to Basics, there has been a significant increase in the approval rate for funding for families, and thus a reduction in denials. In 2022-23, the highest number to date of products, services and supports were approved, representing an increase of over 100% (from 51,192 to 104,039 approved requests) compared to 2021-22. Since the Back to Basics approach was implemented, the denial rate has decreased from 6% (298 denied requests) in January 2022, to 3% (327 denied requests) in January 2023.
Ability of data collected by Canada to speak to whether Jordan's Principle is advancing substantive equality for First Nations children. Raised by: The Caring Society	 To minimize requestor burden and improve processing times, the data collected through Jordan's Principle is minimal and focuses on the information needed to make a decision and support the overall administration of funds. Under Back to Basics, a requestor is not required to provide any evidence to establish a need based on substantive equality. Therefore, the data required to demonstrate progress in advancing substantive equality for First Nations children is not collected through Jordan's Principle. Canada is available to explore with the Parties an appropriate mechanism to collect this data.
Proper and timely identification of urgent cases. Raised by: The Caring Society	 Under Back to Basics, ISC accept a requestor's identification of a request as urgent and will not re-assign the request to a lower level of urgency. Since the implementation of Back to Basics, the proportion of requests marked urgent has increased significantly, from a low of 1% in April 2022 to a high of 14% in April 2023. The increase corresponds to a jump from approximately 60 urgent requests adjudicated per month in 2021-22 to over 1,400 in April 2023. The following categories contain 86% of all urgent requests: Economic supports (33% of all urgent requests): groceries and personal care, rent, utilities, household items and accessories, and financial supports Medications and nutritional supplements (12%): prescription medication and infant formula Medical Travel (10%): non-emergency medical transportation, accommodations, and meals Travel (9%): non-medical ground travel, accommodations, and meals Education (6%): educational assistance services/supports Social (6%): daycare / childcare / after-school programs, support worker, recreational activities Mental Wellness (5%): mental health therapy / counselling Infrastructure (5%): modifications/renovations At present, Canada is treating all requests marked urgent with the same priority. Canada is interested in working with the Parties to enable the triaging of urgent requests to ensure that those that are objectively most urgent are actioned first. For example, to ensure that urgent cases such as those involving end-of-life/palliative care, mention of suicide, physical safety concerns, or a risk of child entering the child welfare system are prioritized.

	Reimbursement timeline for service providers and the requirement for service attestation. Raised by: The Caring Society	• In 2020-21, 28,270 payments were made within the committed timeline of 15 days, representing 82.9% of all payments. As the volume of requests grew in 2022-23, the percentage of payments made within 15 days decreased to 50.7%. However, the total number of payments made within 15 days increased nevertheless, from 44,314 payments in 2021-22 to 71,860 payments in 2022-23.
		 Under Back to Basics, requestors no longer need to provide detailed costing information or provide a quote at the time of the request, which reduces administrative burden. This allows for rapid decision- making but requires ISC to collect more information after the fact, which means more time required to reimburse. Attestations are required as a part of Government of Canada due diligence procedures to confirm the recipient is eligible for reimbursement, the goods purchased are eligible expenditures, and that the goods have been received.
		To maintain and improve payment timelines, Canada is working to identify and pilot operational and technological efficiencies to streamline workloads and reduce manual processes.
		• The process for obtaining acquisition cards, which facilitate the rapid payment for products and services, has been developed. As of April 4, 2023, 27 cards have been issued to support improvements to payment timelines.
	Level of coverage of ISC's 24-hour Jordan's Principle phone line. Raised by: The Caring Society	 Canada has made improvements to ensure that the National Call Centre (NCC) responds to calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Steps taken to improve call coverage, including increased staffing of a 24/7 shift schedule, were communicated by ISC to the Parties in January 2023.
	naisea sy, me caming society	 The total volume of calls received by the NCC increased 375% over the course of 2022-23 – in April 2022, the NCC received just over 3,100 calls, which increased to over 11,500 calls in March 2023.
		 Since January 2023, roughly 5% of total calls have been received overnight (between 8:00 pm and 8:00 am).
		 Since March 2022, callers have been able to self-identify requests as urgent. There has been a 500% increase in calls identified as urgent over the course of 2022-23.
		 New system capabilities, launched April 12, 2023, enable callers to more easily reach a live agent, self-identify urgency, and obtain general information about Jordan's Principle.
Existing ISC Programs	Flow of funding requests to Jordan's Principle rather than existing ISC programs, such as Non-Insured Health Benefits. Raised by: The AFN	 Per 2016 CHRT 10 and 2017 CHRT 14, ISC is limited in its ability to undertake case conferencing, policy reviews or service navigation. It is not able to direct Jordan's Principle requests to other ISC programs. This approach has limited ISC's ability to invest in other programs, as it artificially reduces the demand on these other programs, which for needs-based programs, such as Non-Insured Health Benefits, influences the level of funding demonstrated to be required and therefore, secured. This is likely also the case for programs under provincial and territorial responsibility for individual requesters living away from their community.
		Canada is open to discussing how to address certain needs through established ISC programs rather than through Jordan's Principle, particularly where a systematic approach accessible to all First Nations children would function better than Jordan's Principle's ad hoc, request-based approach.

Departmental Reform		
	Consideration of remoteness in cultural competency training. Raised by: NAN	Canada recognizes that it would be of value to improve knowledge of the realities of remote communities among ISC's employees. Canada is very much open to discussing specific training ideas with NAN.
Cultural Competency Training	Sufficiency of the minimum 15 hours of cultural competency training for ISC employees. Raised by: The AFN and the Caring Society	Part of the mandate of the Expert Advisory Committee is to make recommendations on cultural competency training for ISC employees. The existing policy was developed by a former Expert Committee tri-chaired by ISC, the Caring Society and AFN and finalized in 2018. ISC will continue to consider ways to improve its cultural competency efforts through its work with the Committee as well as through engagement with employees, contractors and others. As the AFN noted, ISC has recently taken steps to enhance its training opportunities, contracting experts in fall 2022 to launch the pilot training program "Understanding the Root Causes of Health and Social Inequities Between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous (Settler) People in Canada".
Expert Advisory Committee	Approval status of the terms of reference for the Expert Advisory Committee. Raised by: The Caring Society	Canada wishes to clarify its original response. It agrees with the Caring Society that the terms of reference for the Expert Advisory Committee were not approved by all Committee members and Parties at the March 24, 2023 meeting. The terms of reference were presented at the May 31, 2023 meeting and largely agreed to. We are awaiting final confirmation from one member of the Committee.
General		
Responsiveness to Tribunal	Extent to which Annex A of Canada's May 10, 2023 letter responds to the Tribunal's question on implementation of 2016 CHRT 2's order to reform the FNCFS Program. Raised by: The Caring Society	• In 2016 CHRT 2, the Tribunal made a series of specific findings on the FNCFS Program as it existed before 2016. The adverse impacts found by the Tribunal are summarized at para. 458 of 2016 CHRT 2 and relate largely to funding structure, assumptions and levels. Annex A of Canada's May 10 letter highlights how the measures Canada has taken since 2016 CHRT 2 have addressed the Tribunal's findings – significantly increasing funding, focusing funding on prevention, improving flexibility, adjusting funding based on inflation and population and setting funding formulas based on data and evidence. Those measures clearly address the Tribunal's findings in 2016 CHRT 2.
Data Delivery	Timelines for delivery of data to IFSD to support its research projects listed in 2022 CHRT 8. Raised by: The AFN and the Caring Society	 Canada has delivered nearly five million cells of data to IFSD to date and responded to many requests to accommodate IFSD's evolving work priorities under 2022 CHRT 8. At the same time, ISC has undertaken other data requests from IFSD that go beyond the scope of 2022 CHRT 8. ISC communicates weekly with IFSD to update and manage all of its requests under 2022 CHRT 8 and otherwise. Close communication helps ISC and IFSD manage IFSD's complex, evolving data requests, which often require clarification before it is evident exactly what data IFSD is seeking (which is understandable given the iterative nature of research).
		 Past delays on the part of IFSD – such as month-long delays on two occasions to review drafts of an information-sharing agreement – have contributed to the length of time required to deliver data. More recently, ISC has been waiting over a month for IFSD to submit two documents that will allow it to

complete the data privacy review process and disclose data. Therefore, delays have occurred on both sides.
 Canada continues to work with IFSD to deliver the requested data and to set reasonable timelines where ten days does not allow enough time to protect privacy. As previously indicated, ISC has taken steps to expedite the process – such as through an "umbrella" information-sharing agreement to avoid a separate agreement for each request – and continues to develop other measures.

Annex B: Capital Requests Dashboard, Shared with the Parties on June 8, 2023







