## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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June 20, 2024

**By Email** Registry Office Canadian Human Rights Tribunal 240 Sparks Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor West Ottawa, ON K1A 1J4

Dear Madame Register:

## Re: First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada et al v. Attorney General of Canada (File No. T#1340/7008)

Further to the Panel's direction of June 12, 2024, please accept this correspondence as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) response to the motion by the First Nations Leadership Council's (FNLC) for interested party status.

The AFN would highlight that the FNLC's motion has been brought at a point where the motion and cross-motion currently before the Panel are well advanced. As noted by the Panel, the motion and cross-motion schedule are currently in their late stages, the schedule itself having been the subject of significant debate between the parties to the proceedings. The introduction of an interested party at this point will, practically, pose certain complications, including establishing a new timeline for the provision of their written submissions, replies thereto and the rescheduling of hearing dates.

With these practical realities in mind, the AFN can advise that it takes no position with respect to the FNLC's motion, but would request the following conditions for same if granted:

- That the FNLC's status and participation will be limited solely to the motion/cross-motion currently before the Tribunal and will not extend in any way beyond the ability to make submissions and appear at the related hearing on the non-compliance motion and cross-motion (i.e. no status in ongoing negotiations or other Jordan's Principle related proceedings before the Tribunal);
- That the FNLC's submissions will be restricted to the evidence and issues currently before the Panel by way of the motion/cross-motion at issue and be subject to reasonable limitations in terms of page limits and time for oral submissions;

- That the FNLC's participation should have as limited of an effect as possible on the existing scheduling, while preserving the parties' ability to fulsomely consider any submissions and reply to same; and
- That the AFN be provided with an opportunity to respond to the FNCL's submissions on the motion and cross-motion.

Should the FNLC's make submissions in its reply seeking relief contrary to these conditions, the AFN would respectfully request the right to reply to same.

Respectfully,

Adam Williamson Senior In-House Counsel

c.c Dayna Anderson, Kevin Staska, Cara Verhaeghe, Paul Vickery, Christopher Rupar, Sarah-Dawn Norris Co-counsel for the respondent, Attorney General of Canada

David Taylor, Sarah Clarke and Kevin Droz Co-counsel for the complainant First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Brian Smith Counsel for the Canadian Human Rights Commission

Maggie Wente, Darian Baskatwang and Jessie Stirling Co-counsel for the interested party Chiefs of Ontario

Justin Safayeni Co-counsel for the interested party Amnesty International

Julian Falconer, Asha James and Shelby Percival Co-counsel for the interested party Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Crystal Reeves and Dawn Johnson Counsel for the First Nations Leadership Council