
**LISTE DES PIÈCES SUPPLÉMENTAIRES EN SOUTIEN À LA REQUÊTE
CONJOINTE**

CA-17 : Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec-Labrador, *Négociation et élaboration d'un plan de transition vers un nouveau modèle de gouvernance de la santé et du mieux-être par et pour les Premières Nations au Québec*, 2025, résolution n° 05/2025, en français et en anglais;

CA-18 : Lettre de Pauline Frost, présidente de la CNCE datée du 24 janvier 2025 adressée au gouvernement du Canada, en anglais;

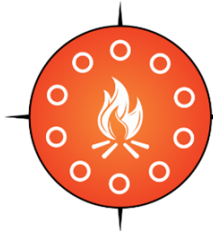
CA-19 : Lettre de la Cheffe nationale Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, datée du 4 mars 2025 adressée au gouvernement du Canada, en anglais;

CA-20 : Lettre de la ministre des Services aux Autochtones Canada, l'honorable Patty Hajdu, datée du 25 février 2025, adressée à Pauline Frost, présidente de la CNCE, en anglais.

PIÈCES CA-17

16 mai 2025

**ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS QUÉBEC-LABRADOR,
*NÉGOCIATION ET ÉLABORATION D'UN PLAN DE TRANSITION VERS UN
NOUVEAU MODÈLE DE GOUVERNANCE DE LA SANTÉ ET DU MIEUX -ÊTRE
PAR ET POUR LES PREMIÈRES NATIONS AU QUÉBEC, 2025,*
RÉSOLUTION NO 05/2025
EN FRANÇAIS ET EN ANGLAIS**



APNQL

ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
QUÉBEC-LABRADOR

AFNQL

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
QUÉBEC-LABRADOR

250, place Chef Michel-Laveau, #201 | Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0
(418) 842-5020 | reception@apnql.com | www.apnql.com

RÉSOLUTION N° 05/2025

NÉGOCIATION ET ÉLABORATION D'UN PLAN DE TRANSITION VERS UN NOUVEAU MODÈLE DE GOUVERNANCE DE LA SANTÉ ET DU MIEUX-ÊTRE PAR ET POUR LES PREMIÈRES NATIONS AU QUÉBEC

CONSIDÉRANT QUE chaque Première Nation est une Nation souveraine et qu'elle dispose du droit inhérent à l'autonomie et à l'autodétermination;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE la santé, les pharmacopées traditionnelles, les services à l'enfance et à la famille ainsi que le droit à l'autodétermination des Premières Nations sont des droits ancestraux et inhérents, tout comme le sont les droits sur les territoires non cédés;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE les indicateurs de l'état de santé des Premières Nations au Québec font état d'écarts marqués de leurs conditions de vie par rapport à celles des populations québécoise et canadienne;

CONSIDÉRANT QU' historiquement, les pouvoirs coloniaux ont écarté les Premières Nations de la prise de décisions et de la prestation de services en matière de santé et de services sociaux qui les concernent;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE pour répondre à ces enjeux et soutenir les Premières Nations dans la prise en charge de la prestation de leurs services, la Commission de la santé et des services sociaux des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador (CSSSPNQL) a été constituée par voie de résolutions adoptées par les chefs de l'APNQL, les 14 et 15 avril 1994 (ci-après les « résolutions n^{os} 3/94 et 6/94 »);

CONSIDÉRANT QUE la CSSSPNQL a développé son expertise et son influence au fil du temps, en étant appuyée notamment par l'article 18 de la *Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones* (DNUDPA), adoptée en septembre 2007, qui affirme que « [l]es peuples autochtones ont le droit de participer à la prise de décisions sur des questions qui peuvent concerner leurs droits, par l'intermédiaire de représentants qu'ils ont eux-mêmes choisis conformément à leurs propres procédures, ainsi que le droit de conserver et de développer leurs propres institutions décisionnelles »;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE l'article 21.1 de la DNUDPA appuie également la CSSSPNQL dans sa mission, en affirmant que « [l]es peuples autochtones ont droit, sans discrimination d'aucune sorte, à l'amélioration de leur situation économique et sociale, notamment dans les domaines de l'éducation, de l'emploi, de la formation et de la reconversion professionnelles, du logement, de l'assainissement, de la santé et de la sécurité sociale »;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE le processus de gouvernance en santé et en services sociaux prend son assise sur le *Plan directeur 2007-2017*, lequel rappelait que le *statu quo* en matière de santé et de services sociaux ne constitue pas une option pour les Premières Nations au Québec, le tout étant appuyé par la motion adoptée par les chefs de l'APNQL le 19 février 2014, laquelle confiait à la CSSSPNQL le mandat de coordonner le projet de gouvernance en santé et en services sociaux et précisait la vision, les principes directeurs et les valeurs de cette importante démarche;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE la résolution n° 10/2016 adoptée par les chefs de l'APNQL le 28 avril 2016 mentionne qu'ils mandatent la CSSSPNQL pour entamer des démarches et des pourparlers avec les gouvernements provincial et fédéral dans le but de poser les bases formelles d'un processus de transition vers un nouveau modèle de gouvernance visant à accorder une plus grande autonomie en santé et en services sociaux aux Premières Nations au Québec;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE les deux motions que les chefs de l'APNQL ont adoptées le 13 juin 2017 précisent la trajectoire que doit prendre le mandat délégué à la CSSSPNQL en permettant au chef de l'APNQL de signer un protocole d'entente tripartite engageant officiellement les gouvernements fédéral et provincial à résoudre les enjeux liés à la santé et aux services sociaux et à mettre en place un cycle de planification réciproque et conjoint avec les Premières Nations au Québec;

CONSIDÉRANT QU' en août 2019, toutes les parties ont signé le protocole d'entente tripartite afin d'officialiser leur engagement politique à poursuivre le travail de collaboration en vue d'élaborer un nouveau modèle de gouvernance de la santé et du mieux-être;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE la motion adoptée le 25 août 2020 prend acte du travail accompli par la CSSSPNQL par le biais de l'adoption du processus décisionnel qui a permis d'établir le cycle de planification réciproque et conjoint, le tout étant décrit dans un guide d'accompagnement présenté aux chefs;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE la CSSSPNQL a poursuivi l'élaboration conjointe du modèle de gouvernance par différents mécanismes, dont la première tournée des communautés;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE les chefs de l'APNQL réunis en assemblée ont soutenu le principe de Joyce, qui vise à garantir à tous les Autochtones un droit d'accès équitable, sans aucune discrimination, à tous les services sociaux et de santé ainsi que le droit de jouir du meilleur état possible de santé physique, mentale, émotionnelle et spirituelle. Le principe de Joyce requiert obligatoirement la reconnaissance et le respect des connaissances et des savoirs traditionnels et vivants des Autochtones en matière de santé;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE par sa *Loi sur le ministère des Services aux Autochtones*, le gouvernement du Canada a formalisé son engagement à opérer le transfert progressif de ses responsabilités à des organismes autochtones et que la ministre des Services aux Autochtones Canada doit conclure des ententes avec des organismes autochtones concernant la prestation de services et le transfert de responsabilités;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE le Canada doit maintenir ses responsabilités fiduciaires à l'égard des Premières Nations, malgré son engagement à opérer le transfert progressif de ses responsabilités;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE dans la résolution n° 01/23, les chefs de l'APNQL invitent les autres commissions et organismes régionaux à s'inspirer des travaux réalisés dans le cadre du processus de gouvernance afin d'entreprendre le transfert de responsabilités similaires dans d'autres domaines;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE les responsabilités collectives et communautaires du nouveau modèle de gouvernance élaboré conjointement avec les Premières Nations ont fait l'objet de discussions et ont été validées lors de groupes de discussion et durant la pré-assemblée générale annuelle de la CSSSPNQL tenue le 17 juillet 2024;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE depuis la discussion à la pré-assemblée générale annuelle du 17 juillet 2024, le nouveau modèle de gouvernance a été présenté dans le cadre de la deuxième tournée des communautés réalisée par la CSSSPNQL, de novembre 2024 à mars 2025;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE le nouveau modèle de gouvernance a été présenté aux chefs de l'APNQL le 26 mars 2025, et que ces derniers consentent à ce qui suit :

QU'IL SOIT RÉSOLU DE :

MANDATER le Comité consultatif des chefs sur le processus de gouvernance de la santé et du mieux-être et la CSSSPNQL pour créer un comité *ad hoc* qui devra notamment mettre sur pied une équipe de négociation et superviser ses travaux;

MANDATER l'équipe de négociation pour négocier avec le gouvernement du Canada et avec le gouvernement du Québec l'élaboration d'un accord de principe menant à la signature d'une entente finale qui permettra aux gouvernements locaux des Premières Nations de transférer les responsabilités fédérales en matière de santé et de mieux-être à une structure de gouvernance de la santé et du mieux-être fondée sur le nouveau modèle présenté aux chefs de l'APNQL le 26 mars 2025;

EXIGER du gouvernement fédéral et du gouvernement provincial de remettre à la CSSSPNQL l'information et les données qu'ils détiennent, qui sont dûment nécessaires à la négociation et qui sont liées au rapatriement des responsabilités visées;

MANDATER la CSSSPNQL pour élaborer conjointement avec les Premières Nations une approche de planification intégrée des services de santé et de mieux-être;

MANDATER la CSSSPNQL, en vertu des résolutions n^{os} 3/94 et 6/94, pour élaborer un plan de transition, accompagner et soutenir les communautés et les organismes des Premières Nations dans la préparation à cette transition, le tout dans le respect de l'autonomie et du droit inhérent des Premières Nations de concevoir et de fournir des services de santé et de mieux-être culturellement respectueux;

PRENDRE ACTE

qu'aucune clause dans la présente résolution ne doit être considérée comme pouvant impacter une entente actuellement en vigueur au sein d'une communauté des Premières Nations ou qui sera négociée par une communauté des Premières Nations dans le futur avec le gouvernement du Canada ou avec le gouvernement du Québec;

PRÉSENTER

aux chefs de l'APNQL le projet d'accord de principe, le projet d'accord-cadre et l'accord de financement à des fins d'adoption en vue de créer et de mettre en œuvre la nouvelle structure de gouvernance de la santé et du mieux-être des Premières Nations.

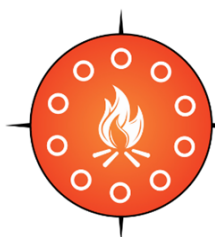
PROPOSÉE PAR : Chef Lance Haymond, Kebaowek

APPUYÉE PAR : Chef Sipi Flamand, Manawan

ADOPTÉE PAR CONSENSUS LE : 26 MARS 2025, À MONTRÉAL



Francis Verreault-Paul
Chef de l'APNQL



APNQL

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250, place Chef Michel-Laveau, #201 | Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0
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RESOLUTION N^o. 05/2025

NEGOTIATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSITION PLAN FOR A NEW HEALTH AND WELLNESS GOVERNANCE MODEL BY AND FOR FIRST NATIONS IN QUEBEC

- WHEREAS** every First Nation is a sovereign Nation that has an inherent right to autonomy and self-determination;
- WHEREAS** the health, traditional pharmacopoeias, child and family services and right to self-determination of First Nations are inherent and ancestral rights, as are their rights to unceded territories;
- WHEREAS** the health status indicators of First Nations in Quebec show stark differences in their living conditions compared to those of the Quebec and Canadian populations;
- WHEREAS** colonial powers have historically prevented First Nations from making their own decisions and delivering their own services in terms of health and social services;
- WHEREAS** to respond to these issues and support First Nations in taking over the delivery of their services, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) was established by resolutions adopted by the AFNQL Chiefs on April 14 and 15, 1994 (hereinafter “Resolutions No. 3/94 and 6/94”);
- WHEREAS** the FNQLHSSC has developed its expertise and influence over time, supported in particular by Article 18 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), adopted in September 2007, which states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions”;
- WHEREAS** Article 21.1 of the UNDRIP also supports the FNQLHSSC in its mission, stating that “Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security”;

- WHEREAS** the health and social services governance process is based on the *2007-2017 Blueprint*, which reaffirmed that the *status quo* in health and social services is not an option for First Nations in Quebec. This was supported by the motion adopted by the AFNQL Chiefs on February 19, 2014, entrusting the FNQLHSSC with the mandate to coordinate the health and social services governance project and specifying the vision, guiding principles and values of this important approach;
- WHEREAS** Resolution No. 10/2016 adopted by the AFNQL Chiefs on April 28, 2016, states that they mandate the FNQLHSSC to initiate steps and discussions with the provincial and federal governments to lay the formal foundations for a transition process toward a new governance model aiming to grant greater autonomy in health and social services to First Nations in Quebec;
- WHEREAS** the two motions adopted by the AFNQL Chiefs on June 13, 2017, specify the trajectory that the mandate delegated to the FNQLHSSC must take by allowing the AFNQL Chief to sign a tripartite memorandum of understanding formally committing the federal and provincial governments to resolve health and social services issues and to set up a reciprocal and joint planning cycle with First Nations in Quebec;
- WHEREAS** in August 2019, all parties signed the tripartite memorandum of understanding to formalize their political commitment to continue working collaboratively to develop a new health and wellness governance model;
- WHEREAS** the motion adopted on August 25, 2020, acknowledges the work done by the FNQLHSSC through the adoption of the decision-making process that established the reciprocal and joint planning cycle, all of which was described in an accompanying guide presented to the Chiefs;
- WHEREAS** the FNQLHSSC continued to co-develop the governance model through various mechanisms, including the first community tour;
- WHEREAS** the AFNQL Chiefs-in-Assembly have shown their support for Joyce's Principle, which aims to guarantee to all Indigenous people the right of equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services, as well as the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Joyce's Principle requires the recognition and respect of Indigenous peoples' traditional and living knowledge in all aspects of health;
- WHEREAS** through its *Department of Indigenous Services Act*, the Government of Canada has formalized its commitment to progressively transferring its responsibilities to Indigenous organizations and that the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada must enter into agreements with Indigenous organizations regarding service delivery and the transfer of responsibilities;
- WHEREAS** Canada must uphold its fiduciary responsibilities toward First Nations, notwithstanding its commitment to undertake the progressive transfer of its responsibilities;

- WHEREAS** in Resolution No. 01/23, the AFNQL Chiefs encourage other regional commissions and organizations to draw inspiration from the governance process work to carry a similar transfer of responsibilities in other areas;
- WHEREAS** the collective and community responsibilities of the new governance model co-developed with First Nations were discussed and validated during focus groups and at the FNQLHSSC pre-annual general assembly of July 17, 2024;
- WHEREAS** since the discussion at the pre-annual general assembly of July 17, 2024, the new governance model was presented as part of the FNQLHSSC's second community tour conducted from November 2024 to March 2025;
- WHEREAS** the new governance model was presented to the AFNQL Chiefs on March 26, 2025, and they have agreed to the following:
- BE IT RESOLVED TO:**
- MANDATE** the Chiefs Advisory Committee on the Health and Wellness Governance Process and the FNQLHSSC to create an ad hoc committee that will, among other things, establish a negotiating team and oversee its work;
- MANDATE** the negotiating team to negotiate with the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec to develop an agreement in principle leading to the signing of a final agreement that will allow local First Nations governments to transfer federal health and wellness responsibilities to a health and wellness governance structure based on the new model presented to the AFNQL Chiefs on March 26, 2025;
- REQUIRE** the federal and provincial governments to provide the FNQLHSSC with the information and data they hold, and which are necessary for the negotiation and for the transfer of responsibilities in question;
- MANDATE** the FNQLHSSC to co-develop with First Nations an integrated health and wellness planning approach;
- MANDATE** the FNQLHSSC, pursuant to Resolutions No. 3/94 and 6/94, to develop a transition plan, and assist and support First Nations communities and organizations in preparing for this transition, all while respecting the autonomy and inherent right of First Nations to develop and provide culturally respectful health and wellness services;
- RECOGNIZE** that no clause in this resolution may impact any agreement that is currently in effect within a First Nations community or that will be negotiated in the future with the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec;

PRESENT

to the AFNQL Chiefs the draft agreement in principle, the draft framework agreement and the funding agreement for adoption purposes in order to develop and implement the new First Nations health and wellness governance structure.

MOVED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek

SECONDED BY: Chief Sipi Flamand, Manawan

ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ON: MARCH 26, 2025, IN MONTRÉAL



Francis Verreault-Paul
Chief of the AFNQL

PIÈCE CA-18

16 mai 2025

**LETTRÉ DE PAULINE FROST, PRÉSIDENTE DE LA CNCE DATÉE DU 24
JANVIER 2025 ADRESSÉE AU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA
EN ANGLAIS**

January 24, 2025

Sent by e-mail

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
E-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Indigenous Services Canada
10 rue Wellington
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4
E-mail: ministresa-ministeris@sac-isc.gc.ca

Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada
10 rue Wellington, Gatineau QC K1A 0H4
E-mail: gary.anandasangaree-p@rcaanc-irnac.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers Hajdu and Anandasangaree:

RE: Proposal to negotiate a letter of commitment in advance of March 24, 2025

I write in my capacity as Chair of the National Children's Chiefs Commission (the "**NCCC**") to propose that we work collaboratively over the next two months on a letter of commitment in relation to a national agreement on long-term reform of First Nations child and family services ("**LTR Agreement**") and a process to address Jordan's Principle. We believe that delivering justice for all First Nations children isn't just the right thing to do – it is the necessary thing to do for our children, for our Nations, and for Canada. Doing so is also consistent with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's ("**CHRT**") merits decision (*First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada et al v Attorney General of Canada (for the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, 2016 CHRT 2)* and subsequent orders.

The Chiefs, sitting together as the First Nations-in-Assembly, voted overwhelmingly on behalf of rights holders to establish the NCCC and mandated it to oversee further negotiations in relation to the LTR Agreement and Jordan's Principle, all while working collaboratively with the Assembly of First Nations Executive.

The NCCC, which is supported by skilled First Nations technical experts from across Canada, is comprised of: (i) one regional representative, an alternate, and their technician(s) from each of the eleven AFN regions; and (ii) one regional representative, an alternate, and their technician(s) for every region not represented by AFN. All regions except for Ontario have appointed their NCCC representatives through their regional processes, and the NCCC began to convene regular meetings in December 2024. The Commissioners bring considerable expertise in child and family services, Jordan's Principle, governance, inter-governmental relations, and negotiations.

We were pleased to hear the Prime Minister's remarks during Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2024 confirming that the \$47.8B earmarked in the draft final settlement agreement is still there and that Canada remains committed to reaching an agreement. Similar sentiments were echoed by the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada. These remarks confirm our shared interest and duty to ensure that this generation of First Nation children grows up free of all forms of discrimination and is able to live the lives that they wish to have and that their ancestors prayed for.

Canada's public statements in the wake of the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in October 2024 suggest that the government has questions about: (i) the scale of funding required to satisfy the orders on First Nations child and family services; (ii) whether First Nations would consider a pathway that would, at some point in the future, end the CHRT's jurisdiction; and (iii) whether First Nations outside of Ontario are ready to proceed with a negotiated settlement.

In relation to the first issue, the NCCC is committed to an evidence-informed approach. Our experts have informed us that while there is a need for capacity building funds to ensure First Nations are set up for success and some expenditures such as capital, post-majority services, and band-representative services may need to continue at actuals for a limited time because there is insufficient evidence to project future costs, the overall funding envelope that is required to end discrimination in First Nations child and family services and ensure it never happens again is in the ballpark of what Canada previously proposed. This assumes a fair and equitable distribution among regions related to relevant factors such as the rates of over-representation of First Nations children in care, including in Ontario.

The NCCC is committed to maximizing the value of every dollar to deliver measurable outcomes for our First Nation children, youth, and families. We see important opportunities to re-allocate funding in the draft final settlement agreement in ways that will more directly benefit children and improve accountability to First Nations Leadership.

In relation to the second issue, the NCCC sees a pathway that would, at some point in the future, end the CHRT's jurisdiction.

In relation to readiness, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed clear resolutions directing a reset of negotiations. The NCCC is established and is supported by skilled First Nations technical experts from across Canada. We also benefit from the evidence-based research that has been completed that can inform the way forward. We are ready to discharge the sacred responsibilities we have been entrusted with by First Nations in our respective 11 regions.

The NCCC would like to meet with you, the AFN Executive, and the Caring Society at the earliest opportunity to gauge Canada's interest in entering into a binding letter of commitment before March 24, 2025, to secure existing commitments and to chart a pathway forward to resolve the CHRT proceeding on child and family services. We would

also welcome discussions to set a pathway to address current challenges and the long-term reform of Jordan's Principle. We will send more specific proposals on how we can address the outstanding issues next week to help inform our meeting.

Sincerely,



Chief Pauline Frost
Chair, NCCC

c: NCCC

AFN Executive

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, Caring Society

Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party

Michelle Ferreri, Shadow Minister for Families, Children, and Social Development

Marilyn Gladu, Shadow Minister for Civil Liberties

Larry Brock, Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the NDP

Niki Ashton, Critic for Indigenous Services

Charlie Angus, Deputy Critic, Crown-Indigenous Relations

Lori Idlout, Critic, Indigenous Services

Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Scott A. Smith and Liam A. Smith, interim legal counsel to the NCCC

Jenica Atwin, Parliamentary Secretary for Minister of ISC

Jaime Battiste, Parliamentary Secretary for Minister of CIRNAC

Deliah Bernard, Indigenous affairs advisor office of the Prime Minister of Canada

PIÈCE CA-19

16 mai 2025

**LETTRÉ DE LA CHEFFE NATIONALE CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK,
DATÉE DU 4 MARS 2025 ADRESSÉE AU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA,
EN ANGLAIS**



March 4, 2025

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous Services
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), I write to you again to urge the Government of Canada to seek a revised mandate to negotiate a Final Agreement regarding the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program.

As you are aware, the First Nations-in-Assembly provided the AFN with several new mandates on long-term reform by way of resolution in October and December of 2024. These mandates direct a new process for pursuing reform, including a new governance and oversight structure. The resolutions additionally call for extensive engagements, revised negotiation processes, and funding principles to be embedded in the process and revised Draft Agreement. Through these resolutions, we once again call on Canada to obtain a new negotiation mandate aligned with the resolutions, and to provide resources to advance the work.

We also want to be clear that the AFN supports the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) in its work on advancing the mandates of the First Nations-in-Assembly in relation to negotiating Final Agreements on long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. We therefore also call on Canada to duly consider the NCCC's recent correspondence and take the necessary measures to facilitate the NCCC's critical role in long-term reform, as directed by the Chiefs.

We must continue to collaboratively advance this necessary and critical work for the benefit of First Nations children and families. I trust you remain committed to these efforts and would appreciate an update on the Government of Canada's mandate at your earliest convenience.

Megwetch,

Woodhouse.

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
National Chief

Cc: AFN Executive Committee
National Children's Chiefs Commission

PIÈCE CA-20

16 mai 2025

**LETTRE DE LA MINISTRE DES SERVICES AUX AUTOCHTONES CANADA,
L'HONORABLE PATTY HAJDU, DATÉE DU 25 FÉVRIER 2025, ADRESSÉE À
PAULINE FROST, PRÉSIDENTE DE LA CNCE, EN ANGLAIS**



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

February 25, 2025

Chief Pauline Frost
National Children's Chiefs Committee
Our Children Our Way Secretariat
200-100 Park Royal South
WEST VANCOUVER BC V7T 1A2

pauline.frost@vgfn.ca

Dear Chief Frost:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 24, 2025, sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and myself in relation to a national agreement on long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program.

The Agreement-in-Principle on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle signed by the Assembly of First Nations, Caring Society, Chiefs of Ontario, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation in December 2021, was an evidence-informed approach that provided a foundation for improving the lives of First Nation children and families across the country.

Canada remained committed to a First Nations-led approach to reforming the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, and developed a fully reformed Program in the Final Agreement with the rights holder Parties to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's complaint. The robust framework of reforms contained within the Final Agreement would have legally bound Canada to provide \$47.8 billion in stable and predictable funding over ten years for a fully reformed First Nations Child and Family Services Program that would have reduced the number of First Nation children in care and kept children connected to their families, communities, and cultures.

.../2

Canada remains committed to the implementation of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders, and to ending the discrimination identified by the Tribunal and preventing its recurrence.

There has been confusion regarding the role of the National Children's Chiefs Committee and whether you and the committee are the body that Canada should be working with, as the Assembly of First Nations has yet to clarify their role in relation to long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. Attached is the most recent correspondence from the Assembly of First Nations' counsel indicating that they are awaiting instructions on this issue. I would encourage the National Children's Chiefs Commission to work directly with officials from the Assembly of First Nations with respect to long-term reform of the First Nation Child and Family Services Program to clarify this situation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Hajdu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.

Encl.